Geography CHAPTER 1

1.2 TRAVELING THROUGH GERMANY



FOCUS QUESTION:

 How do maps and geographic features provide insight into the comprehension of a country's historical, social, economic, political, and cultural development?

STANDARD #3 PEOPLE, PLACES AND ENVIRONMENTS.

LESSON OVERVIEW:

Students will have the opportunity to "travel" through Germany by playing two board games, one political and one physical, which focus on either German cities and Länder (states) or German topographic features, respectively. Through this experience students will have the opportunity to learn about German geography.

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Politically, the Federal Republic of Germany consists of 16 Länder (states), three of which - Berlin, Bremen

and Hamburg - are city states. Each Land consists of many municipalities, ranging from small villages to large metropolitan urban centers. Many were founded in Roman times or during the Middle Ages; others are from later periods in German history. Many were the homes of famous people or the sites of significant events in German or European history; others are today the current headquarters of leading industries or commercial enterprises. Traveling through Germany, one can stop and experience the local color from the diverse regions of the country - from Schleswig-Holstein in the north to Bavaria in the south. Topographically, German landscapes are extraordinarily varied: the northern plain is dotted with lakes, moors, marshes, and heaths. Streams, rivers, and valleys crisscross the central hills. The spectacular mountain range of the Alps, with Germany's tallest mountain, the Zugspitze, is located in the south; some of the largest European rivers the Rhine, the Danube and the Elbe - flow through Germany. In area, Germany is Europe's sixth largest country. Its territory encompasses roughly 357,000 square kilometers or 138,000 square miles, roughly the area of the state of Montana.

Source: FACTS ABOUT GERMANY. Retrieved 10/29/11 from http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/homel.html





TIME:

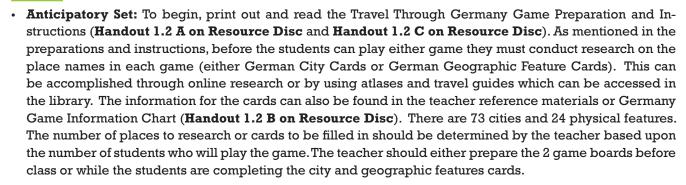
- (1) day of research/preparation
- (1) 45-minute period to play each game

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES:

- Travel Through Germany Game Preparation and Instructions (Handout 1.2 A on Resource Disc and Handout 1.2 C on Resource Disc)
- The Germany Game Information Chart (Handout 1.2 B on Resource Disc)
- 2 Large Pieces of Poster Board (one for each game)
- Small game pieces (one for each student plus 2 extra) to be used in each game
- · One die
- · Internet access for research
- · Atlas with gazetteer
- · Travel books on Germany
- TOP Geographical and Political Map (can be ordered from TOP website, www.goethe.org/top)

PROCEDURE:

DAY 1:



DAY 2:

• The teacher should review the game instructions with the students. If the game takes longer than a single period, then the game could be suspended and continued the next class period.

WHOLE GROUP REFLECTION:

• After the students have completed playing the game(s), the teacher should facilitate a discussion on what the students learned about Germany. The teacher should construct a chart with the following categories: historical, social, economic, political, and cultural and ask the students to contribute information that they have learned about the cities. In what ways have geographic features made a difference in history and in people's lives?

MODIFICATION:

Rather than require the students to research and create the city or physical feature cards, the teacher may
construct the cards from the information contained in **Handout 1.2 B**. This would reduce the amount of time
required for this lesson, but would eliminate the opportunity to instruct or reinforce basic research skills.

EXTENSION:

After the conclusion of the game, the teacher could ask the students to select a city or a physical feature that
they find most interesting and create a travel poster on a piece of poster board. The poster should highlight
the information on the city or physical feature card of the game. The students should share their posters with
the class. The teacher may choose to display the posters in the classroom.

