Meet a German

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Meet-a-German: Teaching Ideas and Resources

Here are some teaching suggestions that Fulbright Germany has put together to help with your Meet-a-German event. We divided them into sections:

• Music, Literature and Language
• Pop Culture and Traditions
• History and Politics
• Geography
• Food
• Talk about yourself and your interests
• More Resources (Goethe Institut, Deutsche Welle ...)
Music, Literature and Language

• Make a biography about an important person from Germany. For example, one could pick a person such as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and make a timeline of the important events in his life. You could also talk about internationally recognized German pop culture celebrities or make a list of famous German-Americans.

• Listen to music from German composers (for example Beethoven, Bach) or from a current German musician that you like. Alternatively, try to teach the students a song in German; you can find simple children’s songs here: https://www.youtube.com/user/muenchenmedia?feature=watch

• Read a text from your favorite German author or a story from an important piece of literature, like Grimm’s Fairy Tales.

• Research the influence Germans had on American culture: Identify certain words that have roots in German language. You can also play a language game (for example, one where students have to pronounce difficult words in German, like “Eichhörnchen”) or teach students basic phrases in German.
For example:

Spotify Playlists of German Songs
For example:

- Everything is in butter.
- With me is not good cherry eating.
- I think, I spider.
- That is jacket like trousers.
- I only understand train station.
- There have we the salad.
- „AND, HOW GOES?“ „MUST, AND SELF?“ „RUNS.“

German Sprichwörter
Pop Culture and Traditions

• Look up information about Oktoberfest (or another popular cultural event in Germany). When did it first take place? How is it celebrated today? Alternatively, talk about a holiday or a custom from the region where you are from.

• Talk about the impact of U.S. (pop) culture on Germany: You could talk about U.S. celebrities that enjoy perhaps surprising amounts of fame in Germany (e.g. David Hasselhoff).

• You can also make a critical inquiry of what it means to be a “typical German” by discussing demographic data on the growing diversity of the German population. You could track how public perception of what it means to be German has changed in recent years, or tell students what “being German” means to you personally.
For example:

Weihnachtsmarkt
For example:

**American Football in Germany**
History and Politics

• Take a look at maps of Germany from different time periods. Since Germany was made up of many smaller German-speaking kingdoms and principalities, it could be interesting to see how they came together to form the Bundesländer (federal states) that we know today.

• Explain the reasons why Germans celebrate the Day of German Unity: Show photos of the Berlin airlift or the Berlin Wall in order to share with students what the partition meant for people; you could also talk about the role that the United States played in achieving the German reunification.

• Create a timeline with the different waves of German migration to the United States. How were those immigrants perceived? In what way does the experience of German immigrants compare with other immigrant groups? How might it be relevant for the current debate on migration?
For example:
For example:

1990

2014
Along with its federal representation (the Bundestag and the Bundesrat) each of the German federal states has its own regional parliament called a Landtag.

- Some of the regional parliaments have smaller parties which are not seen on the federal level, such as the South Schleswig Voters' Association (Danish/Frisian minority party) in Schleswig-Holstein. However, most of the representatives come from the same political parties one can see on the federal level.
Geography

• Create your own map of Germany and show the main cities, geographical features and other famous landmarks. Perhaps you could even draw small pictures of major landmarks to represent different cities, such as the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin or the Cologne Cathedral.

• Take students on a virtual tour through Germany with Google Earth. You can also show them photos of the place where you grew up or other landmarks that are meaningful to you.
For example:
For example:

...a trip across Berlin.
For example:

...sights in Karlsruhe.
Food

• Talk about some German food. Could you make a menu for a German meal? Could you show some of the meals or snacks during your virtual session? Are there certain ingredients that would be difficult to obtain outside of Germany?
For example:
Talk about yourself and your interests!

• You can also share your perspective of Germany and your own experience.
• Maybe you can show some pictures:
  • Of yourself, your family and friends
  • The place you were born and/or grew up
  • The place you live now
• Talk about your family’s history
• Speak about your daily life and routines in Germany – how does this differ from living in the United States?
For example:

family history
For example:

celebrations
You can find more resources here:

- On Goethe Institute’s „Step Into German“ website, you can find teaching materials on a variety of topics – all are geared towards young people: http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/saf/prj/stg/enindex.htm
You can find more resources here:

• You also can find inspiration for talking about German culture via the online series „Meet the Germans“ which has been created by Deutsche Welle: https://www.dw.com/en/top-stories/meet-the-germans/s-32641
You can find more resources here:

• On YouTube you can find numerous short video clips focused on German culture and history that are perfect for the classroom: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnEZdrEL9JI
You can find more resources here:

- You might also want to check out the print publications of the German Missions in the United States, for example the „Get to Know Germany“ activity book for children: https://www.germany.info/us-en/welcome/resources-for-you/publications/913248?openAccordionId=item-2067356-2-panel
Meet-a-German on Social Media

• On October 6, you can share your experience on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using the hashtags #MeetAGerman #WunderbarTogether and tagging on Instagram @FulbrightGermany, @AATGOOnline, @WunderbarTogether, on Facebook @FulbrightGermany, @AATGHQ, @WunderbarTogether, and on Twitter @fulbright_de, @AATGOOnline, @Wunderbar2gethr.

• As a speaker, you could take a picture of your “workstation”: Are you joining the virtual classroom from your kitchen table, your sofa or the balcony? You could also take a screenshot of the virtual session. Before you take images with/of students, please ask the teacher to make sure that you have the permission to do so.
Danke schön

It means Thank you very much, in German

Huh?