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Macmillan English

Project activity sheet 2

Units 7–12

Project: Country fact board

Learning outcomes

By the end of the project, children will have:

- practised language from Units 7–12 through a group project
- broadened their knowledge of geography and science
- developed their critical thinking, ICT, art and literacy skills
- researched, produced and presented a fact board about a country in groups
- taken part in a class discussion
- read other groups fact boards and written a postcard

CLIL focus

Geography/Social studies: facts about and customs in different countries
Science: animals and plants in other countries
Critical thinking: research
ICT: using a search engine
Art: drawing, colouring, cutting, sticking
Literacy: writing for a particular purpose

Skills focus

Listening: instructions, ideas, factual information
Reading: factual information
Writing: factual information, a postcard
Speaking: discussing ideas, presenting, asking and answering questions

Language focus

Vocabulary

Countries: *America, Australia, China, Denmark, Germany, India, Italy, Peru, Russia,* etc.
Geographical features: *canal, jungle, mountain, nature reserve, rainforest, river, volcano*
Animals: *antelope, crocodile, elephant, horse, kangaroo, monkey, peacock, snake, tiger, zebra,* etc.
Souvenirs: *carpet, cloth, doll, drum, postcard, puppet, rug, sari, stamp, T-shirt, vase*
Other useful words: *continent, population, climate, landscape;* clothes, plants, food and weather vocabulary

Grammar

If you went to Australia, what would you do there?
I would go to the Great Barrier Reef.
The hot weather has caused many disasters in the country.
You should visit Melbourne.
You must go to Sydney.

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Teaching notes

Lesson plan

Class warm-up

1. Tell the children they are going to choose a country they are interested in and make a fact board about it.
2. Elicit what information could be included: e.g. *information about animals, plants, clothes, food, landscape, population, climate, continent*.
3. Then ask for their ideas about the pictures they could include in their display: e.g. *photographs, a flag, maps, postcards, stamps, souvenirs*.

Materials

Template: basic country facts (one per group)

For each group: one large sheet paper or card; scrap paper for planning; coloured paper for writing and drawing; glue; scissors; travel books, leaflets and/or access to the Internet; pencils and pens; coloured pencils; postcard-sized plain card

Group work

1. Divide the class into groups of six children. Each group chooses a different country. Give out the basic country facts template to the groups. They fill in as much as they can and make a list of the things they need to find out.
2. Each child researches one of the six topics on the template, using books, leaflets or the Internet. On scrap paper, they should each produce a short piece of writing or labelled diagram on their topic. Monitor, help and make suggestions.
3. Once you have checked their work, each child writes their information on coloured paper and draws pictures to accompany it. If possible, they should also cut or print out other pictures, such as maps and photographs, to add to their display.
4. Children stick their writing and drawings to a large sheet of paper or card and add the name of the country at the top. Display the groups' fact boards on the classroom walls.
5. Each group presents their fact board to the class. They say which country they have chosen and each child reads what they wrote. They tell the class which things they *should* or *must* see in that country.
6. When all the groups have finished, ask the class what they have learnt: e.g. *If you went to Germany, what would you do there?* (*I would go to Berlin*.) *If you went to China, what should you see?* (*I would see the Great Wall*.)

Follow-up

1. Each child chooses one of the countries they have learnt about from another group. Using information from that group's display, they will produce a 'postcard' from that country.
2. On one side they draw a picture showing a place or aspect of the country. On the other side they write a message as though they are visiting the country, saying where they have been and what they have done.

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Basic country facts

Our fact board

1 Overview

Country name: _____

Continent: _____

Capital city: _____

Population: _____

Currency: _____

2 Natural features (e.g. rivers, mountains, etc)

_____

_____

3 Animals and plants

_____

_____

4 Food

_____

_____

5 Clothes

_____

_____

6 Climate

_____

_____

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