

Germany Youth Culture Lesson Plan

Topic: German and American youth

Focus Question: What cultural factors distinguish German and American youth?

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National Geography Standards:

- 1) **Places and Regions** – How culture and experience influence people’s perceptions of places and regions.
 - A. Explain how individuals view places and regions on the basis of their state of life, sex, social class, ethnicity, values, and belief system as exemplified by being able to:
 1. Make inferences about the differences in the personal geographies of selected German and American youth.
 2. Explain how places and regions are stereotyped
- 2) **Human Systems** – The characteristics, distribution and complexity of Earth’s cultural mosaics.
 - A. Explain how cultural features often define regions, as exemplified by being able to:
 1. Identify the human characteristics that make specific regions of the world distinctive.

Suggested Grade Level: Middle to high school

Materials:

- Survey templates
- German responses to the survey
- American responses to the survey
- Paper, pen, word processor
- Access to research materials

Suggested Procedure:

1. Administer the eleven-question survey to your class and collect, make 5 sets of the responses.
2. Conduct a brainstorming session with your class, listing the many things found in all cultures.
3. Categorize the brainstorming list and come to a consensus on a class definition of culture. What are the **Universals of Culture**? Some potential categories are:

- Basic Needs- food, shelter, clothing.
- Religion or beliefs
- Traditions
- Values
- Government or social structure
- Family structure
- Economics
- Technology
- Division of labor
- Transportation
- Communication
- Education
- Art, music, drama, literature
- Celebrations and entertainment

4. Divide the class into five groups and give each group a synthesis of the German youth survey responses and a set of their own class responses.
5. Assign each group two to three survey questions for comparison.
6. Each group reports their comparisons.
7. Class discussion: What are the Universals of Culture we observed that distinguish our class from the German youth surveyed?

Assessment:

Write an essay in response to the essential question: What are the cultural factors that distinguish our class from the German youth surveyed?

Extensions:

- ❖ Students use print media or the internet to find geographic tools and pictorial examples to support their comparisons.
- ❖ Students research and create an autobiography using the point of view of a German student.
- ❖ Students research and compare German and American culture using the Universals of Culture as their guide.

Youth Survey

1. What factors have had the greatest influence on your life, in some way shaping who you are?
2. Where do you feel at home? What makes this place home?
3. Do you expect to marry? If so, how old do you want to be when you marry? What are three qualities or characteristics you would look for in a spouse?
4. Describe what you expect to be doing in ten years? Where do you expect to live?
5. How far can you live from your family and be comfortable?
6. What is your religion? How do you practice it?
7. Name and describe three people that you most admire or want to be like?
8. Please list the five most important objects that you own? Explain why they are important to you.
9. How do you contribute to your community? In what ways do you help your parents, your school, your neighbors, your city and your country?
10. What is your favorite way to spend free time? What kinds of books, movies, music, games, sports, or other activities do you find most appealing?
11. What current event issue most concerns you and why?

Youth Survey

Germany 2006

Background

On June 26th, 2006 twenty five students at the Gymnasium Oberhaching in Munich, Germany were given an eleven-question survey. Five males and twenty females ranging in ages from 16-18 participated in the survey. Below you will find the questions followed by the responses.

1. What factors have had the greatest influence on your life, in some way shaping who you are?

- Friends, parents, school
- Education, friends
- Television
- Friends, parents, school
- My friends, sports and my television
- My friends and my family
- My parents and the books I read
- The greatest influence on life has been my parents, but also my friends and of course school and some teachers
- My family and my friends
- Friends, family
- My parents, family friends
- Friends, scouts, singing in the school choir, playing the piano and guitar
- My friends, family and illnesses in the family
- First of all the birth of my little brother - more responsibility now, my family and my boyfriend.
- My family, my boyfriend, my classmates and every person that is around me influences me and my character.
- To leave my friends and move to another place.
- My family, my friends
- Parents, friends, school
- I would say my parents and my whole family.
- I would say my parents.
- I think my parents have had the greatest influence. They are responsible for my education.
- The great influence on my life is my family and my friends.
- I think my parents and my friends. They're always with you, help you, protect you but also tell you when you've done something wrong.
- My friends, hobbies (choir), scouts
- I read many books and I spend a lot of time on the internet. My parents have of course a great influence on me too.

2. Where do you feel at home? What makes this place home?

- A place where I am surrounded by people who I like and have fun with
- I feel at home at different places
- My room, because I can't be disturbed there
- At home in my room
- In Germany of course, because I love the people and our great German spirit
- I feel at home in Munich, because I like the atmosphere in this city, especially during the summer.
- My grandma has a house on Tenerife. I feel at home there because it's quiet and there is everything I like - the sea, mountains and it's warm.
- (Almost) everywhere where my family or my best friends are with me
- I feel at home at Holzkirchen because of my family and my friends
- I live in Holzkirchen, to the south of Munich. I couldn't imagine moving away from Bavaria.

- I feel at home where my family and friends are - they make me feel at home.
- Where nice people are, e.g. Biergarten "Oktoberfest"
- Where people are that like me and that I like.
- Adana, Turkey - because my boyfriend and my friends live there. I feel comfortable there - it's warm, it's by the beach/sea, the people are nice
- Here in Munich. The way of living, behaving and especially the culture.
- My nationality is Austrian, and I live in Germany (I am also half Korean), but, I think my homeplace is Germany.
- There is no special place. I feel home with the people I like. It does not depend on the place.
- At the tennis court or the soccer field in my town. I meet many friends and enjoy playing sports.
- At my house and maybe if I'm together with my friends.
- I feel at home where my parents and my friends are because there I feel good.
- I feel at home in our house in Oberding. My family and my pets are there, and we have a big garden. My parents take care of me.
- I feel at home in my hometown at my house of course. But, unfamiliar places and atmospheres make me feel kind of at home too.
- I just have to feel good; I just need a friend or a partner with me, then I feel at home even in other countries. But I always feel at home at my home too of course.
- Where my friends are.
- I feel home at places where I can feel secure and comfortable.

3. Do you expect to marry? If so, how old do you want to be when you marry? What are three characteristics you look for in a spouse?

- Sure, I want to marry someday. I'm not exactly sure when but I would think when I'm about 30 years old.
- She should be nice, smart and pretty
- No response.
- Well, I don't yet. Maybe when I'm about 30 and when I think she is the right one. Intelligent, beautiful, nice.
- I don't know if I will, but I would like to in the future. My qualities are few; I am open to anything.
- I want to marry and have a family. I would be about 25. Trust.
- I don't know it yet, but I have to fall in love with him.
- Yes, I want to marry, perhaps when I'm about 25 or older. My husband should be handsome, nice and always treat me right.
- I don't know yet.
- I don't know.
- Yes, I expect to marry sometime. I would like to be around 29-30.
- Yes, maybe after I finish my studies (26-30). I'd like him to be funny but able to talk about serious matters too.
- Yes, but when I'm thirty years old. He shouldn't lie, should have a sense of humor, and I should be able to talk to him like my best friend.
- Yes, I want to marry pretty soon because my boyfriend will be allowed to live in Germany with me then. Loyal, respectful, good attitude, trust.
- Yes, I want to marry at the age of about 27. He should treat me with respect, be loyal with a good attitude, well-educated.
- I want to marry early, around the age of 21-25 years. He has to be loyal and we have to trust each other absolutely.
- Yes, I do. I'd like to be between 25-27. Loyalty, respect, trust.
- Maybe, and if so, I want to be about 30 years old, because I want to study and have a job. I look for characteristics like having a goal in life, having similar interests, etc.

- I still have a lot of time, but of course I want to marry. I just have to wait until the right man comes along. I would like to have a husband with whom I can talk about everything and whom I can trust and who is honest.
- Yes, I expect to marry, but I cannot say how old I want to be then because I think it depends on the situation. Trust, being honest.
- Yes, I'd like to marry at about the age of 27 years or so, after university. I haven't reflected on it.
- I don't want to marry. It's too complicated. I want to be free.
- Yes, I really want to marry, but I think not too early; around 30 would be the best age. My husband should be handsome, but that's not the most important thing. He should have a good sense of humor, always tell the truth, and he should treat me right.
- I think so, when I'm (almost) finished with studying (27-30)
- Yes, I expect to marry when I am about 25 years old. My spouse should be intelligent, loyal to me and friendly.

4. Describe what you expect to be doing in ten years? Where do you expect to live?

- I hope I will have a nice job, but I hope to live in a country where there might be a better future than in Germany.
- I really don't know how my future will look like. I just hope I'm happy. If anything goes wrong, I'll join the army.
- Maybe working in Munich.
- I hope I would have a good job, great friends and just be satisfied. Maybe I won't live in Germany then.
- I don't know what I will do but I will stay in Germany.
- I expect to live in a nice city with my husband and having an interesting job.
- I want to have an interesting job, but don't want to stay in Germany.
- I hope I will have finished studying and I want to have an interesting job I like. I don't know where I will live, but it would be interesting to move to another country.
- I want to have a good job and maybe a family.
- I hope I will have a good job and family. I don't know where I want to live but I could imagine spending some time in another country like the USA.
- I think I live in Munich in an apartment and I hope I will be studying (or finished) and then I'm going to work.
- Married, career maybe as a teacher in a foreign country, but I also want to come back to Germany.
- It would be great if I worked in another country, perhaps in a hotel, and have my first child.
- I want to live in Germany and in Turkey, have one child but also work and be happy with my husband.
- Finishing my studies, working, raising a family, living in Munich.
- I don't know. I want to build a happy home. I think I'm going to live outside of Germany, maybe America or Korea.
- I want to stay in Munich. In 10 years I want to be married and I want my first baby.
- I would like to study, maybe in another European country.
- I don't have a special goal but I want to work, have children and be lucky. I want to live somewhere where it is beautiful.
- I want to live in Munich and I'd like to have a good relationship and a good job.
- I'll have finished university and I will be a surgeon where my parents are. After a few years, I will be leader of a hospital. If the conditions in Germany do not improve, I will emigrate.
- I will have a pretty good job and earn a lot of money.
- I think I'd like to find a man to marry and have a good job. Perhaps I will live in another country; that would be very interesting!
- I hope I have a nice job in medicine near Munich.
- I'd live with my man in a flat in a city like Munich. I'd do something creative for work.

5. How far can you live from your family and be comfortable?

- I guess I could live anywhere. Maybe visit them twice a year.
- I think really far. Perhaps in another country in Europe.
- As far as possible!
- I don't mind how far I'm away from home.
- Very far, probably.
- Far away, because I know they are always there for me.
- I don't mind, because I can call them and I've always wanted to live in another country.
- I think that doesn't matter, as long as I have a great relationship to them and can visit them from time to time.
- I can't live without them and I don't want to move away from Bavaria.
- I don't want to move too far away from my family, not for a long time.
- I can't live far away from my family, but I think if it's necessary I would manage it.
- Everywhere, because I love foreign countries and other people.
- I think I can live very far from them but only for a few months.
- I'm used to being away from them but after two months I at least want to talk to them again.
- Not far, I should be able to see them in about two hours.
- It doesn't matter. In the same neighborhood or far away.
- I don't think that I can live away from my family for a long time.
- I think at the moment I would definitely not feel comfortable if I lived far away, like in another part of Germany or even in another country.
- I think I could live anywhere. I just need the right people and the right surroundings.
- 2-3 hours away
- Well, on the one hand I need my family, but on the other hand I'd like to visit exotic countries.
- For me it's quite hard to live without my family and without my friends.
- When I have someone with me whom I love, I could live at the other end of the world.
- If I'm able to visit them from time to time, very far.
- I don't think it'd make a great difference for me whether I live near them or not as long as I can write them or call them.

6. What is your religion? How do you practice it?

- Catholic, but I don't go to church.
- Officially I am Catholic, but I don't believe in this.
- Catholic.
- I'm Catholic, but I don't go often to church.
- I don't believe in God.
- I'm Protestant. We had confirmation but I only go to church at Christmas and important celebrations.
- I am Protestant, but I don't really believe in these things.
- Catholic. I don't visit the church very often.
- I'm Catholic but I don't practice it.
- I'm Catholic but I don't practice it.
- I'm Protestant. I go to church on Christmas and I pray.
- Catholic. I go to a church service maybe twice a year.
- I am Catholic and I sometimes go to church.
- Catholic. Just Christmas, Easter, not in church every Sunday.
- Catholic. Just Christmas and sometimes a few church services.
- I believe in God and in the spiritual world.
- I'm Protestant but I don't believe in it really.
- I am Catholic. I go to church when there's a day like Christmas, Easter, etc.
- I'm Catholic and I go to church sometimes.
- I'm Catholic but don't practice it.
- I'm Catholic. Once a week I sing in the choir of our church. I celebrate the "holy days" and I have been educated with Catholic ideals.

- I'm Catholic, but actually I don't care about this. I never go to church.
- I'm Protestant, but I don't go to church very often.
- Protestant. I sometimes go to church and I do some kind of church service for kids.
- I am Christian. I don't go to church every Sunday, but I pray often.

7. Name and describe three people that you most admire and want to be like?

- No response
- No response
- No response
- No response
- No response
- My mother, my boyfriend, my aunt
- I never admired people, because I want to live my own life
- My parents and my best friend, who have managed their lives very well.
- No response
- No response
- My grandfather, my mother
- Women who just live for their children.
- My aunt, because she reached what she wanted and she didn't care what others thought.
- People who are honest, ambitious, but also take care of other people.
- My grandmother, my boyfriend, and my mother because they manage life very well.
- A person who fulfills his responsibility, knows how to live with anything, or fulfills core values.
- I don't want to be like someone else. I'm an individual, my own person.
- I don't really want to be like somebody, but I am proud of my parents who both manage to work all day and don't forget my sister and me.
- I don't know, just a content person.
- There is no person I want to be like. Sure, I want to have some characteristics, but don't know a person who has all those characteristics.
- I admire Anna Netrebko because she is such a great singer. But I'm content on being who I am.
- My mother ... well, I don't know.
- My father, because he always stays cool and gives me the right advice. My brother, because he's handicapped and has managed to be independent and live on his own. My best friend, because you can't argue with her.
- People who don't care about their lives, but try to help. For example, people in wars, disaster-medicine, etc.
- My mother and my father because they're good and friendly people.

8. Please list the five most important objects that you own. Explain why they are important to you.

- Music (CDs, iPod)
- Guitar and amp, my music/CDs, my bed
- TV for information, PC for pleasure, the gym, car for mobility
- Guitar, music on the PC
- No response
- No response
- My teddy; he is my pillow. My mp3 player because I love music, my hair tie for my hair, because sometimes I don't like to leave it down, my key because otherwise I can't get into my house, my guitar
- My phone and my computer so I can keep in contact with my friends. My room for the private space.
- No response
- No response
- My portable iPod

- Piano, big room, rabbit
- French, because I love this language. Spanish, mathematics, and social studies, because they are important for my life.
- Necklace from my boyfriend, pictures of my boyfriend, perfume from my boyfriend, all for feeling close to him. My clothes and being well-dressed. My boyfriend's mp3-player . My mobile for calling him!!!
- My laptop, my mobile phone, my iPod, a little postcard my boyfriend gave me, my shoes and clothes.
- Pencils, because I love to draw figures, landscape, etc., pictures, many other things
- My cell phone so I can be available. My iPod, because I can't live without music. TV - I love many series on TV. My bed - it's big and very comfortable. I am a long sleeper. My pets - I can't live without them because they are like family members.
- My piano, my soccer ball, my tennis racket, my ice-skating shoes, our garden. I like to play sports and music, because it's a really good contrast to the school life.
- My pillow - I've had it since I was born. My watch - time is money. My sports shoes - I like to play every kind of sport.
- No response
- Piano - I need it for singing. My cupboard full of clothes - I like to wear nice clothes. Our garden - it's great to relax.
- My waterpipe - I like smoking hookah. My bed - I love sleeping. Money - you always need it. My guitar - it's fun playing it. My friends.
- My dog, because she's so cute. My football, because I love to play soccer. My bed, because I'm often very tired. My clothes, because they're so beautiful. My books, because I love reading.
- Computer/internet to chat with people. Telephone to talk to them.
- My computer because I want to be able to play and to surf on the net. My books because I love to read. My wire-bound refill pad and my pencils, because I love to write stories and to draw.

9. How do you contribute to your community? In what ways do you help your parents, your school, your neighbors, your city and your country?

- I help my parents at home (painting, work in the garden, etc.)
- I just help with the housework.
- At home I have to clean up my room and stuff like that.
- Sometimes I help my parents at home
- I don't support my school or my neighbors, but I support my parents, for example cleaning the bathroom, and I support my country of course.
- I help my parents at home. I'm interested in people and their problems.
- I clean up the house, my neighbor is very forgetful and I always say hi and see what she has to do.
- I help our soccer team to win with my cheering them on.
- No response
- No response
- No response
- I am a scout.
- Sometimes I do the wash for my parents, but most of the time I spend studying for school.
- I help at home (washing clothes, etc.). I work in a coffee shop.
- Help as a volunteer in school and church. I try to help my parents in every way they need me to. I also take care of my grandparents.
- No response
- No response
- I have to help our family a lot, but I don't think it's that bad. I am in the SHV, who are the speakers of the pupils in our school.
- Sometimes I help at home and I help some people from my family and friends with school.
- I help my parents to do stuff around our house.

- Parents - I talk to them a lot about their problems. I help with the washing-up and the garden. I help my school with public representations like concerts. I present songs, so I do help to keep the good image alive.
- I am what I am!
- I'm helping our German soccer team to win the World Championship by cheering them on.
- I see what people do, and decide whether I want to do the same things or not.
- No response

10. What is your favorite way to spend free time? What kinds of books, movies, music, games, sports, or other activities do you find most appealing?

- Sports: soccer and basketball; books: Dan Brown; hanging around with my friends
- I love playing in our yard, or just hanging around with my friends celebrating
- Watching TV, going to the gym
- Hanging out, meeting friends
- Hanging out with my friends, action movies, all kinds of music, computer games, soccer
- Books - Ken Follet and Paulo Coelho; music - Coldplay
- I love dancing, meeting my friends, making music, playing sports, reading
- I love to play sports, but I also need free time to relax
- I spend my free time with my friends
- I like hanging out with my friends. I like different kinds of books, movies and music.
- No response
- Hanging out at a Biergarten; books – The DaVinci Code; music – pop and rock; movies – Ocean's Eleven/Twelve, Paycheck, Pirates of the Caribbean
- I love just lying in the sun and going swimming, reading romance novels
- Being with my boyfriend no matter what we do – going to the movies, parks, playing sports
- Clubbing, outdoor activities, movies, reading, electronic music
- No response
- Shopping, hanging out at cafés with my friends, I love movies. My favorite music is rap music and house and I like playing soccer.
- I like sports and music a lot. My friends and I often go to parties on the weekend.
- I play squash and I like to play sports like skiing, rollerblading, jogging, etc. I also go out and meet my friends or we go to the movies, etc.
- I like to spend my time with friends and go out.
- I sing, meet with my friends, relax. I like nearly every kind of music. Sports - riding, skiing, riding my bike, jogging.
- I like hanging out with my friends and having fun.
- I love to play all kinds of sports, listen to all kinds of music, reading, etc. I prefer playing football and volleyball.
- Playing soccer, going to scouts, watching movies (Blue Crush, Oceans 11, Pirates of the Caribbean), listening to music (Wise Guys [German band], Green Day, pop rock)
- I like to read books and to play games. I like to spend time with my friends.

11. What current event issue most concerns you and why?

- Soccer FIFA WM (Weltmeisterschaft/World Championship) 2006
- No response
- Football WM
- FIFI WM 2006 in Germany, because we'll be the world champion, Berlin, wir fahren nach Berlin!
- The Turkish people we have in our country. They are aggressive, cause trouble and aren't polite.
- No response
- Soccer World Cup because I like soccer
- The Soccer World Cup

- The World Cup of Soccer (Germany will be the champion!)
- The World Cup of soccer
- No response
- Soccer World Championship, because it's taking place in Germany.
- The World Match and the holidays, because I'm going to get my driver's license.
- Earning money for traveling to Turkey again in August. Memories from last week when I was in Turkey.
- Soccer championship, my boyfriend, my work.
- No response
- Of course the soccer world championship in Germany because so many people are here and we're having a great time together.
- Soccer World Cup in Germany
- Of course the World Cup and travel to Berlin with school
- The World Cup Football. I play tennis, the guitar and piano in my free time.
- Actual political situation (Germany is run-down)
- The World Cup of soccer of course, because it's taking place in Germany. Germany will be the champion! 54, 74, 90, 2006!!!!
- The FIFA World Championship Soccer in Germany.
- Soccer World Championship (Germany will win!)
- The way China hurts nature and human rights.