

Teaching Culture!



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Name of activity: Let's celebrate ... (my birthday, a wedding, New Year...)

Type of activity: presentation

Topic: How I celebrate in my country

Material: Paper size DIN A 1 (flipchart) for each participant, markers in various colours, adhesive material

Number of learners: You can do that in any class with more than 5 and less than 20 participants in culturally mixed classes

Language level: A 2

Time: 30 minutes for painting and writing the paper
5 minutes per participant to present her/his paper
10 minutes discussion

Goal:

- At the end of the activity, the learners will be able to talk about the organisation and aim of the various festivities,
- know the necessary vocabulary,
- train talking in front of groups
- show appreciated parts of their own culture and increase knowledge and understanding of the other cultures
- the group will draw profit from this exercise

Possible challenges: In case the occasion talked about is celebrated rather differently in various cultures (like weddings) there might arouse fierce discussions that confront the participants with stereotypes and prejudices concerning the own culture.

Preparation: Worksheet for each participant with the exact task. I prefer a mind-map, asking 'Who is invited?', 'Who talks to whom?' 'Where will the party take place?', 'When and how long?', 'Food', 'Drinks', 'Preparations', 'What to wear' ...

Procedure: As a starter we talk about the participants' favourite dishes and note them on the blackboard. This way we gather the vocabulary. Then I give out the worksheet that serves as an example – participants can copy it and get their work done that way within 30 minutes. Then each participant presents her/his flipchart-paper, fastens it on the wall and explains. There may be questions / short discussions.

Follow up: Role play:

- invitation to a festivity in another culture
- using role cards: you are invited and turn up dramatically underdressed.

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Contact:

Alexandra Haas (Project Coordinator)
Head of Dept.
Rhein-Sieg VHS
Ringstr. 24
D-53721 Siegburg
Germany
Tel./Fax +49 2241 30-9746/-9729
alexandra.haas@rhein-sieg-vhs.de.

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