

Teaching notes

This is a documentary about Cambridge and Cambridge University. In this episode, the presenter, Sophie, rides on a *punt*, visits the Cambridge colleges and talks about the history of the university and the city's other attractions.

Background information

Cambridge is in the South East of England. The city has a population of around 110,000. The name *Cambridge* means 'bridge over the river Cam'. *Punting* is a popular past time in Cambridge, especially for the tourists. *Punting* is boating on a flat bottomed boat called a *punt*. A punt is propelled by a punter who stands on the back of a punt (punters in the city of Oxford stand just inside) and pushes a *pole* (4–5 meters long and weighing 5 kilos) into the river bed, in order to push the boat along. This is different to a gondolier who uses an oar. The '*Backs*', are beautiful gardens between the colleges and the river.

Before you watch

- 1 Explain the words *punt* and *punter*. Teach *sightseeing* and elicit ideas for the sorts of things a tourist sees when they go sightseeing, e.g. museums, famous buildings, churches, etc. Ask students to do Exercise 1.
- 2 Tell students that the vocabulary in Exercise 2 will help them to understand the video. Divide them into pairs and ask them to do the exercise.

While you watch

- 3 Ask students to do Exercise 3. Show the first part of the video (0:36:09–0:36:30) twice. (Option: First play without sound, second play with). Ask students how they know Sophie isn't in Venice.
- 4a Play the rest of the video with the sound off. Ask students to do Exercise 5a.
- 4b Ask students to describe the things in the pictures in Exercise 5a. Then ask them to do Exercise 5b and play the third part of the video again. If necessary, play the video again, pausing after each sentence to allow students to check their answers.

- 5a Ask students to work in pairs and to try and guess the answers to the quiz in Exercise 4a.
- 5b Play the second part of the video (0:36:31–0:38:03), pausing after each quiz question answer, to allow students to check their answers.

After you watch

- 6a Ask students to read Sophie's email and complete it. Check their answers.
- 6b Ask students to do Exercise 6b. Collect letters in and correct them. Read out some of the letters in the next lesson. Ask students to guess who wrote them.

Key

Before you watch

- 1 Students' own answers.
- 2 1 trees 2 river 3 a statue 4 a bridge
5 visitors 6 a college building
7 flowers 8 a church

While you watch

- 3 2 dress 3 80
- 4a a 2 b 1 c 4 d 3 e 5 f 6
- 4b 2 shops 3 museums 4 roads
5 bicycles 6 gardens
- 5a 2 a 3 b 4 a 5 b 6 a 7 b 8 b

After you watch

- 6a 2 kilometres 3 love 4 famous
5 years 6 ancient 7 lots of
- 6b Students' own answers.

Video script

1 Punting on the Cam 0:36:09–0:36:30

Sophie I'm not in a gondola and this isn't Venice. In fact, I'm in a punt on the River Cam, only 80 kilometres from London, in one of the most beautiful cities in the world – Cambridge.

2 River Cam and the university 0:36:31–0:38:03

More than three and a half million visitors come to Cambridge every year. And many of them want to explore the world-famous university. The university was founded in the thirteenth century – so it's been here for well over 700 years! Its 31 colleges are spread all over the city.

Cambridge has been home to many famous scientists, from Sir Isaac Newton to Sir Stephen Hawking. With so many brilliant minds here, I feel challenged!

This is Trinity College – the largest of all the colleges. It was founded in 1546 by King Henry VIII and its students have included princes, prime ministers, and spies!

The Great Court is the biggest university courtyard in the world.

3 Cambridge town centre 0:38:04–0:38:51

But there's a lot more to Cambridge than just the university. If you want to know the time, there's the Grasshopper Clock. There are fabulous shops... amazing museums like the Fitzwilliam... ancient roads... lots of bicycles... green spaces like Midsummer Common... and the 'Backs': beautiful gardens between the colleges and the river.

I still have a lot more to see. But there's no hurry.