

Ein interkulturelles Projekt!

Authentic learning through intercultural projects

This is an idea for a project with your partner-school in a German-speaking country, or as a basis for a project completely in German with another class learning German in another part of the world – or within Australia.

Many teachers have contacts around the world with teachers who teach Deutsch als Fremdsprache, whom they met at a seminar in a German-speaking country through e.g. Goethe-Institut or DAAD or Endeavour scholarship, BM:UKK seminar.

This project could be completed electronically through emails or with handwritten letters, or a combination of both, as a comparison of handwriting is also of intercultural interest. Some classes have also swapped packages.

Page 3: The project outline '*Ein interkulturelles Projekt: Suggested Guidelines*' is based on an idea from Tina Wilkinson presented at and AGTV PD, later published in SZENE.

1. Epals

Consider registering with Epals if you don't have a partner-school: <http://www.epals.com/>

Search / advertise for a class to work with on the Epals website. You can set up monitored email accounts for the kids too. I have started this with 3 classes this year!

Further email contacts:

Germany

- Schulen: Partner der Zukunft: <http://www.pasch-net.de/>

Austria

- Kidsweb: http://www.kidsweb.at/index.php?page=Treff_Punkt

2. Bei mir – bei dir: Our place

The concept of the *Bei mir – bei dir: Our place* project (2008) involved exchanging photos and sharing stories about the images, as an opportunity for authentic intercultural learning. A CD from this project was produced with samples from this project to use in the classroom and to promote interest in similar projects. This CD should be available in your local Goethe-Institut Resource Centre. Contact Torsten Schulz at the Goethe-Institut in Melbourne for more information.

A simple example might be: *Blick von meinem Fenster*. This could apply to our youngest learners who only send a photo with perhaps some labelling of items, to senior students writing a paragraph.

3. Penpals

Students could also send handwritten letters (not word processed) and printed photos to partner-school contacts, either individually, or as a package along with other items of interest.

Even if electronic forms of communication are used, there might be an occasion to exchange a package of goodies to reflect some aspect of life in each country.

Letternet

Letternet is an initiative from Deutsche Post AG: <https://www.letternet.de/>

This *german.about* website refers to the *Letternet* program with advice on how to write personal and business letters and lots of useful links (not only for this topic).

"Is traditional letter-writing via "snail mail" a lost art? Are envelopes and stamps obsolete? The German post office, Deutsche Post AG, doesn't think so, and they have Letternet - with over 250,000 members in more than 100 countries - to prove it!"

<http://german.about.com/od/penpals/a/letternet.htm>

Warum Briefe?

Ich schreibe.

Denn mein Brief soll nicht in Spam-Mails untergehen.

Denn ein Brief hat mehr Bedeutung.

Denn ein Brief kann er nicht einfach löschen.

Denn ein Brief hält länger als ein Handy-Akku.

Denn ein Brief hat immer Empfang.

Denn ein Brief gerät in kein Funkloch.

Denn ein Brief klingelt nicht in peinlichen Momenten.

Denn eine E-Mail duftet nicht.

Denn Kinotickets lassen sich per E-Mail schlecht verschenken.

Denn eine SMS wiegt nichts.

Denn ein Brief enthält weder Viren noch Würmer.

From the Letterfun Website – in defense of handwritten letters

A reflective look at letter writing (not the videos)

<http://www.newsweek.com/2009/01/17/the-good-word.html>

Ein interkulturelles Projekt: Suggested Guidelines

Work in a group of about 3. Each group focuses on a different topic and is responsible for sharing what they discover with the whole class. The German students also ask questions about similar things. Each member of the group should contribute equally to the project.

Australian students write in German to ask about Germany, and write in English when they respond to questions about Australia, and vice-versa. The German students respond in German about their country and write in English when asking about Australia.

Thema	Ideen
Kleidung/Mode	Was ist in für Jungs und Mädchen? Clique + Mode
Freizeit Aktivitäten für Jugendliche	Was? Wann? Wo? Mit wem? Wofür gibt ihr eure
Musik	Was für Musik ist unter Jugendlichen beliebt? Warum? Warum hört ihr englischsprachige Musik?
Essen	typisch Deutsch? Typisches Frühstück? Mittagessen? Abendessen? Fastfood?
Schule	Unterschiede und Ähnlichkeiten, Vor- und Nachteile
Häuser	ein typisches Haus, eine typische Wohnung, ein Schlafzimmer
Alltag	ein typischer Schultag, ein typisches Wochenende
Die Stadt	Was gibt es dort? Was kann man dort machen? Wie findet ihr die Stadt? Warum?

Outline of the process

1. Collect and share information and opinions

Plan as a group exactly what you are going to find out about as part of your topic. Take part in discussion forums in your topic groups to find out as much about your topic as possible. Also ask your Epals to post/send photos with permission to show them to others. Share what you find out with the other members of your group and keep a written record of your information.

At the same time, you should also answer all questions and send them photos from here.

Don't take any information for granted. Even simple things can be different, from the time school starts, to the way windows open, to what they think football is!

Please keep a back up of all your work, so that all members of the group can access it and you do not lose anything!

2. Visual Display

As a group, create a visual display on your topic, including pictures and text in German. Make sure your pictures are labelled.

3. Oral Presentation

Create a PowerPoint presentation about your topic. You should include pictures and brief text in German. Text should be in dot points and include no more than 10 words per slide. You should have 8 to 10 slides. Your focus should be on similarities and differences to Australia.

When showing the slides, each member of the group must speak in German about your topic.

Time Limit: You will have approximately 5 weeks to complete your project, so be organised! Some work will need to be completed in your own time.