The video to accompany this lesson plan can be found here:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/shakespeare/unit-1/session-10

Aims: Students will...
- listen for gist and detail in the context of a video about Shakespeare's life, language and plays.
- explore the meaning, use and form of the phrase the world's mine oyster.
- be able to understand and use idioms with the word world.

Task A: Lead in and gist
- Students watch the complete video to find out and answer this gist question:
  - What kind of person do you think the Queen is? What relationship do you think Will has with the Queen?
- Play the video from beginning to end.
- Students compare answers in pairs and then check as a class.

Answer
Queen Elizabeth is an assertive, confident woman who demands respect. Will is a bit scared of her - so he does exactly what she tells him to do.

Task B: Detail
- Hand out worksheet (pages three and four of this document.) Students read the questions and three options for each question.
- Play video again for students to complete the information about the video,
- Students discuss answers in pairs and give reasons. Then check answers as a class.

Answers
1. In The Merry Wives of Windsor, Falstaff tries to make two ladies keep a secret from their husbands. Falstaff tries to trick the ladies into giving him money behind their husbands’ backs. If you do something ‘behind someone’s back’ you keep it secret from them.
2. Will is impressed that pearls originally come from the sea.
3. Shakespeare's character, Pistol, becomes angry because Falstaff won't give him money.
4. The Merry Wives of Windsor is a comedy about normal people in England.
Task C: Language – the world's mine oyster

- Give students a few minutes to read Task C and discuss the answers in pairs.
- Play the narrator section from 02.36 to 03.30 for students to check their answers.

Answers
1) How have the meaning and form of the world is mine oyster changed since Shakespeare's time? **The meaning is more positive today. The form has changed from 'mine oyster' to 'my oyster'.**
2) If the world is your oyster, do you feel free or trapped? **Free and with opportunities.**
3) In what situations do people often feel like the world is their oyster? **For example, when they pass an exam, win money or finish school.**

Task D: Discussion

- Give students a few minutes to prepare what they are going to talk about.
- Students mingle around the classroom to share their stories and ask each other questions.
- Feedback interesting answers and focus on any good language and any errors to correct.

Task E: Listening

- Students listen to the conversation and answer the question: what is the relationship between Tom and Kate?
- Conversation is available here: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/shakespeare/unit-1/session-10/activity-3](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/shakespeare/unit-1/session-10/activity-3)
  **Answer:** they are old school friends.
- Students read the conversation in Task E and discuss what they think the idioms mean.

Task F: ‘World’ idioms

- In pairs students complete the matching task using the conversation to help. Check answers: **Answers**
  1E, 2C, 3A, 4D, 5B
- Check understanding of the meaning, form and pronunciation of the phrases.

Extra practice ideas

- Practise the ‘world’ idioms with a game from **Eight Vocabulary Activities.**
- Students to read the conversation in Task E aloud with their partner and then from memory.

Task G: Discussion

- Students choose one or two topics to talk about. Then rearrange groups so they can tell their stories in new groups.
- Feedback by praising good language and correcting errors as a class.
Task B: Detail

Complete the information about this video:

1. In The Merry Wives of Windsor, Falstaff tries to make two ladies _____ their husbands.
   a) keep a secret from   b) leave   c) go back to

2. Will is impressed that pearls originally come from ______.
   a) Spain   b) the sea   c) the bottom of a ship

3. Shakespeare’s character, Pistol, becomes angry because Falstaff ______.
   a) stole his wife   b) won’t give him money   c) attacked him

4. The Merry Wives of Windsor is a comedy about ______.
   a) housewives in America   b) normal people in England   c) world travellers

Task C: Language – the world’s mine oyster

Answer the questions:

1) How have the meaning and form of the world is mine oyster changed since Shakespeare's time?

2) If the world is your oyster, do you feel free or trapped?

3) In what situations / life stages do people feel like the world is their oyster?
The world's mine oyster: Worksheet two

**Task D: Discussion**

Tell your group about an exciting time in your life when you had wonderful opportunities and thought "the world's my oyster!"

For example:

- when you learnt a new skill
- when you took a risk
- when you had money and freedom

**Task E: Listening**

Tom

Uh hello?! Hi… can you hear me? Hello?

Kate

Oh sorry! I was in a world of my own. Can I help you?

Tom

I was just wondering if I know you from somewhere. Didn't you go to school in York?

Kate

Yeah. Oh wow! Yes I remember you, it's Tom, right?

Tom

Yeah… Kate?

Kate

Yeah that’s incredible… what a small world! What are you doing in New Zealand?

Tom

Well actually I've moved here – you know, I love the lifestyle. I live in the city, but I'm only a few minutes away from remote beaches and forests, so I have the best of both worlds. What about you?

Kate

That sounds great. I'm here on business. I've spent most of my time on planes so far! I'm exhausted.

Tom

Oh no, poor you! Well, I'm just off to the spa… and you should join me, it'll do you the world of good.

Kate

Ah I'd love to, but I have to catch my plane back to London soon… although, maybe it won't be the end of the world if I miss it!
The world's mine oyster: Worksheet three

Task F: World idioms

Now match the idioms with 'world' with the definitions. Use the dialogue to help you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1) to be in a world of your own</th>
<th>A) to have the advantages of two different things at the same time.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2) What a small world!</td>
<td>B) to not be the worst thing that could happen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) to have the best of both worlds</td>
<td>C) used to show surprise when you meet someone you know at an unexpected place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) to do someone the world of good</td>
<td>D) to make someone feel much healthier or happier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) to not be the end of the world</td>
<td>E) to not be aware of what's happening around you.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task G: Discussion

Tell your classmates about:

1) A time when you thought: **What a small world!**

2) Something which would **do you the world of good** right now.

3) A time when you **were in a world of your own**.

4) A time when you **had the best of both worlds**.

5) Something which you thought was **the end of the world** at the time, but it wasn't!