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Families Around the World Curriculum Map

Students will strengthen reading, research, and a multitude of other skills by becoming more familiar with the location, physical features, lifestyles, and traditions of families living in sixteen different countries in the world. Students will reinforce and develop their skills in brainstorming, making comparisons, noting similarities and differences, researching using the Internet, and surveying and graphing. Information sheets and activities are designed to promote a more accepting and understanding attitude towards people from other lands through knowledge gained while researching and completing the various activities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- become more knowledgeable about different countries around the world; their location; physical features; resources; major industries; tourist attractions.
- become more aware of the culture, food, lifestyle of families, language, education, and traditions of people who become citizens in their country.
- become more understanding and less judgmental of a culture that has some people who have committed acts of violence in countries of the world.
- be encouraged to make friends with people from other countries and to welcome them to their country.

For the Teacher:

- Learning Outcomes
- Teacher Preparation
- Teacher Input Suggestions
- Teacher Assessment Rubric
- Student Self-Assessment Rubric

For the Students:

- Countries Around the World - Before and After You Read Worksheet
- Family Life Around the World - Before and After You Read Worksheet
- Comparing My Country to a Different Country Using a Venn Diagram Worksheet
- Comparing My Country's Lifestyle to a Different Country's Lifestyle Using a Venn Diagram Worksheet
- Comparing Two Different Countries Around the World on a Venn Diagram Worksheet
- Comparing Two Different Family Lifestyles on a Venn Diagram Worksheet
- Countries' Comparison Chart - Noting Differences and Similarities Worksheet

16 Countries Including:

1. All About Italy

- Family Life in Italy
- Researching Famous Places in Italy (Worksheet)

2. All About Japan

- Family Life in Japan
- Researching Japan's Interesting Attractions (Worksheet)

3. All About Germany

- Family Life in Germany
- Researching Famous Places in Germany (Worksheet)

4. All About Australia

- Family Life in Australia
- Researching Australian Wildlife (Worksheet)

5. All About India

- Family Life in India
- Researching Famous Attractions in India (Worksheet)

6. All About China

- Family Life in China
- Researching Famous Sights to See in China (Worksheet)

7. All About Mexico

- Family Life in Mexico
- Researching Famous Places in Mexico (Worksheet)

8. All About Brazil

- Family Life in Brazil
- Researching Interesting People and Places in Brazil (Worksheet)

9. All About Russia

- Family Life in Russia
- Researching Interesting Places in Russia (Worksheet)

10. All About Poland

- Family Life in Poland
- Researching Famous Places to Visit in Poland (Worksheet)

11. All About Afghanistan

- Family Life in Afghanistan
- Researching Interesting Places and Plants in Afghanistan (Worksheet)

12. All About Saudi Arabia

- Family Life in Saudi Arabia
- Researching Famous Places in Saudi Arabia (Worksheet)

13. All About Ukraine

- Family Life in Ukraine
- Researching Famous Places in Ukraine (Worksheet)

14. All About Madagascar

- Family Life in Madagascar
- Researching Famous Animals in Madagascar (Worksheet)

15. All About Peru

- Family Life in Peru
- Researching Famous Places in Peru (Worksheet)

16. All About the Netherlands

- Family Life in the Netherlands
- Researching Famous Places in the Netherlands (Worksheet)

All About Germany



"Willkommen!" or "Welcome!" to Germany. My name is Kurt which means courteous or polite in German. In my report you will learn many new things about my country.

Look at the map of Germany. It is the sixth largest country in Central Europe. Locate the countries that it borders.

They are France, Switzerland, Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Its only coastline is on the North and Baltic seas. My family lives in Berlin which is the capital city and the largest one in Germany.

My country is divided into 16 states and is 137,358 square miles (357,021 Km²) in area. It is about the same size as the state of Montana in the United States. Germany has a population of 82,400,000. (2010) German is the main language spoken but English and Russian are spoken as well.



Map of Germany



Flag of Germany

Germany's flag has black, red and gold stripes.

The head of Germany is called a Chancellor and the head of our federal parliamentary democratic government is called a Federal President. Germany is also a member of the European Union or EU. Our German dollar was once called a Deutsche Mark but when my country joined the EU our dollar became a euro note. There are seven different euro notes plus euro coins

In Germany, we have four different seasons. In the spring the weather can be unpredictable. One day it may be sunny and the next day it may be cold, rainy, and windy. Our summers are hot and humid and the temperature can range between 71° F to 86° F (22° C and 30° C). Thunderstorms are frequent in this season. In the autumn, the weather is often pleasant during October but November can be misty, foggy, and gray. During the winter, snow falls in the mountain areas during December, January, and February. Most of Germany has mild winters with temperatures falling between 32°F and 41°F (0°C and 5°C). Our winter nights are often quite cold as the temperature can drop below zero.



Euro Money



Germany has five distinct land regions. The largest land region is a low flat plain that has five rivers that flow through it. The rivers are the Elbe, Ems, Oder, Rhine, and Wiser. These are important commercial waterways that lead to large ports and industrial centers. The wide river valleys have soft, fertile soil that is good for farming. In the middle of Germany there are plateaus and mountains that are covered with poor soil and rock. In southern Germany there are high hills or ridges that have fertile clay soil that is good for farming. The Rhine and the Danube River flow through this area. The Black Forest area is mountainous and is located in the south western part of Germany. The mountains are covered with dark fir and spruce trees. In the most southern part of Germany are the Bavarian Alps. They are majestic, snow-capped mountains where many Germans and tourists love to vacation.



Mountains of Germany



A German Farm

Farms in Germany are 25 acres (10 hectares) or less in size. Potatoes, grains, vegetables and some fruits are grown. Many farmers raise beef, dairy cattle, hogs, horses, poultry, and sheep. Most of the small farms are run by farmers that have other jobs as well. German farms cannot supply all the food needed and the country must import it from other countries. There are also wind farms or solar farms in Germany that generate power for our homes. Manufacturing is the main industry in my country. Many people work in factories that process iron and steel, build automobiles, aircraft, ships, machinery, and process chemicals.



Neuschwanstein Castle

The people in Germany live mainly in small houses and apartments located in or near cities and towns close to their work. Our homes are kept very clean and are well looked after.

Germany has wonderful places to visit and sights to see. You can travel on our wonderful train system or on our super highways, where there is no speed limit, to see and visit the Neuschwanstein Castle, the city of Berlin, Dachau, and to the Black Forest to take a hike.

I hoped that you enjoyed my report on Germany and that you will visit it some day.

Wiedersehen! (Owf-vee-der-zay-in) or Goodbye!



Family Life in Germany



"Guten tag!" (GOO-ten Tag) or **"Hello!"** My name is Heidi which means kind and happy in German. I am Kurt's sister and I am going to share with you how a German family lives and some of our customs and traditions.

My family lives in a traditional German house in the suburbs of the city of Berlin. Our home is small and is made out of concrete. It has three bedrooms, a bathroom, a living room and a kitchen. Our parents are proud of their home and keep it very clean and care for it well.

Kurt and I attend a school called a "Gymnasium" (gim-NAH-zee-oom). This type of school goes to grade 12 or 13 and when we are finished we then can go to university. In Germany, children can begin school from the ages of three to six and are in "Kindergarten." At the age of six they begin "Grundschule" or elementary school which lasts for four years. When German students reach the age of ten, they are tested and separated according to their abilities. The parents and the teachers decide the type of school the students should attend. At a "Hauptschule" (HOWT-shool-uh) students attend school until grade nine and are trained for jobs in a trade and industry. Students may attend a "Realschule" (ray-AHL-shool-uh) and receive training for mid-level jobs.



Going to School in Germany

Our school year begins in the middle of August and is divided into two semesters. We get six weeks of holidays in the summer and two weeks at Christmas. Some schools in Germany are in session six days a week. Sunday is the only free day. Since school begins at 8:00 a.m., Kurt and I must get up early, get dressed, and eat a quick breakfast of yogurt, fruit, bread or granola. We grab our backpacks and a sandwich for a snack and walk or ride our bikes to school. At school we each have a home room to go to. We stay in our home room all the time. The teachers rotate and each one teaches us one of our subjects for 45 minutes. After each teaching session we have a break that may be 5 to 15 minutes long. During the break we can eat a snack, get a drink or go to the washroom. We study many subjects including English and other languages.

When school has ended at 1:30 p.m., Kurt and I head home looking forward to our main meal of the day. At this meal we may have a meat dish with potatoes and dumplings, gravy, and a cooked vegetable. My favorite meal is called "weiner schnitzel." It is a veal fillet breaded and fried and served with fries and a salad. Kurt's favorite meal is "kohbroulader" which are German cabbage rolls. Our whole family loves to eat "sauerkraut" which is shredded pickled cabbage. Bread is eaten at every meal. Did you know that there are 300 different kinds of bread that you can eat in Germany? Dinner in the evening is a much lighter meal. It may be soup, cold meat or a sausage sandwich. Our parents drink wine or beer with some of their meals while we drink water, milk or hot chocolate.



Weiner Schnitzel



Team sports are not played at schools in Germany so we have to join sports clubs that have teams to play on. German children enjoy soccer, basketball, inline skating, and skateboarding. Other clubs are organized around activities such as hobbies, chess, hiking and music. I am learning to play the accordion and Kurt plays on a soccer team. We also do many things with our parents. As a family we like to hike through forests, bicycle to places, and to go to the theater to watch movies or plays.



Throughout the year in Germany many festivals and holidays are celebrated. Kurt and I look forward to "Ostern" (Easter) and "Nikolaustag" (St. Nikolaus Day). They are religious holidays celebrated by most Germans. Did you know that the Easter Bunny came from Germany? On Easter Day, German families eat a meal together and after the meal children search for Easter eggs that the "Osterhase" (Easter Bunny) has left them. Every Easter we have an "Osterbaum" or Easter egg tree that sits in the living room. Our mother gathers pussy willow branches, puts them in a vase, and decorates them with hand painted wooden eggs or real eggs painted with designs.



Easter Egg Tree



St. Nikolaus

Christmas in Germany begins on December 6 which is St. Nikolaus Day. In towns, St Nikolaus goes from door to door and asks the children if they have been good or bad. The children may have to sing a song or say a poem. Small gifts are given to good children. German children are also given an Advent calendar to use to count down the days to Christmas. The calendar has little windows and on each day of Advent a window is opened to find a delicious treat. On Christmas Eve, families get together for a Christmas dinner and to exchange gifts by the Christmas tree and then go to church in the evening. That night Father Christmas leaves presents under the tree for good children.

Kurt and I like to go to the Festival in Dinkelsburg. At this event we can wear our traditional clothes and dance in the street. I wear a "dirndl" which is an embroidered dress and Kurt wears his "lederhosen" which are short leather pants with straps and a shirt.

I hoped you enjoyed reading about family life in Germany.

"Auf Wiedersehen!" (Owf-vee-der-zay-in)
or **"Goodbye!"**



Famous Places in Germany

Germany has many interesting places to visit and view. Some of their festivals are known all over the world.

Using the Internet or the library, research to find out the importance of the following tourist attractions and why people want to visit them. On the lines provided write a paragraph about each one.



Munich's Oktoberfest



Heidelberg Castle



Brandenburg Gate in Berlin

