



TEACHERS GUIDE TO POPREEL

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RADIO OCH TV
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OCH GYMNASIET

TEACHER'S GUIDE TO RADIO POPREEL AND POPREEL

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A. PURPOSE:

Popreel aims to offer teenagers an important perspective on different English cultures by exploring the fields of **contemporary entertainment, fashion, art and music** in countries all over the English-speaking world. The purpose of the series is to function as one of many methods of teaching towards the goals in the curriculum for grade 9, with a focus on *listening comprehension, understanding and interpreting different English dialects* as well as *reflecting on questions regarding society and cultural phenomena in parts of the world where English is used*.

B. ABOUT POPREEL:

Popreel is a series with a focus on pop culture in different countries throughout the English-speaking world. There are **three seasons** of Popreel. The first two have TV and radio episodes and season three has TV episodes.

SEASON 1:

Radio episodes	8 episodes x 20 minutes
TV episodes	6 episodes x 15 minutes

Each TV episode and six of the radio episodes contain *segments from two to three different fields* of contemporary pop culture. The two additional radio programmes are longer features about Hollywood and Bollywood.

In each episode we can listen to interviews with musicians, artists, dancers, gamers, fashion designers and other professionals within different fields of pop culture. By listening to the interviews, students will become familiar with *dialects and expressions* from different parts of the English speaking world as well as from different areas within pop culture.

If you want to focus on listening comprehension without the support of images – choose to work with the radio programme, Radio Popreel.

With each episode comes a *work sheet* with exercises connected to the programme.

SEASON 2:

Radio episodes	6 episodes x 20 minutes
TV episodes	6 episodes x 15 minutes

Each TV episode and the radio episodes contain *segments from two to three different fields* of contemporary pop culture. In each episode you can listen to *interviews* with artists, musicians, surfers, sailors, hockey players, film makers, authors and other professionals within different fields of pop culture.

With each episode comes a *work sheet* with exercises connected to the programme.

SEASON 3:

TV episodes	4 episodes x 15 minutes
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In this season, each of the episodes contain *segments focused around a theme* within contemporary pop culture.

In each episode we can listen to *interviews* with musicians, artists, actors, game designers and other professionals within different fields of pop culture. By listening to the interviews, students will become familiar with *dialects and expressions* from different parts of the English speaking world as well as from different areas within pop culture.

With each episode comes a *work sheet* with exercises connected to the programme.

C. SUGGESTIONS FOR WORK PROCEDURE

On urskola.se the episodes will be available in full length, but you can also create your own video clips and use only parts of the programme in the classroom using UR's own video editor that you find below the programme. Students can make their own videos with questions on webpages such as edpuzzle. There you can also edit your own video: for example, putting together parts about Australia from different episodes in the series.

The radio programmes are a bit longer and more detailed and offer the possibility to go deeper into the topics and to find out more. By choosing either the TV series or the radio interviews, you can vary the level and adapt the work procedure accordingly.

Attached (**PART F**) you will find a chart with the programmes and how they can be combined, if you would

choose to work with an overall theme instead of with a separate programme.

We suggest that you either work with a programme and the work sheet separately or that you work with programmes based on a theme such as a country, a dialect, a pop culture phenomenon etc.

To give your students an extra experience, try Skype in the Classroom and listen to a guest lecturer from another part of the world or do a Mystery Skype and connect to another class in an English speaking country.

D. WORKSHEET

There is one worksheet with each episode and you can use the same one with the TV program and the corresponding radio programme. Choose one or more exercises from the worksheet to work with.

The worksheet focuses on expressions and phenomena brought up in the programme. It has a part with questions for a listening exercise and it has some examples of things you can work with if you would like to continue to explore things from the programme.

In the beginning of each work sheet, you will find a short introductory text which you can read before listening to or watching the programme. The text will help the pre-understanding of the programme.

E. EPISODES

Season 1

POPREEEL 1 AND RADIO POPREEEL 3

Princess Pea, Mark Waid and Dada Masilo

Princess Pea is a painter from Delhi who explores ideas of *identity, self-worth and the conflict between traditional and contemporary roles of women in Indian society*. We meet her at the Art Fair India 2014 and in her studio in New Delhi.

Mark Waid is an American comic book writer, known for his work on titles for DC Comics, such as The Flash, Kingdom Come and Superman: Birthright and for his work on Captain America for Marvel Comics. Mark says it's a huge responsibility to write stories about his childhood heroes. He talks about *the need for superheroes* and Clark Kent vs Superman

Dada Masilo is a South African dancer and choreographer, known for her unique and innovative interpretations of classical ballets, such as Swan Lake. She was born and raised in Soweto, Johannesburg. Her pieces often address *taboos such as homosexuality and racial issues*.

Possible themes to work with: *Dual identity and alter ego. What is perfection? What is a superhero? Can any-*

one be a superhero? How much does gender affect a story or the characters in it?

POPREEEL 2 AND RADIO POPREEEL 4

Slacklining and Art Fair India

Slacklining means walking and doing tricks on a piece of one inch line pulled tight between two points. It is also used as a form of *meditation, physical and mental training*.

Neha Kirpal is the founder of Art Fair India. She decided to start the fair because she became interested in the *relationship between art and social life* during her time as a student at the University of Arts in London. At the time, there were no large-scale art fairs in India, but with Kirpal's vision and determination, this was set to change.

Interview with the music group **Clean Bandit**.

Possible themes to work with: *How can art help to bring humor into everyday life? How can activities in general help in relaxing?*

POPREEEL 3 AND RADIO POPREEEL 5

Fashion School, Taj Mahal and spoken word

Parsons, the School of Fashion, ranks among the most prestigious fashion schools in the world. We meet the students and hear *what they think about fashion* and how they created their pieces.

We meet **Nirav Modi**, an Indian diamond cutter who is *inspired by The Taj Mahal*, in the city of Agra. In memory of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died when giving birth to their 14th child, the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, built the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal is widely recognised as one of the most important buildings in India and is admired for its beauty all over the world.

Spoken word artist **Suli Breaks** from London speaks for and to his generation *about education and other important things in life*.

Possible themes to work with: *What is fashion? What do our clothes say about us? Can clothes have stories? Is there anything you would like to speak up about?*

POPREEEL 4 AND RADIO POPREEEL 6

Pin-up Poetry, Graphic Novels and CosPlay

Andrea Grant from Canada lives in New York and calls herself the Pin-up Poet. She is also the author of the graphic novel Minx where the story is set around her *Native American roots and mythology*.

Abhijeet Kini is a creative professional *specializing in illustration*, graphic designs, animation and copywriting in Mumbai, India. His character Angry Maushi is "the angry aunt", saving the city of Mumbai by blasting away the evil minister and others with her guns.

At **ComicCon** in India you can *dress up like your comic hero and become someone else for a while*. Costume Drama or Cosplay is very popular and every winter there is a costume challenge for the comic fans in India.

David Lloyd from Brighton, England, is a British comic book artist best known as the illustrator of the story *V for Vendetta*, written by Alan Moore.

Possible themes to work with: *Heroes and alter egos in Comics. How do you preserve stories if they're not written down? How can comics help communication between cultures?*

POPREEEL 5 AND RADIO POPREEEL 7

Hollywood and Bollywood

We visit **Universal Studios** and learn about *the film industry and its history*. We get to see part of the original sets of *War of the Worlds*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Spiderman*.

We also learn about another of the world's biggest film industries: **Bollywood** in Mumbai, India. **Bollywood** is the largest film producer in India and one of the biggest centres of film production in the world with 900 films being produced each year.

Whistling Woods International Film School, located in Film City Mumbai, is the best filmmaking school and college in India. The school is also among the top ten film schools in the world, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*. Young actors from around the world come to Whistling Woods International to study for an acting career in Bollywood.

Possible themes to work with: *Bollywood, Hollywood and the film industry. What is the difference between Hollywood and Bollywood? Is the film industry important? What must a perfect movie include? Why has the Bollywood way of making films been such a huge success in Asia but not as big in the western world? How can film help uniting people from all over the world?*

POPREEEL 6 AND RADIO POPREEEL 8

A zombie story, Game of Thrones tourism and Vance Joy

Devaki Singh and Luke Kenny: *India's first zombie origins feature film* "Rise of the Zombie" features Luke Kenny and Benjamin Gelani and is written and directed by Devaki Singh.

Taren Kumar Sadhu is the young talent behind images in *the graphic novel Zombies Rising* and was discovered on Facebook.

For **Game of Thrones** fans around the globe, *the series is the ultimate in fantasy escapism*: an epic rollercoaster ride that thrills with dark themes and incredible plot lines. Popreel visits Winterfell and a few other sets from the popular TV-series version of *Game of Thrones*.

Vance Joy or James Keogh is *a well-known Australian*

singer-songwriter. His song *Riptide* was released in 2013 and became popular all over the world.

Possible themes to work with: *Film industry tourism and Game of Thrones. What do you think of film industry tourism such as the one around G.o.T.? Why do you think people want to visit places where movies have been recorded? Why are zombie movies so popular right now? Why do we watch horror movies?*

RADIO POPREEEL SEASON 1 EPISODES 1-2

1. Los Angeles, California

This program is about the US film industry and its studios as well as Santa Monica Beach, also known as Muscle Beach. Possible themes to work with are *Beauty Standards, Life in California, Hollywood*.

2. Bollywood, India

This programme is about the film industry in India and Bollywood. Possible themes to work with are *The Indian film industry and a typical Bollywood movie*.

POPREEEL AND RADIO POPREEEL SEASON 2

1. Ironman, steel pan and steampunk (TV 13'30" RADIO 19'45")

Ironman surf lifesaving is big in Australia and the club in Newport has the best practitioners in the country. Ironman surf lifesaving, also known as Oceanman, was developed for life guards to stay in shape in between lifesaving sessions. It is a race with different disciplines, such as running, swimming, board and ski paddling.

Steampunk Are you interested in science fiction, top hats, corsets, retro futurism and the Victorian era? Then Steampunk is for you. Steampunk is a version of science fiction and aesthetics based on steam machines, hot air balloons, mechanical calculators and other technology, combined with the fashion of the Industrial revolution. Popreel visits a Steampunk store in Burbank, California where hats and clothes are designed in a Victorian style and produced ecologically with upcycled material.

Steel band in Antigua where can you find high c on an oil drum? The students at Antigua Girls High School know their steel pans. Steel pan is a percussion made from an oil drum and it is a popular instrument in the Caribbean. The students of St.John's High School in Antigua think everyone who lives there should be able to play it.

Possible themes to work with: *Hobbies that unite. Playing classic on oil drums, lifesaving as a sport and durable fashion through upcycling, is this the future?*

2. Blades, sails and interesting tales (TV 13'30" RADIO 19'45")

Hockey in Canada Popreel on ice with Toronto Leaside Wildcats in Canada. Get to know the hockey culture among girls in Toronto.

ComicCon in New Dehli Meet John Layman, creator of the comics "Chew", which is about to become an animated movie.

Movies in Sydney Come with us to REELise, the Sydney film festival where this year's theme is #NOFILTER. Last year's theme was cyberbullying. Jenna Parker and Sarthake Havele make short movies in their cell phones.

Sailing in Antigua Janeild Smith and Stephon Dundas work for The National Sailing Academy in Antigua and compete in sailing during Antigua Sailing Week.

Possible themes to work with: *Making movies using your cell phone and cartoons inspired by food. Sailing and hockey – how do the sports differ and how are they alike?*

Radio Popreel contains hockey and sailing only and not the other parts of TV episode Popreel 2.

3. Irish rap, Australian street art and Antiguan literature (TV 13'30" RADIO 19'45")

Irish rap In Dublin, we meet the temper-mental Miss Elaynious who raps about life in Ireland, her roots in Irish culture and oral storytelling tradition. Music and poems were a way for the oppressed Irish to keep each other informed and to keep up hope. In between vinyl records and DJ equipment in MissElaynious' home, we also find the traditional Irish drum, the bodhrán.

Australian art Artist Jason Wing wants to tell the story of the Australian Aborigines through his art, about the way they're treated and the way they have been treated throughout history. Jason himself is part Aborigine, part Asian and that affects his art as a designer, artist, sculptor and street artist.

Fiction in Antigua Joanne C. Hillhouse has studied literature in Jamaica and in Miami. Today, she is one of the most popular authors in Antigua and Barbuda. Joanne C. Hillhouse thinks it is important that Antiguan history is written by Antiguan themselves instead of others doing it for them. She is in awe of those who have been here before her and how they, despite oppression and slavery, managed to pass on joy and hope for the future to their children and grandchildren. For Joanne C. Hillhouse, language is a cultural heritage well worth protecting and she lets her characters speak the English spoken in Antigua.

Possible themes to work with: *Roots, colonialism, using your own history and background in your creative work.*

4. Angel in crisis, kangaroos and koalas and Marie in NY (TV 13'30" RADIO 19'45")

Things to do in NYC Marie De Azevedo in New York speaks many languages, loves French poetry, David Bowie, Oscar Wilde, vintage clothes and vinyl records.

Animal love in Australia Jake McKinley-Turner in Featherdale, Australia, does what he loves most all day, every day. In his job as an animal keeper, he gets to spend

time with his dear friends, all of them with unique personalities.

Art in Antigua Mark Brown was controversial back in Antigua with his exhibition Angels in Crisis.. The oil painting that received most attention was "Crises", which showed a naked pregnant nun wearing only a headpiece and wings. Mark says he's always been different but that he sees that as a gift and he enjoys it. You have to dare to follow your dreams, he says.

Possible themes to work with: *Following your dreams, dare being unique and to fight for what you want with your life.*

5. Soca star Tian Winter and Poetry Aloud in Ireland (TV 13'30" RADIO 19'45")

Soca in Antigua "Don't let anyone stand in the way of your dreams" is the advice we get from Soca star Tian Winter in Antigua. Tian Winter started singing at home and in church and is now a star in Antigua and Barbuda. Soca is popular in the Caribbean and Tian Winter believes the musical style will soon be popular all around the world.

Poetry reciting in Dublin Poetry Aloud is a competition in poetry reciting and the finale takes place in Dublin, Ireland. Regional competitions have taken place all over Ireland and the competitors move on to semi-finals with the best of them receiving an invitation to the finals in Dublin. Popreel meets with the finalists Danielle Olavario from Kilkenny and Shane McMahon from Monaghan when they practise for the finals in the National Library of Dublin.

Possible themes to work with: *Following your dreams, expressing emotions through poetry and singing.*

6. Twinheaded Wolf, Australian and Canadian art (TV 13'30" RADIO 19'45")

Cyborgs and sound Artist Brenton Alexander Smith and sound artist Jenny Alcala talk about technology and art at the University UNSW Art & Design in Sydney.

Collage in Canada Elizabeth Zvonar from Vancouver, Canada creates art inspired by her own life. Popreel visits her exhibition "The Challenge of Abstraction" in Toronto, Canada.

Twinheaded Wolf Twin sisters Julie and Branwen Kavanagh formed the band Twinheaded Wolf after having had visions of the name. In their music they combine everyday objects and instruments they have built themselves with broken porcelain dolls and animal skulls. Twinheaded Wolf are also famous for the dark rites they carry out during their performances.

Possible themes to work with: *Using technology in art. What is art? Who decides what is art or music? Combining dark and somber with happy and light with Twinheaded Wolf.*

1. Community focus

(TV 13'30")

Skinny Girl Diet is an English punk music group whose members want to change society and the believe music is the best way to do it.

The American **Kendall Victor** is such a fan of Harry Potter that she has started her own fan group to reach likeminded.

We visit a **video game and comics convention** in Canada, where people meet to exchange thoughts and ideas around video games.

Possible themes to work with: *Can pop culture help society move forward and bring people together? How can music be used as a platform for political messages?*

2. Life through music

(TV 13'30")

Sabrina Soares from Australia claimed, when asked during an assignment in school, that she could play the guitar. By training intensely, she discovered her love to music.

In London, we pay a visit to **WacArts**, where students struggle really hard to become the next star in performing arts. It is a prestigious school with some of the best teachers in the world, trying to prepare the students for the tough reality as professionals.

Students from all over the country meet in Canada to compete in big band at **Musicfest**.

Possible themes to work with: *How can you use music and arts to express yourself, your thoughts and ideas or become the person you want to be? What are the differences and similarities between being a solo artist and playing in a big band?*

3. What is art?

(TV 13'30")

Anindita Dutta is an Indian artist who combines sculpture with performance art in order to express her thoughts.

On the Caribbean island of Antigua, we meet the artist **Debbie Eckert** who believes art is a window into the artist's soul and heart. She loves people and her art reveals just that.

Possible themes to work with: *What is art? How can art be used as a language in order to express thoughts and provoke emotions within the beholder? What is performance art?*

4. Be who you want to be

(TV 13'30")

In a basement in London, we meet **Ruqsana Begum** during a hard kickboxing training. She comes from a very religious background and tells us about how she started training secretly without her parents' knowledge. When a career as a kickboxer was reality, it became harder to keep it secret. Despite many hard setbacks, she has won a world championship, carried the Olympic torch and met the queen – all through kickboxing.

Someone else who refused to be pushed down by setbacks, is successful stand-up comedian **Francesca Martinez**. She refuses to let her cerebral palsy stand in the way of her dreams. Francesca bears witness of how love and support from others can help you move forward and of how you can express yourself through comedy.

Possible themes to work with: *Overcoming hard times by believing in yourself. Breaking boundaries. Taboos.*

F. ATTACHMENT

Countries and Themes in Popreel

Countries	S 1, Pr 1	S 1, Pr 2	S 1, Pr 3	S 1, Pr 4	S 1, Pr 5	S 1, Pr 6	S 2, Pr 1	S 2, Pr 2	S 2, Pr 3	S 2, Pr 4	S 2, Pr 5	S 2, Pr 6	S 3, Pr 1	S 3, Pr 2	S 3, Pr 3	S 4, Pr 4
India	X	x	x	x	x	x		x							x	
Northern Ireland						x										
Ireland									X		x	x				
The U.S.	x		x	x	x		x			x			x			
Canada								X				x	x	x		
England		x	x	x									x	x		x
South Africa	x															
Australia						x	x	x	x	x		x		x		
Antigua							X	x	x	x	x				x	
Themes	S 1, Pr 1	S 1, Pr 2	S 1, Pr 3	S 1, Pr 4	S 1, Pr 5	S 1, Pr 6	S 2, Pr 1	S 2, Pr 2	S 2, Pr 3	S 2, Pr 4	S 2, Pr 5	S 2, Pr 6	S 3, Pr 1	S 3, Pr 2	S 3, Pr 3	S 3, Pr 4
Art	x	x	x	x					x	x		x			x	
Fashion			x				x									
Music		x				x	x		x		x	x	x	x		
Comics	x			x		x		x					x			
Dancing	x				x									x		
Leisure/ Relaxation, Sports		X					x	x		x						x
Spoken word			x													
Poetry				X					X		x					
Film industry					x	x		x								
Literature									x							
Colonialism	x			x					x							
Animals										x						
Identity	x		x	x					x	x			x			x
Comedy																x
Acting														x		