

the ARTICLE (for teachers)

The Last Decade

The decade has ended and the world now moves into the second decade of the twenty-first century. An insatiable appetite for up-to-the minute-news fuels online media, resulting in fads churned out, adopted, and discarded at a breakneck pace. This is perhaps one reason that the English language still lacks a universally adopted term for the years between 2000 and 2009. No single idea has been picked up by enough people to go viral.

The last decade as a whole was quite bland. However, major exceptions include the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the war in the Middle East, and the devastated world economy. Yet not much of note has occurred which might adequately define the decade. For better or worse, the 90s had grunge music, the 80s had Reagonomics, and the 70s had disco. What has happened in the 2000s?

The lack of any particularly defining cultural moment also serves as a reason for the absence of a definite term. Some people call the decade the "aughties," which refers to zeros. Others call the decade the "zeroes" and the "2Ks." No single idea has stuck. Experts in the evolution of the English language, as well as other experts in pop culture, anticipate that as years pass, at least one term will gradually get adopted. Which term it will be, though, is anyone's guess.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the answers.

the Article (for students)

The Last Decade

a) _____ . b) _____
_____, resulting in fads churned out, adopted, and discarded at a breakneck pace. This is perhaps one reason that the English language still lacks a universally adopted term for the years between 2000 and 2009. No single idea has been picked up by enough people to go viral.

The last decade as a whole was quite bland. However, major exceptions include the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the war in the Middle East, and the devastated world economy. c) _____
_____. For better or worse, the 90s had grunge music, the 80s had Reagonomics, and the 70s had disco. What has happened in the 2000s?

d) _____. Some people call the decade the "aughties," which refers to zeros. Others call the decade the "zeroes" and the "2Ks." e) _____
_____. Experts in the evolution of the English language, as well as other experts in pop culture, anticipate that as years pass, at least one term will gradually get adopted. Which term it will be, though, is anyone's guess.

Notes:

STEP ONE

Title: Speculate and/or discuss the contents of today's article from its title: "The Last Decade."

STEP TWO

Questions: Read as much of the article as you can in two minutes. Guess the answers to the questions below, then listen to your teacher read the article. Try to confirm your answers.

a.	People in general are very hungry for news and information.	T / F
b.	Fads are perhaps one reason the decade hasn't been given a name.	T / F
c.	According to the article, the decade has been quite exciting	T / F
d.	According to the article, the next decade will be quite boring	T / F
e.	Experts believe they someone knows what the last decade will be called.	T / F

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Listen to your teacher read the article again. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

STEP FOUR

Questions: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	What is one reason that the last decade doesn't have a name?
b.	Although the article calls the decade "bland," what exceptions are given?
c.	According to the article, what did the 80s have?
d.	According to the article, what did the 70s have?
e.	What are some terms used to describe the last decade?

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
b.	What do you think is the best term for the last decade?
c.	What can you say about past decades, like the 90s, 80s, 70s, or even earlier? Please explain.
d.	What do you predict for the next ten years?