

Ein interkulturelles Projekt!

Authentic learning through intercultural projects

The following are ideas for intercultural projects with schools 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 German teaching world with family and friends, former language assistants, and teachers who they met at a seminar in a German-speaking country through e.g. Goethe-Institut or DAAD scholarship, or a Kultur und Sprache 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.

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

1. Epals

If you don't have a sister-school of contact in DACHL, consider registering with Epals:

- <http://www.epals.com/>

Search / advertise for a class to work with on the Epals website.

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.

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.

Note: It is not advised to swap photos of bedrooms.

3. Penfriends

Students could also send postcards or handwritten letters and printed photos to partner-school contacts as a package, perhaps 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.

4. Ein Vergleich von Farben

Gelb ist die Farbe der Post in DACH. Und in L? Und in Australien?

Haben andere Farben besondere Bedeutungen oder Verbindungen in der Gesellschaft?

Welche Farbe/n ist mit der Polizei oder der Feuerwehr verbunden?

Welche Farbe/n trägt eine traditionelle Braut in deiner Kultur?



Deutsche Post



Österreichische Post



Schweizerische Post

Posthorn: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post_horn

5. Briefe oder E-Mails

Run a debate or ask students to write a reply to the poem below using the same structure called: Warum E-Mails?

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

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Work in a group of 2 or 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 | Jugendmode: Was ist 'in'? Was tragt ihr am Wochenende? |
| Freizeit Aktivitäten für Jugendliche | Was? Wann? Wo? Mit wem? Wofür gebt ihr euer Taschengeld aus? |
| Musik | Was für Musik ist unter Jugendlichen beliebt? Warum? Hört ihr englischsprachige Musik? Warum? |
| Essen | Typisches Frühstück? Mittagessen? Abendessen? Fastfood? Wer kocht zu Hause? Wer spült ab? |
| Schule | Wie sieht die Schule aus? Welche Fächer lernt ihr? Unterschiede und Ähnlichkeiten, Vor- und Nachteile |
| Wohnort | Wie sieht ein typisches Haus aus? Eine typische Wohnung? Ein Wohnzimmer? Eine Küche? |
| Alltag | Beschreibt einen typischen Schultag. Beschreibt ein typisches Wochenende. |
| Gegend | Was gibt es dort zu sehen? Was kann man dort machen? Wie findet ihr eure Gegend? Warum? |
| Sprachen | Welche Sprachen sprecht ihr zu Hause? Welche Sprachen kann man in eurer Schule lernen? Wie lange lernt ihr eine Fremdsprache als Pflichtfach? |

Project Outline

1. Collect and share information and opinions

As a group, plan 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. Ask your Epals to post/send photos and ask for 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 their 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, to what the light switch looks like!

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 digital slide 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! You will be given time in class, but you will need to complete work in your own time.