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Macmillan English

Project activity sheet 1

Units 1–6

Project: Holiday debate

Learning outcomes

By the end of the project, children will have:

- practised language from Units 1–6 through a group project
- broadened their knowledge of geography and environmental studies
- developed their critical thinking, ICT and literacy skills
- researched the advantages and disadvantages of foreign travel
- prepared and presented arguments about foreign travel
- written a short, persuasive article for their local tourist board

CLIL focus

Geography: travel and tourism
Environmental studies: impact of travel on the environment
Critical thinking: research and debate
ICT: using a search engine
Literacy: writing for a specific purpose

Skills focus

Listening: instructions, ideas arguments (in a debate)
Reading: information
Writing: notes, a short, persuasive article
Speaking: discussing ideas, negotiating, debating, presenting, asking and answering questions

Language focus

Vocabulary

Travel: *air travel, airport, car, expedition, flight, journey, plane, route, ship, traffic, train*
Tourism: *culture, history, holiday, hotel, museum, souvenir, ticket, tourist,* names of countries
Environment: *damage, destroying habitats, global warming, litter, pollution, rubbish*
Useful adjectives: *different/ same, exciting/dull, expensive/cheap, foreign/local, interesting/boring, ugly/ beautiful, unhygienic/clean, unpleasant/pleasant,*
Decision-making: *advantage, agree, disadvantage, disagree, disagreement, discussion, explain, idea, opinion, point of view, question, reason, think, vote*

Grammar

If we travel more by plane, we will damage the environment.
If we visit other countries, we will understand them better.
If more hotels open, people will come to our town.

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Teaching notes

Lesson plan

Class warm-up

1 Ask children whether they think it is better to go on holiday in their own country or abroad. Elicit some ideas and write them on the board. Encourage children to think about the impact of foreign travel on local people and the environment.

2 Tell children they are going to prepare and carry out a class debate on this issue.

Materials

Template: debate planning sheet (one per group)

For each group: scrap paper for planning; books on tourism or access to the Internet; stopwatch or clock with a minute hand; a whistle or bell to signal 'time up'; note cards; small pieces of paper for voting; pencils and pens; bag or box for collecting votes

Group work

1 Divide the class into groups of four or five children. Tell each group they are either presenting the argument for holidays at home or for holidays abroad. Try to have roughly the same number of groups on each side of the argument.

2 Give out the debate planning sheet and read it to the class. Explain the use of note cards to act as a memory aid when giving a speech. Tell children that each group will have five minutes only to present their argument.

3 In their groups, children discuss what points they will make in the debate. They do some further research from books or the Internet to find facts that will support their argument.

4 Each group decides who will present each point and in what order. Each group member must speak at least once in the presentation. They should each prepare a note card to remind them of the point(s) they will make.

5 Each group practises their presentation. Monitor and help, suggesting other words and phrases and encouraging them to use the first conditional: e.g. *If we go abroad, we will see and learn new things*.

6 Carry out a class debate on the question: *Is it better to go on holiday in your own country or abroad?* Seat the two types of group on different sides of the classroom.

7 Invite each group to present their arguments, alternating the type of group. Tell one child to time each speech and to blow a whistle or ring a bell after five minutes.

8 When all the groups have finished, have a ten-minute whole-class discussion on the issue.

9 Hold a secret vote to see which argument has won. Tell them that they do not have to vote for the side they were on.

10 Two children count all the votes and write the total numbers of votes on the board. Ask: *Who has won? Do you think anyone changed their mind?*

Follow-up

Each child writes a short article from a tourist board in their own country to persuade people to come there for their holiday.

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Debate planning sheet

DEBATE: Is it better to go on holiday in your own country or abroad?

Introduction

Point 1

Point 2

Point 3

Point 4

Point 5

Conclusion

Useful vocabulary:

Travel: airport, air travel, car, expedition, flight, journey, local, plane, route, ship, traffic, train
Tourism: culture, hotel, tourist, souvenirs, ticket, history, holiday, museum
Useful adjectives: exciting/dull, interesting/boring, different/ same, expensive/cheap, foreign/local, unhygienic/clean, unpleasant/ pleasant, ugly/ beautiful
Environment: damage, destroying habitats, global warming, litter, pollution, rubbish, ugly, unhygienic, unpleasant

Useful phrases for debating:

I agree that …
I completely disagree.
In my opinion …
We think that …
Have you ever been to …?
If we travel abroad more …
The advantages/ disadvantages are …
My point of view is …
The reason I think this is …

Tips for debating:

Don't shout! Make your points calmly and politely.
Don't interrupt other children when they are speaking.
Make a note card for yourself with the main facts and phrases to refer to when speaking.
Listen carefully to other children when they are speaking and make a note of interesting points.
Don't get upset if other children disagree with you. It's OK to have a different opinion.
Debating should be fun!

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