



Teaching Culture!

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Name of activity: DISCO FORUM

Type of activity: Information exchange

Topic: Cultural knowledge /awareness

Material: CD player, CD containing Flamenco music and an interview with a Flamenco singer, text with the lyrics of a Flamenco song, CDs from the students containing traditional music, whiteboard and pens. Optional: Video or DVD player.

Number of learners: At least 2 students. Let's say this example is for 8 students. It is supposed to be a multicultural class.

Language level: From A2 till C2

Time: 2 hours

Goal: At the end of the activity, the learners will be able to identify different types of traditional music or events, and they will have more knowledge about the culture they are studying (as it is supposed to be a Spanish class). They'll get to know more about one of the most representative Spanish topics: the Flamenco. They'll have the chance to show to the rest of the class some traditional music from their places and expound it with some historical and cultural remarks.

Possible challenges: It is necessary to have a group of students used to work with Communicative activities so that they participate and nourish the exercise.

It is not rare that listening to something different from what you are used to may *surprise* you... as Flamenco may sound very passionate to foreign students... So, in a way, stereotypes might arise here.

Preparation: Dividing the class into teams. The teacher his/herself is one team and will expound the Flamenco music. The students will form teams regarding their nationalities. For instance: 2 German students would form a team. If there are more than 2/3 students from the same country, they may present different cultural topics (also depending of the region of the country they come from).

Each team has to prepare a presentation:

They will collect some traditional music from their countries / regions / ethnic groups and play it to the rest of the class. In addition, they will comment a little on the origin of this music and what means in their culture. They'll ask their class-mates if they knew something about it or how it makes them feel...

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Procedure:

1. We divide the class into work-groups regarding nationalities.
2. We explain the activity. The students prepare their presentation as home-work.
3. Once in the class-room, the teacher has the first turn. The students will listen to some Flamenco music and get to know more about this kind of music. They may also watch a short video of Flamenco dancers or guitarists. They'll listen to the interview to get some more data. As this is planned for a language class, we'll work with some language aspects specifically related to Flamenco and how they influence the standard language; for instance: sayings, poetry or idioms. Then, the students will express their feelings about this kind of music and how they connect it with the culture it comes from.
4. The next group expound their presentation and we repeat the process.
5. Teacher and students: Shared evaluation of the activity.
What have they learned? Was it fun and interesting/motivating? What questions do they have or what aspects they need feedback about...?

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