BBC LEARNING ENGLISH
Shakespeare Speaks
Wild-goose chase: Lesson plan

The video to accompany this lesson plan can be found here:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/shakespeare/unit-1/session-8

Aims: Students will…
- listen for gist and detail in the context of a video on Shakespeare's life, language and plays.
- understand the meaning, use and form of the phrase **wild-goose chase.**
- be able to understand and use a range of animal idioms.

Task A: Lead in and gist

- Put students into small groups and tell them to discuss what they know about Romeo and Juliet. Then share answers as a class.
- Set this gist task:
  As you watch the video, decide who is in love and who isn't.
- Play the video from beginning to end.
- Students check answers in pairs before comparing as a class.

Answer
Daughter has a crush on Robert, but it doesn't look like Robert feels the same way. Will is hopefully in love with Mrs Shakespeare, but we don't learn about his love life in this video!

Task B: Detail
- Give students a few minutes to read the questions and then play the video again for students to choose true or false. Encourage them to note down reasons for their choices
- Students discuss choices in pairs and then check answers as a class.

Answers
1) Robert enjoys adventure sports. **True**
2) In Shakespeare's time, a wild-goose chase involved chasing geese. **False – it was a horse race.**
3) In a wild-goose chase, riders had to try to overtake the horse in the lead. **False (they had to keep up with it.)**
4) In the scene from Romeo and Juliet, Romeo and Mercutio compete to find out who is stronger. **False**
5) Romeo is more intelligent and is funnier than Mercutio. **True**

Task C: Language

- Give students a few minutes to read Task C and discuss the answers in pairs.
- Play the narrator section for students to check their answers. Then check as a class.

Answers

1) Today we use the phrase 'wild goose chase' when we look for something that is **impossible to find.**
2) Writer Bryant McGill tells us that it is impossible to find happiness by **having lots of possessions.**
3) In the example, the woman said that it was a 'wild-goose chase' because the restaurant she was looking for **didn't exist / had closed down.**

Task D: Discussion

- Give students time to prepare and then put them into new groups to share stories.
- Feedback answers and focus on any good examples of language as well as error correction.

Task E: Listening and reading

- Put students into new groups and ask them to share any other animal idioms they know (you could introduce **rat race** as an example).
- Play the audio from this webpage (or ask students to read aloud). http://www.live.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/shakespeare/unit-1/session-8/activity-3
- Students listen to and read the conversations and then discuss the meaning of the idioms in groups (don't check answers at this point – check after task F).

Task F: Animal idioms

- Students work alone to match the idioms to the definitions, using the dialogues to help.
- Check answers in pairs and then as a class and ask further concept questions.

Answers
1F, 2D, 3B, 4C, 5A, 6E

- Play one of the vocab revision games from the worksheet **Eight Vocabulary Activities** to revise and practise the idioms.

Task G: Writing and speaking

- In new pairs, students write their own dialogue using the animal idioms and then perform it for the class (from memory if possible). Students can vote on the best dialogue.
- Carry out error correction and praise good language.
- Extra task: students look at the animals on worksheet two and try to remember the idioms.

Wild-goose chase: Worksheet one

Task B: Detail

True or false?

1) Robert enjoys adventure sports.

2) In Shakespeare's time, a wild-goose chase involved chasing geese.

3) In a wild-goose chase, riders had to try to overtake the horse in the lead.

4) In the scene from Romeo and Juliet, Romeo and Mercutio compete to find out who is stronger.

5) Romeo is more intelligent and is funnier than Mercutio.

Task C: Language - Wild-Goose chase

Complete the sentences

1) Today we use the phrase 'wild-goose chase' when we look for something that is …

2) Writer Bryant McGill tells us that it is impossible to find happiness by …

3) In the example, the lady said that it was a 'wild-goose chase' because the restaurant she was looking for…
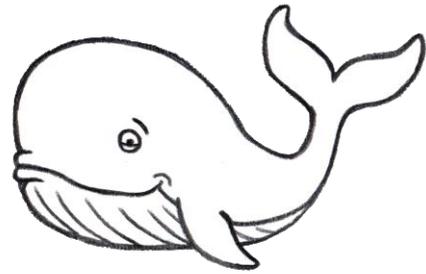
Task D: Discussion

Talk about a time you were sent on a wild-goose chase.
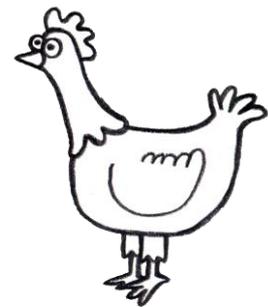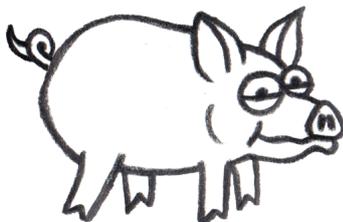
- What happened?
- How did you feel?

Wild-goose chase: Worksheet two

Task E: Listening and reading.

Read and listen to the conversations below. Pay attention to the animal idioms in bold. Can you work out what they mean?

1) I **had a whale of a time** at the party last night – I didn't want to leave!

2) I need to get my wife a birthday present – if I forget again I'll **be in the doghouse**!"

3) "I'll do all the housework for a month!" "Yeah and **pigs might fly**!"

4) **Hold your horses!** We need to find out how many people are coming before we start buying food!

5) **Get off your high horse**! You make mistakes too!

6) **Don't count your chickens** – you haven't got the job yet!

Wild-goose chase: Worksheet three

Task F: Animal idioms

Now match the animal idioms with their definitions. Use the dialogues to help you.

1) to have a whale of a time	A) stop behaving in a superior manner!
2) to be in the doghouse	B) that will never happen!
3) pigs might fly!	C) wait! Be patient!
4) hold your horses!	D) to be in trouble - normally with your partner!
5) get off your high horse !	E) don't make plans that depend on something good happening before you know that it will really happen
6) don't count your chickens!	F) to enjoy yourself very much

Task G: Writing and speaking

Imagine that Daughter and Robert Harley meet at the market the next day. Here's the start of their conversation:

Daughter
Oh hello Robert! It's such a lovely day today isn't it?

Robert
Good morning, Miss Shakespeare! Where's your father today?

Daughter
... ...

Can you continue their conversation? Use the phrase **wild-goose chase** - and as many of these other animal idioms as you can!

have a whale of a time
be in the doghouse
pigs might fly!
hold your horses!
be on your high horse
get off your high horse
don't count your chickens