

ITALY

THEMED PROGRAMME



AIM

Ciao! Italy is one of Europe's most popular destinations and with its incredible food, culture and landmarks, it's not difficult to see why. Learn more about Italy, how it compares to the UK and get hands on with some popular Italian activities.

ACTIVITIES

-  Harpastum
-  Italy v UK Quiz
-  Homemade Pizza
-  Speaking Italian
-  The Leaning Tower of Life
-  The Italian Imposter

ITALY

» INTRODUCTION

Italy can be found in the south of Europe and is famous for being shaped like a boot.

Well-known for its culture, food, fashion and landmarks, Italy is a popular destination for tourists around the world. In fact nearly 95 million people a year visit Italy, making it one of the world's most popular tourist destinations.

Italy borders six countries – France, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia, Vatican City and San Marino.

? DID YOU KNOW?

- Italy's capital city is Rome, which is home to roughly 4.3 million people.
- 75% of the country is in mountainous territory.
- Pizza – possibly Italy's most famous food – was created in the Italian city of Naples around the 1860s.
- Ferrari, Lamborghini, Alfa Romeo and Maserati are well-known Italian car manufacturers.
- Italy is home to three active volcanoes.
- The average Italian eats 25kg of pasta a year.



GET ACTIVE: PLAYING SPORT HARPASTUM

Harpastum was an ancient Roman ball game, with similarities to American football. The game was known for becoming quite violent and chaotic. Learn the basics of the ancient game in a modern version, without the violence and chaos.

Game Set Up: Using cones or markers, create a line across the middle of your playing area. Place a ball on the line of cones in the middle.


- 1 Split into two even teams. Each team should stand at the far ends of the playing area, facing towards the centre line.
- 2 On go, both teams should race to grab the ball from the centre and gain possession.
- 3 The aim is to keep the ball within your own playing half. Players should throw the ball between their teammates, aiming to keep possession and remain in their own half. Opposing players can try to intercept the ball and then throw it back to their own half. If the ball leaves the playing area it should be thrown back in from the side, like in football. Players cannot move whilst holding the ball.
- 4 **Scoring:** Every time a player catches a pass from a teammate, whilst standing in their own half, a point should be given. Intercepted passes don't score points, nor do 'throw ins' from the side. To keep the game moving, for every 10 seconds a player holds the ball without passing, a point should be lost.
- 5 Play the game for a set period of time. The team with the most points at the end wins.

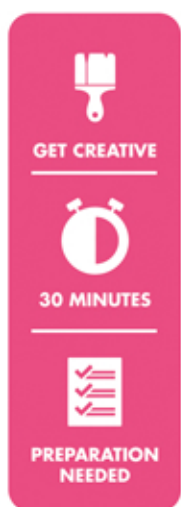




GET LEARNING: ME & MY WORLD

ITALY V UK QUIZ

- 1  Download the 'Italy v UK Quiz' PowerPoint. Show this using a projector or large TV.
- 2 Within the quiz are 8 questions, looking at different facts between the two countries. Read out a question and then ask young people to decide if Italy or the UK has the higher statistic.
- 3 Voting could be achieved by allocating sides of the meeting space as Italy and the UK. Young people should stand in the side they think is correct. Alternatively do a show of hands.
- 4 Before revealing the answer, ask some of the group to predict what the statistic will be. For example, can they guess how many Olympic medals each country has?
- 5 After revealing the answer, share some of the facts from the 'Italy v UK – Did you Know' sheet.



GET CREATIVE: IN THE KITCHEN

HOMEMADE PIZZA

- 1 Heat the oven to 240c, 220c (fan) or gas mark 8.
- 2 In a large bowl, stir the flour, yeast and salt together.
- 3 Create a well and pour in 100ml of warm water and the olive oil and mix until you have a soft and fairly wet dough.
- 4 Tip the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead for 4-5 minutes. Cover the dough with a tea towel and set aside. Whilst the dough is resting, use this time to prepare your pizza toppings.
- 5 Using a rolling pin, roll the dough into a large round circle, about 25cm. The dough should be very thin, as it will rise in the oven.
- 6 Place the pizza base onto a floured oven tray. Pour some sauce on top and spread with a spoon. Finally add your toppings and cheese and bake for 8-10 minutes or until crisp.


What you'll need:

- 150g Strong Bread Flour
- 100ml Water
- ½ tsp (3.5g) Instant Yeast
- ½ tsp Salt
- ½ tsp Olive Oil
- Pizza Sauce, toppings and cheese
- Cooking Utensils & Trays etc



GET LEARNING: MY SKILLS FOR LIFE


SPEAKING ITALIAN

- 1  Download and print the 'Speaking Italian' puzzle sheet. Cut along each line in the puzzle to create 10 puzzle pieces.
- 2 Split into pairs or small groups, with each group having their own copy of the puzzle to complete. Challenge the groups to put the puzzle back together again, by trying to match the Italian words to their English translations. This could be a race, with the quickest group winning.
- 3 Spend some time as a large group going through each of the words/phases and learning how to say them. Use our 'Speaking Italian' PowerPoint and its audio files to help you to do this.
- 4 Finally test the group's knowledge by playing the audio files within the PowerPoint again (but without them seeing which one you have chosen) and seeing if the group can remember what their English translations are. This could be done as a game or a quiz.



GET INTO THE BIBLE: DEVELOPING MY FAITH


THE LEANING TOWER OF LIFE

- 1 Start by asking the group if they can think of a famous building in Italy that famously has poor foundations. (The Learning Tower of Pisa). The Leaning Tower of Pisa weighs 14,500 tonnes, but was only built on 3 metre foundations in soft soil. The tower leans by about 4 degrees.
- 2 Split into small groups and give each group some biscuits and icing and challenge them to recreate the leaning tower of Pisa. Other resources could be used instead (i.e. Spaghetti and marshmallows). The group with the tallest structure, but with the greatest lean, wins.
- 3 Afterwards ask the group why it is important for a building to have strong foundations. Answers should hopefully include that the foundations support the weight of the whole building, it provides a solid and safe anchor, and it ensures the building remains for a long time etc.
- 4 Our lives, just like any building, are built on foundations. These foundations are the things we put our hope and trust into and prioritise in our lives. Examples might be money, possessions, popularity, fame, people and so on. Can the group think of any other examples?
- 5 Some of these things aren't necessarily bad – but they are temporary. When the 'storms of life' come along, these things often vanish. If you've built your life on these temporary things, what happens when these foundations don't last?
- 6 Christians are called to build their lives on the rock of Jesus. This doesn't mean that storms won't come along – but when they do, we will be best prepared for them and ready to take them head on. Jesus told a story about this in the Bible. As a group take a look at  **Matthew 7 v 24-29**. Spend some time discussing the passage and what it means for our lives.
- 7 Finally spend some time thinking about how we can actually build our lives on solid foundations. What does that mean and how do we put it into practice? Examples might include reading the Bible, praying, getting involved with the Church, surrounding yourself with Christian friends and so on.
- 8 Finish with some quiet time challenging young people to consider what their foundations are currently built on and what steps they could take to make them stronger. Finish in prayer.



GET ACTIVE: PLAYING GAMES

THE ITALIAN IMPOSTER

- 1  Download and print the 'Italian Imposter' cards and cut them into individual cards.
- 2 Shuffle and distribute the cards evenly between those playing. 4-6 players are ideal.
- 3 Players should look at their cards and remove any matching pairs. These can be laid on the table, leaving just single cards in each player's hand.
- 4 The first person offers their cards to the player on their left (upside down, so the cards aren't seen). The player chooses a card. If it matches a card in their hand, they place the pair on the table.
- 5 The next player to the left takes their turn in the same way and so on. Be careful not to pick the Italian imposter card, otherwise you're in danger of losing the game.
- 6 Once a player has no cards left in their hand, they are out of the game. The game keeps going until one player is left with only the 'Italian Imposter' (Eifel Tower Card). They 'lose' the game.

ITALY V UK QUIZ: DID YOU KNOW?

Populations

- There are roughly 7 million more people living in the UK.
- The average age of someone living in the UK is 40.5, whereas in Italy it is 46.5.
- The average life expectancy in the UK is 81. In Italy it is 83.

Largest Country

- Whilst Italy is a larger country, the UK has far more coastline. The UK has 12,429km of coastline whilst Italy has 7,600km.
- The shape of Italy make it look like a high healed boot. Check it out on a map!

Olympic Medals

- Whilst the UK has the most medals overall, Italy is more successful in the Winter Olympics than the UK. Italy has 124 winter medals, compared to the UK's 32.
- The UK has hosted the Summer Olympics 3 times. Italy have hosted the Summer Olympics once and the Winter Olympics twice. They are due to host the Winter Olympics again in 2026.

Letters of the Alphabet

- The standard Italian alphabet doesn't use J, K, W, X or Y. However these letters do get used for 'loaned' foreign words such as 'jeans', 'yoghurt' and 'webcam', that don't originate from the Italian language.

Football World Cups

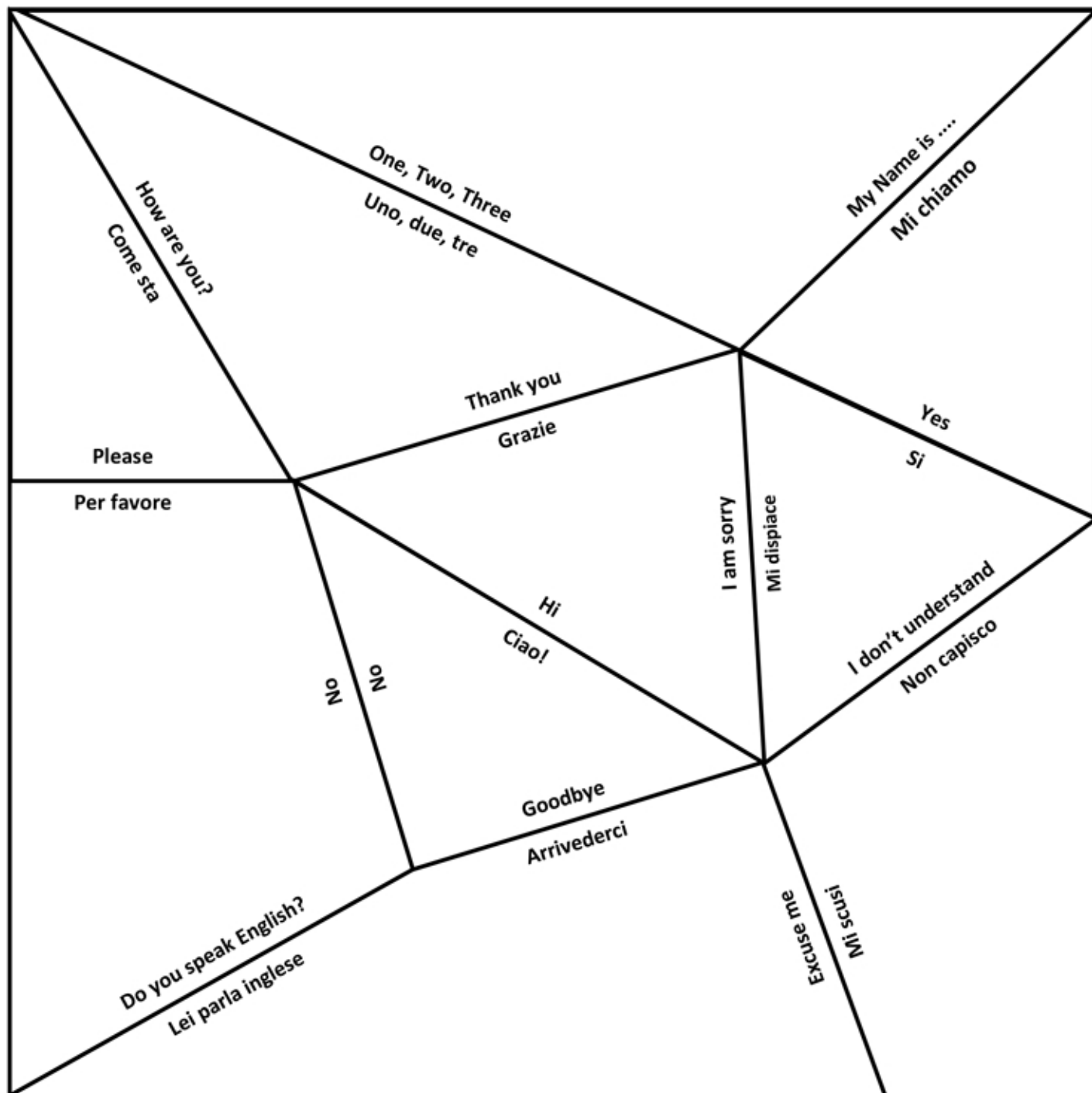
- The only UK nation to have won a world Cup is England in 1966.
- Italy has won the world cup in 1934, 1938, 1982 and 2006. This is just one less time than Brazil.

Eurovision Wins

- The UK won in 1967, 1969, 1976, 1981 & 1997. The UK holds the record for coming 2nd place the most, at 15 times.
- Italy won the contest in 1964, 1990 and 2021. Italy withdrew from the contest in 1997 and didn't appear again until 2011.

SPEAKING ITALIAN PUZZLE

Cut the puzzle along the lines and then try to match the Italian words and greetings, to piece the puzzle back together.



ITALIAN IMPOSTER CARDS



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