

languages ICT

Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4

Teaching about modern Germany

Useful site: www.goethe.de/goethe-haus (researched March 2008)

Goethe Haus forms part of the website for the Goethe Institut.

The Goethe Haus is a virtual house, lived in by Wolfgang, who invites you to enter, once you ring the bell. Using the mouse, you can direct Wolfgang into the various rooms and then by clicking on 'hotspots', you can learn practically anything and everything about Germany. These are just a few of the areas you can explore:

- In the sitting room you can click on the bookshelves to explore German literature from Brüder Grimm Märchen to Eduard Mörike's poem Septembermorgen.
- Or if you prefer music, click on the records by the stereo for a taste of German music.
- The kitchen allows you to look at German food and drink and eating habits.
- Hotspots in the cellar are the deepfreeze, dealing with the topic of frozen food, and a bike dealing with cycling in Germany.
- In the attic are suitcases which lead you off to explore travel & holidaying in Germany.

One recommended activity can be located in the Arbeitszimmer on the 1st floor.

Click on the wall map to enter a section in which students can work on their own to discover facts and impressions about Germany.

For teaching and learning

There are many areas of this site which will broaden students' knowledge of aspects of modern Germany, its culture and daily life.

To introduce students to Germany and its Länder try following the suggestions listed below.

These activities can be done with the whole class on the interactive whiteboard or could be modified and presented to students as a form of guided research. Such research could be followed by comprehension exercises, language worksheets or creative work in which students investigate modern Britain and make a presentation in German with digital images and perhaps their own audio narrative. The latter could be especially useful as part of a project with a partner school or could be a stand-alone activity to deepen awareness of contemporary Britain and develop a sense of citizenship in students.

- Enter the Goethe Haus by ringing the doorbell and then clicking on the green arrow.
- Drag Wolfgang to the stairs until you see and hear 'nach oben'. Click once
- Drag Wolfgang to the 1st door on the right until you see and hear 'In das Arbeitszimmer': Click once
- Drag Wolfgang to the wall map until you see and hear 'Deutschland'. Click once.

A webpage with 5 links opens:

1. Blitzlicht gives a simple overview of Germany – bristling with facts.

2. Deutschland Puzzle: the Länder form a giant jigsaw. As you mouse over them, their name and details appear.
3. Goethe Institute in Deutschland: in itself is probably not of immediate value. However, the names of the towns are called out as the mouse passes over them, thus enabling students to familiarise themselves with modern towns.
4. Bundesländer: This introduces all 16 Länder: there is a single page of history and then a rolling carousel gives a picture, places the Land on a map and facts and figures appear in the bottom left hand corner. Allow the carousel to run several times. Prompt reaction and focus by asking simple questions:
 - Welches Land ist das größte/kleinste?
 - Welches Land hat den größten/kleinsten Zahl Einwohner?
 - Welches Land hat einen Bären auf dem Wappenschild?
5. Die Nationalhymne – a chance to sing-a-long with the German football team. Learn this verse of the national anthem off by heart.

Having led the students round these five sections, give them free access, a time limit and a request for a set number of facts about Germany. Students write them up as posters for a display.

Why this site was chosen

Learning about Germany, its facts and figures, does not appear writ large in the GCSE syllabuses. Without some image of modern day Germany, it will be difficult for students to make sense of the background material they experience throughout their study of the language.

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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