

languages ICT

Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4

Teaching about current affairs in German

Useful site: www.medienwerkstatt-online.de/lws_wissen (researched March 2008)

Medienwerkstatt is a site designed for German students from Klasse 1–10. It also contains software, worksheets and materials for teachers or parents. The range of topics covered is quite simply the whole curriculum!

This advice sheet focuses on Wissenskarten which comprises a set of themes dealing with contemporary Germany. Listed below is a selection of themes available.

- Menschlicher Körper > Erste Hilfe > 9 different emergency techniques
- Persönlichkeiten > 13 different types of famous people to explore including politicians, authors, adventurers and explorers.
- Jahreszeiten > Feste, Feiern, Freizeit > Advent und Weihnachten or Geburtstag or Kinderfeste or Ostern among others
- Kunst Musik und Sport has 5 themes: Kunst Medien Musik Sport Theater
- Mensch und Gemeinschaft > in der Schule > Deutsch > Wortfelder contains a mini thesaurus for 5 verbs essen: geben: gehen/laufen: sagen/sprechen: sehen.
- Aktuelles und Wissenstests offer tests ranging from verb tenses (under Wortarten) to naming fruit and vegetables (under Sachkunde) : from a football quiz to naming the correct case ending used in a sentence (Deutsch – die 4 Fälle)

Although the site is designed for the first 10 years in German schools, most of these 'cards' are directed at primary school students, which means that the level of German can be used profitably with many GCSE candidates.

For teaching and learning

All of the sections outlined below can be used with the whole class to build or reinforce vocabulary whilst developing awareness of many relevant issues. There are numerous opportunities to develop worksheets, or presentations and devise creative and stimulating activities for all students, whether working individually or in groups.

Many of the areas covered are suitable for individual research by students, perhaps in preparation for an exchange trip or as part of a cross-curricular project in school.

Students working in groups could use much of the material on themes such as child labour to prepare presentations or simple campaign posters using desk top publishing software.

The following are suggested areas to explore.

Under Mensch und Gemeinschaft , click on Rechte und Pflichten.

The first topic Die Konvention über die Rechte des Kindes – Lesetexte explains in simple sentences the Rights of Children but there are over 40 sub-themes to choose from. Allow students to read the titles and choose the ones they wish to read.

A further topic Kinderarbeit provides not only the legal and illegal sides to children's employment but offers a good list of part-time jobs that students might undertake. See Was ist Kinderarbeit?

Kinder dürfen sagen, was sie denken! (Artikel 12) will probably interest most students, and the picture of a young African boy addressing a UN conference will surprise them.

Under Deutschland click on Politik. There are 14 sub-themes to choose from.

- Agenda 2010 is explained in simple terms: its 4 'Wissenskarten' should provide students with a good introduction to the basis of social government in whatever country.
- Partien will give them an introduction to the German political parties.
- From the WissensKarten on the left choose
- Abgeordnete – Vertreter des Volkes which, once again, explains in simple terms the process of choosing a people's representative.
- Bundesstaat – The text may seem overly long but the historical facts in the second half are very clear and provide a brief survey of the development of the German Nation since the mid 19th century.

Why this topic was chosen

Current affairs is not an easy topic to define, and nor is it easy to find usable materials. It is very helpful to have a series of 'cards' that explain German politics and other contemporary issues simply and straightforwardly.

About the 'Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4' series

www.languages-ict.org.uk/technology/ks4.htm

This series of advice sheets deals with the effective use of ICT at Key Stage 4 for teachers of modern languages. The series focuses on online resources characterised by their richness and potential for stimulating teaching and learning languages, particularly French, German and Spanish, at Key Stage 4. It is hoped that the suggestions and ideas put forward in the sheets will be of use to teachers of other languages.

The sites were chosen as useful resources for teachers dealing with topic areas which, for various reasons, may be classed as 'hard to teach' at Key Stage 4.

The sites chosen are not presented in any way by CILT, ALL or Becta as unique or comprehensive and no responsibility is taken for any changes which may take place subsequent to this research.

The sheets were researched and written by a small team of consultants working on behalf of CILT, the National Centre for Languages.

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