

Yesterday, today and tomorrow

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

MEA.TIM.2a understand how time is measured, expressed and represented.

INTERACTIVES Spin the Wheel (Maths) · display, explore

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

Yesterday is the day just before today: the day that has already finished. Tomorrow is the day just after today: the day still to come.

- If today is Wednesday, yesterday was Tuesday.
- If today is Friday, tomorrow is Saturday.
- If today is Sunday, tomorrow is Monday.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

NAME YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW

- 1 Today the day wheel lands on Wednesday.
- 2 The day just before Wednesday is Tuesday, so yesterday was **Tuesday**.
- 3 The day just after Wednesday is Thursday, so tomorrow is **Thursday**.
- 4 Write: yesterday was Tuesday, today is Wednesday, tomorrow is Thursday.

LESSON ARC

Open with the class calendar page and ring today's real weekday so the red circle matches the day you are living. Pupils name yesterday and tomorrow from that circle. Walk three day-wheel landings — Monday, Friday, then Sunday — pausing on the Sunday-to-Monday restart. Try four landings together with pupils at the board. One careful copybook line fills yesterday, today and tomorrow. Class Challenge is brisk board practice; close with the maths-talk on days that keep moving.

TEACHING MOVES

1. **Getting Started.** Ring today's real weekday on the physical calendar before the class settles so the red circle matches the day you are living. Ask what day was yesterday and what day is tomorrow. Take three hands-up answers, then move on.
2. **Watch and Notice.** Run the three landings in order: Monday (yesterday Sunday, tomorrow Tuesday), Friday (Thursday, Saturday), then Sunday. Hold for both answers each time. On Sunday, pause so the class hears the week begin again at Monday — do not rush the loop.
3. **Try It Together.** Spin or pin Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday. For each landing hold for yesterday first, then tomorrow. Rotate four pupils at the board; the class agrees or corrects out loud. If someone says 'nothing' after Sunday, revoice: after Sunday the week begins again at Monday. No wheel: point the same four days on the wall calendar.
4. **Write yesterday, today and tomorrow.** Say today's day name aloud first so emerging writers are not stuck on the middle blank. One careful line only — yesterday was ____, today is ____, tomorrow is ____. Walk the room glancing at the three day names; nothing is marked.
5. **Class Challenge.** Keep board work brisk and check each answer with the class before the next spin. Exact order: tomorrow of Tuesday; yesterday of Thursday; yesterday and tomorrow of Saturday; tomorrow of

Sunday — pause on the Monday restart. Time allowing, add yesterday and tomorrow of Wednesday, then yesterday of Monday.

6. **What Did We Notice?** Ask: on Monday we said Tuesday was tomorrow — what do we call Tuesday now? Take two or three hands-up answers. Revoice: yesterday, today and tomorrow keep moving; Tuesday was tomorrow, now it is today, and soon it will be yesterday.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

⚠ After Sunday a pupil says ‘nothing’, ‘the end’, or freezes — they think the week stops instead of looping.

Trace Sunday on the calendar page or day wheel, then slide to Monday. Revoice: after Sunday the week begins again at Monday; the seven days go round and round.

⚠ Pupils swap the two directions: given Wednesday they name yesterday as Thursday and tomorrow as Tuesday.

Stand at the calendar. Point back for the day that has already finished and forward for the day still to come. Have the pupil say: yesterday is the day that has already finished.

⚠ Pupils treat ‘tomorrow’ as a fixed day name — Tuesday stays ‘tomorrow’ even when the real day has moved on.

Gesture at the red circle during the maths-talk prompt: yesterday, today and tomorrow move with the circle; Tuesday was tomorrow, now it is today.

DIFFERENTIATION

EMERGING

- Stay on the physical calendar with a pupil pointer; secure tomorrow alone before adding yesterday.
- Pre-write today’s day name on the copybook line so pupils only fill yesterday and tomorrow.

DEVELOPING

- After the four Try It Together landings, flip the start: if yesterday was Friday, what is today?
- On the copybook page, add a second line for a ‘today’ you name aloud (for example, pretend today is Thursday).

PROFICIENT

- In Class Challenge, ask a fast finisher for the full chain on the Sunday landing: yesterday, today, tomorrow, and the day after tomorrow.
- Reverse the prompt without the wheel: if tomorrow is Monday, what day is today?

✂ **Cross-curricular:** Link to Gaeilge — chorus Inné, Inniu, Amárach as you point to yesterday, today and tomorrow on the calendar.

ANSWER KEY

Q1: Sunday

Q2: Friday

Q3: Monday and Wednesday

Q4: Friday and Sunday

Q5: Monday

Q6: today

a) Always : Tuesday is the day just before Wednesday every week.

b) Always : Saturday is the day just after Friday every week.

c) Never : Yesterday is before today and tomorrow is after today, so they are different days.

d) Never : The day after Monday is Tuesday.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: Thursday

S2: Sunday

S3: Monday

S4: Sunday