

languages ICT

Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4

Teaching about travel and transport in German

Useful site: www.bahn.de (researched March 2008)

DB Bahn is the German National Railway Network's website. There is information on all aspects of rail travel, including timetables, online booking, hotel reservations, car hire, rail cards, special offers, favourite journeys and much more.

Two areas of particular interest at KS4 are Familien&Kinder and Teen&Twens. Within Familien&Kinder there are links to many activities located at Danny's Bahnwelt, www.dannys-bahnwelt.de, where students can participate in interactive games covering diverse topics, including environmental issues.

For teaching and learning

The most obvious use of this site is to learn about the German Railways system and all that it offers to travellers.

Ticket reservation procedures can be followed by clicking and following links, which will allow students to cover most of the essential vocabulary. Railcard offers are detailed in the two areas Familien&Kinder and Teen&Twens. These can be used for comprehension work as well as developing students' understanding of modern German life.

Reservations could be practised as a whole class activity on the interactive whiteboard. Key language could be practised and expanded before students move to further practice and consolidation, whether working in pairs or completing worksheets.

Whole class work on reservations could be complemented with maps of Germany on the whiteboard and links to various destinations in the country. This could be used as part of a holiday planning exercise, so that destinations appear real and routes decided on are practicable.

Such an activity might be used as preparation for more independent work by students on the same theme, but perhaps with various criteria which must be met such as travelling on a limited budget, or using a student rail card in combination with cheap air travel from the United Kingdom to a start point for rail travel in Germany. Additionally, students could be asked to research accommodation and points of interest on their chosen routes. Investigations along these lines might then be reported in a piece of extended writing or perhaps as a recorded radio script for a travel programme. The journey could be described in the past tense as one already completed.

The children's section provides links to Danny's Bahnwelt at www.dannys-bahnwelt.de. The activities here are characterised by appealing screen animations and easy content. The games and activities here contain much above-average information in short bites. The Green Issue sections are all excellent sources of simple straightforward German for talking about such matters. As the bike features well here, it is recommended that Unterwegs >>Bahn & Bike is explored. The Fahrrad check will provide a good list of cycling vocabulary and by

clicking on Mehr infos you return to the adult website and can learn more about the real offers on combining bike and train travel.

The Fundbüro game (Unterwegs) could be used as a treat, although having to remember a long list of objects calls for good vocabulary recall. Play as a whole class activity with students calling out the list of objects.

Exploring of the game ICE Commander 2 (Spass-Spiele) will appeal to students who are also good computer gamers.

Why this topic was chosen

This site introduces users to all the rail travel choices available on German railways with up-to-date language and links to engaging activities. The range of options on the site revitalises a familiar topic.

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.

All advice and references in the series refer to content as found during the first quarter of 2008.

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