# Pearson ELT

### History Lessons – Events from September

**Learning Objectives**: To highlight some of this month's history anniversaries. Practise language of debate, ranking and discussion.

**Skill/Grammar**: Reading, speaking/ranking importance, *more important than*, giving reasons

Preparation Time: 0 minutes

Completion Time: 15–30 minutes

**Age/Level**: Secondary–Adult/ Intermediate and above

Resources: Student text

- Ask students if they know any important historical events that took place in September.
- Give out the list of historical anniversaries to students and ask them to read them. Some key vocabulary: *sculpture*, *unveiled*, *crisis*, *to declare*, *independent*, *symbol*, *nun*, *to devote*, *orphaned*, *democracy*, *chewing gum*, *originally*, *influential*, *host*

Give them two minutes to read the anniversaries then ask them to turn over the text so they can't see it. Ask the following comprehension questions:

Who became a king? (Pedro of Brazil)
Who was a great artist? (Michelangelo)
Where is a well-known TV channel? (Qatar)
Who changed what he sold? (William Wrigley)
What has a race named after it? (The Battle of Marathon)
Who helped the poor? (Mother Teresa)

- Ask students to get into six groups. Give each group a historical anniversary and ask them to prepare an argument to say why it is the most important event. They might want to use language such as '... the most important because ...', 'Obviously/Clearly ...', 'While ... are important ...', '... more significant than ...', etc.
- Bring the class together and ask each group to state their case in one minute. Other groups can ask questions.
- Ask the class which event they really believe is the most important.
- Finally, direct students to the final few hypothetical questions about the type of world in which they would prefer to live. They're not supposed to be serious, only to get people discussing pros and cons.

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You have two minutes to read about some important historical events that happened in September.

#### 1504 Michelangelo's sculpture *David* was unveiled in Florence, Italy

*David* is considered one of the greatest sculptures ever made. It is a great symbol of the renaissance period, when there was an explosion of cultural and intellectual activity in Europe.

#### 1822 Brazil declares independence from Portugal

Brazil was a colony of Portugal. The son of the Portuguese king, prince Pedro, ruled Brazil as regent but after a crisis in Portugal, decided to declare Brazil an independent kingdom. Brazil is now a growing world power and is famous for music, dancing and football.

#### 1946 Mother Teresa of Calcutta decides to help the poor and orphaned

Mother Teresa was an Albanian nun who devoted most of her life to helping the poor, dying and orphaned in Calcutta, northern India. She even won the Nobel peace Prize for her work.

#### 490 BC The Battle of Marathon between Athens and Persia

Some people say that if the Athenians (Greeks) had lost this battle then there would be no democracy. The running race marathon is named after this battle as after the battle the Athenians marched from Marathon to Athens very quickly to make sure their city was not attacked.

#### 1861 William Wrigley, the founder of the chewing gum company was born

Wrigley's chewing gum is one of the most famous chewing gum brands in the world. He founded the company in 1891 and originally the company sold soap and baking powder. Soon, chewing gum became their most popular product.

#### 1971 Qatar becomes independent from Britain

Qatar has become one of the most influential countries in the Gulf region. It is the richest country in the world due to huge oil and gas reserves. It hosts the TV news network AI Jazeera and attempts to mediate conflicts in the world. It was controversially chosen to host the football World Cup in 2022.

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1 Your teacher is going to ask you some questions. Don't look at the text. Who can answer the quickest?

2 Ask your teacher about the words you don't understand.

3 Get into groups of four. Your teacher will give you an event. You must say why that event is more important than all the others.

4 Present your ideas to the class. Tell other groups why they are wrong!

5 Which event do you really believe is the most important?

6 Discuss in pairs. Would you prefer to live in a world ...

- ... with oil or a world with very charitable people?
- ... with great art or a world without bad breath?
- ... with democracy or a world with great football players?