

On the Throne : Teaching suggestions

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Activity 1

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1. Put the students in pairs or small groups to discuss this.
2. Let the students work together for a just a few minutes before stopping the activity and eliciting feedback.

Suggested answers: toilet, basin, shower, bath, taps, soap, towels, hot and cold water.

Activity 2

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students work together. They may use dictionaries for this if necessary.
3. Stop the activity and elicit feedback. **Answers: the box, the seat, the washroom (USA), the john (USA)**

Activity 3

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students do the activity individually before checking in pairs.
3. Stop the activity and elicit feedback. **Answers: 1. True 2. True 3. True 4. True 5. False (2008 not 2009)**

Activity 4

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1. Let the students begin their conversation in pairs or small groups.
2. Monitor closely then stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Activity 5

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If your students don't have access to computers in the classroom, set this for homework.

Answers: 1. Queen Elizabeth I 2. Thomas Twyford 3. See below.

Quick Quiz

Read the clues below and write the solutions on a piece of paper. Then take the first letter of each answer and rearrange them to find a word connected with this month's Talking Point subject: 'On the Throne.'

1.**Archaeologists**...claim that early civilizations knew how to make such sophisticated toilets as far back as 4,500 years ago.
2. In 1596 Sir John made a toilet for his famous godmother, who was apparently very appreciative of it. Others, however, were less complimentary and the idea didn't catch ...**on**.....
3. In the late 1770s Alexander Cummings made an important contribution to the development of the water closet by means of inventing the S-trap (a kind of valve under the toilet bowl). At this point the idea started to take...**off**.....
4. Patents were applied for in 1777 and 1778 as inventors began to improve on the Cummings design. It took another one hundred years, however, for toilet design to ...**make**.....real progress.
5. It wasn't until 1885 that the design of the toilet was revolutionized by a man called Thomas Twyford, who**built**.....the first porcelain loo.
6. Toilet design continued to be.....**refined**....., not only in England but also in the USA.
7.**The**..... Japanese are the modern world's toilet pioneers.
8. And so it seems that the evolution of the**humble**.....toilet is nowhere near complete.

Answers: BATHROOM (B for Built [5], A for Archaeologists [1], T for The [7], H for Humble [8], R for Refined [6], O for On [2], O for Off [3], M for Make [4]).

Activity 6

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This activity can be set as homework to be followed up and consolidated in a future lesson generating more discussion. What did most students feel about the question? What reasons were put forward in each case? Did the students read anything which changed their minds on the topic? (etc.)