

THE TOP TEN OF GERMANY

A Web-Quest for Middle School Social Studies-Germany

INTRODUCTION: You are planning a trip to Germany. You plan on seeing the vibrant cities and remarkable architecture, participating in fabulous shopping, and tasting the delectable cuisines. In your travel magazine, is featured *Germany's Top Ten Places to Visit*.

TASK: You and friend (partner) are traveling to Germany together. Both of you have one week to see five of the Ten Top Places to visit in Germany. You and your partner will write to me and describe your adventures, the friendly people you meet, the picturesque country side, and/or the lively festivals.

PROCESS:

Part 1: Postcard

1. The class will be divided into group of twos.
2. You have one week in Germany.
3. You need to choose what month/season you are traveling in.
4. You need to choose your Top Five places to visit from the Top Ten.
5. You need to locate the Top Five places you chose to visit, using the map provided.
6. You need to map out your destination using the map provided.
 - a. This should make sense. For example, if the five you chose are far from each other, plot them on the map. Then choose a route that will allow you to visit your Top Five in a logical order. You do not want to go back and forth because you will run out of time.
7. You need to keep track of time and mileage. You only have one week to complete your travel. If you run out of time, it will affect the final outcome of this project.
8. You need to write me a postcard from each city. (I should have a total of five postcards at the end of your trip, each from a different location.)
9. Each postcard must include **two facts** and:
 - a. Who did you meet? **OR**
 - b. What you did at the place/location? **OR**
 - c. Why is the place important? **OR**
 - d. What did you eat? **OR**
 - e. What is the season you are traveling in? **OR**
 - f. How is the weather? **OR**
 - g. Anything else you would like to include.
10. Your post card must have a picture on it that represents the Top Five.

Part 2: Oral Presentation

1. You and your partner will present your Top Five to the class, with your map, and choose one postcard to read out-loud to the class and explain.

Part 3: Group Work

1. Your group needs to work cooperatively. This means that your group must speak in 6” voices and be respectful and courteous when you are working together. Everyone in your group needs to speak during the presentation. Also, everyone must know the information that is being presented. (I may ask individual questions on the project. If members in your group are not able to answer the questions, points will be deducted from your presentation.) **I DO NOT** want one person doing all the work and everyone else sitting back and relaxing.

TOP TEN PLACES TO VISIT IN GERMANY:

According to Germany's National Tourist Board

<http://ezinearticles.com/?Top-Ten-Places-to-Visit-in-Germany&id=976649>

1. Berlin Wall

- a. "There's no other place in Germany that's more charged up with emotion than the Berlin Wall. You can just imagine the tears and the blood shed over this very wall. This remnant of the wars stands as one of the greatest monuments to democracy known to man - a sign that freedom will always come out victorious."

2. The Romantic Road

- a. "Driving through the Romantic Road would be one of the most pleasant drives you'll experience in your whole life. This road is flanked by scenic landscapes on both sides. Occasionally, you'll pass through a picturesque town, a beautiful gothic church, and sometimes, a quaint countryside inn."

3. Augsburg

- a. "Passing through the Romantic Road will lead you to Augsburg, a town founded by the Roman Legions and named after the esteemed Roman emperor, Augustus. This picturesque town contains such historical places as St. Anne's Church, the place where Martin Luther took refuge, and Dom, a very unusual Cathedral. You can also find here the Renaissance Golden Room, a sight that will make you squint with its shine."

4. Neuschwanstein Castle

- a. "Did you know that Walt Disney used a castle found in Germany as his inspiration for the castle of Sleeping Beauty? It's true; those alabaster walls and those high towers and wide parapets were all based on the Neuschwanstein Castle. It is now hailed as one of the most popular tourist spots in Germany."

5. The Castles of Fussen

- a. "Like most of Europe, several castles are littered throughout Germany. It contains the other of Ludwig's castles, Hohenschwangau Castle. This is a must-see for all those families who are traveling through Germany because the place literally looks like it's been torn out of a storybook."

6. Lake Constance

- a. "Lake Constance is both a tourists' spot and an essential source of life for the Germans. Several areas in the country rely on this very lake for their drinking water, and this large lake is also a great place to swim and to go bird watching. Indeed, if you're one for beautiful natural sceneries, then Lake Constance is not to be ignored."

7. The Black Forest

- a. “The name looks like it has been taken from one of the fairy tales, doesn't it? The Black Forest - it sounds like a place where evil witches reside and cursed trees grow, but don't let that deter you. If anything, the Black Forest can hardly be related to its name as it's a sunny forest with tall and sturdy firs. It's a great place to go hiking and a great place for picnics.”

8. Cologne

- a. “When you hear the word, Cologne, what comes into your mind? A beautiful fragrance, right? Well, meet the town that's called Cologne for a reason and, indeed, the town of Cologne has its own peculiar fragrance that's very pleasing to the nose. Also, there you will find a beautiful view of the River Rhine and the Cologne Cathedral.”

9. Dachau

- a. “Take a break from the fairytale castles and mystical forests and go to the place called Dachau. Dachau is a concentration camp - a remnant of Germany's dark past where you can just imagine the horrors that took place in this very spot. However, you will also find there a statue bearing the inscription, "Never Again", a solemn promise of the German people that they will 'never again' commit such unspeakable acts - another true victory for peace.”

10. Oktoberfest

- a. “The Oktoberfest - technically, it's not a place, but it's just too good a festival to leave out of any 'top ten list' that concerns tourism and Germany. This fun-filled festival in the town of Bavaria is guaranteed to leave you intoxicated and euphoric. You can spend days on end just drinking authentic German beer and just letting yourself loose.”

RESOURCES/WEBSITES:

1. **General Resources on the Top Ten Places to visit in Germany.**
 - a. <http://www.germany-tourism.de/>
 - b. <http://www.germany.info/relaunch/index.html>
 - c. http://www.germanculture.com.ua/library/facts/bl_germany.htm
 - d. <http://www.cometogermany.com>
 - e. <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/germany/>

2. **Information on the Berlin Wall:**
 - a. <http://www.berlin-life.com/berlin/wall>

3. **Information on The Romantic Road:**
 - a. <http://www.romanticroad.com/#index>
 - b. <http://www.romantischestrassen.de/?lang=uk>

4. **Information on Augsburg:**
 - a. <http://www2.augsburg.de/index.php?id=12307>

5. **Information on Neuschwanstein Castle and the Castles of Fussen:**
 - a. http://www.castles.org/castles/Europe/Central_Europe/Germany/germany7.htm
 - b. <http://www.schloesser.bayern.de/englisch/palace/objects/neuschw.htm>
 - c. <http://www.destination360.com/europe/germany/neuschwanstein-castle.php>

6. **Information on Lake Constance:**
 - a. <http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/europe/the-complete-guide-to-lake-constance-448409.html>
 - b. <http://www.world66.com/europe/germany/badenwrttemberg/lakeconstance>

7. **Information on The Black Forest:**
 - a. <http://www.about-germany.org/regions/blackforest.php>
 - b. http://www.tompgalvin.com/places/de/baden_wuerttemberg/black_forest.htm
 - c. <http://www.fodors.com/world/europe/germany/black-forest/>

8. **Information on Cologne:**
 - a. <http://www.destination360.com/europe/germany/cologne.php>
 - b. <http://www.koeln.de/en/>

9. **Information on Dachau:**
 - a. <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005214>
 - b. http://goeurope.about.com/cs/germany/l/aa_dauchau.htm

10. **Information on Oktoberfest:**
 - a. <http://www.travelsthroughgermany.com/website2/oktoberfest.htm>
 - b. <http://www.oktoberfest.de/en/index.php>

PROJECT TIMELINE

Day	Task
Day 1	-Introduction to your project. -You should know your partner’s name. -Your group should think about their Top Five Places to Visit. *Presentations should not be longer than 2-3 minutes long.*
Day 2	-Groups working cooperatively on their project. -Groups should have identified each Top Place on the map. -Groups should have chosen their Top Five Place to Visit. -Groups will start their research for their Top Five. -Groups fill out summary sheet. (Attached are the group summary sheet. It is labeled, “ <i>group summary sheet.</i> ”)
Day 3	-Groups working cooperatively on their project. -Groups should have figured out the distances between their Top Five on the map. -Groups should have 40-50% of their research done for their Top Five. -Groups should have printed 1-2 pictures of their Top Five. -Groups fill out summary sheet.
Day 4	-Groups working cooperatively on their project. -Groups should be 70-85% done with their research. -Groups should have printed a total of 4 pictures of their Top Five. -Groups fill out summary sheet.
Day 5	-Groups working cooperatively on their project. -Groups should be completed with their research today. -Groups should have all their pictures printed of their Top Five. -Groups need to know the order of their cities (Top Five) they are traveling to. -Groups should be writing out their postcards to me. They should be ½ way done with their postcards. -Groups fill out summary sheet.
Day 6	-Groups working cooperatively on their project. -Groups should be finishing their postcards today. -Groups need to know what city (Top Five) they are presenting on. -Groups will out summary sheet.
Day 7	-Class will receive about ½ the period to finish up their project. -Presentation will start in class.
Day 8	-Presentations will finish. -Warm Green Fuzzies. (What we did well.) -The Cold Prickles. (What can we improve on?)

Things to Remember for your postcards:

1. You need a **picture** for your postcard.
2. You need to include **2 facts** from the place you are traveling to.
3. Also you need to **answer one of the following questions**.
 - a. Who did you meet?
 - b. What you did at the place/location?
 - c. Why is the place important?
 - d. What did you eat?
 - e. Anything else you would like to include.

RUBRIC ON “THE TOP TEN OF GERMANY” PROJECT

Postcard 1	1	1	1	1	Total
Top’s Name:	includes 1 st fact	includes the 2 nd fact	answers one of the “other” questions	includes a picture of the Top Place to Visit	
Postcard 2	1	1	1	1	Total
Top’s Name:	includes 1 st fact	includes the 2 nd fact	answers one of the “other” questions	includes a picture of the Top Place to Visit	
Postcard 3	1	1	1	1	Total
Top’s Name:	includes 1 st fact	includes the 2 nd fact	answers one of the “other” questions	includes a picture of the Top Place to Visit	
Postcard 4	1	1	1	1	Total
Top’s Name:	includes 1 st fact	includes the 2 nd fact	answers one of the “other” questions	includes a picture of the Top Place to Visit	
Postcard 5	1	1	1	1	Total
Top’s Name:	includes 1 st fact	includes the 2 nd fact	answers one of the “other” questions	includes a picture of the Top Place to Visit	

	5	5	5	Total
Map	1 pt. for each Top Five labeled in the correct location on the map.	1 pt. for each correct distance between the Top Five	1 pt. for labeling the ordering of the Top Five traveling to	

Presentation	2	1	0
	all group members spoke during the presentation	one group member did not speak during the presentation	two or more group members did not speak during the presentation
Volume Control	2	1	0
	spoke loud and clear, no teacher signals or cues were needed	spoke loud and/or clear, but need some to a lot of teacher signals or cues	did not speak loud or clear, teacher signals or cues were not used

Total Points: _____/39

CONCLUSION: When creating your postcards, why did your groups choose your Top Five? Were locations, distant, and time a factor? Or were you able to travel and see what you wanted to see? How did your group compromise if you had different interests?

Some questions to keep in mind:

1. What did you learn?
2. Did anything in this task trouble you?
3. What might you do differently given the opportunity to perform a similar task?
4. What suggestions would you share with students who are about to take on this task?

