

Open Educational Resource English: Multiculturalism

1 Title

Multiculturalism: An issue all over the world? – Comparing Germany and New Zealand

2 Short Summary

This OER deals with the topic of multiculturalism and immigration in the context of cultural diversity using Germany and New Zealand as examples. Students are provided with information about multiculturalism in both countries. Furthermore, there is a selected city in each country (Leipzig and Auckland) with material and pictures of the public space. At the end of each part, the newly acquired knowledge is tested through questions. The lesson is an introductory lesson and should prepare students to discuss their understanding and observations about cultural diversity by working with guiding questions on the padlet.

3 Overview

Topic	How multicultural are the countries of Germany and New Zealand?
Aims	<p>By the end of the activity, students are able to compare Germany and New Zealand by considering the acquired knowledge about multiculturalism and immigration in the two countries and using it as a basis for a discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students can identify the issue of multiculturalism as part of cultural diversity in our culture.• Students are able to define the terms diversity, cultural diversity and multiculturalism after engaging with the video and Learning Snacks activity.• Students are able to answer questions about German and New Zealand immigration and multiculturalism after engaging with the Learning Snacks activity.• Students can critically examine the differences between multiculturalism in Germany and New Zealand.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students are able to develop critical thinking skills and discuss differences between countries and cultures and how they deal with people with different ethnic and cultural background.
Level	9 th / 10 th grade
Time	90 min
Apps and Materials (Index of OER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• link to the Padlet• link to Learning Snacks activity• script of the Learning Snacks activity• background information & didactic considerations for teachers

4 Background information

The padlet should be used as a digital task sheet where the students find all tasks and links to activities but also have the opportunity to share ideas and add comments. The advantage is that the teacher can easily monitor the students' progress.

The video students should watch was uploaded to YouTube by the UO Center for Applied Second Language Studies in December 2022 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcnJ6OWxQvI>). This video looks at the concept of multiculturalism from a very general viewpoint and also gives examples of different areas of multiculturalism, such as food, languages, and culture-related holidays.

For the main part of the lesson students should work with Learning Snacks. Learning Snacks looks like a messenger and students are provided with facts, pictures, and statistics. Questions and tasks in between create an active atmosphere. Students have to click "next" after the material packages to move on to the next subtopic. Activities such as "fill in the gaps" offer three attempts to solve the task before the solution is displayed and students can check the correct answers. The activity first includes a definition of diversity and cultural diversity first, before multiculturalism in Germany and in New Zealand is introduced. Before comparing the two, at the end, the activity gives concrete examples of the city of Leipzig and Auckland.

Cultural diversity involves multiple aspects such as language, religion, habits, beliefs, traditions, and homeland/culture (Eagan 2023). In the Learning Snacks activity, the students focus on knowledge about home/origin but other aspects of cultural diversity also influence the topic of multiculturalism.

The activity provides general information about Germany, such as the total population (83.1m.) in comparison to 23.8m with a migration background of another country (Statistisches Bundesamt 2022). Most people come from Turkey, Ukraine, and Syria (Statistisches Bundesamt 2023). Please note that the statistics are from December 2022, so after the beginning of the Ukraine war. Germany is second only to the USA in the total number of immigrants (United Nations 2020). Teachers should know that the good social system of Germany is quite unique and provides good support for immigrants and tries to integrate the people through language courses. Furthermore, teachers should know about German history, as it still has an impact on immigration. Especially, the division between West and East Germany after World War II is crucial. Most immigrants live in big cities and more immigrants live in the Western part in comparison to the East. One reason could be, that former East Germany was under Russian control and built a fence in 1961 to seal itself off from Western influence (Muntermann 2015). For more information about history: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Germany.

New Zealand describes itself as a country of immigration since most people living in New Zealand are from the European continent or have ancestors from Europe and immigration is reflected in education, arts, media, and government. Māori and Asians make up the second and third proportion of the population at around 15 % each. For more information about New Zealand's diversity visit <https://applyzones.com/cultural-diversity-in-new-zealand-from-culinary-to-lifestyle-tin640>. Most people come to New Zealand to study or to spend a year abroad which means that especially young people come to New Zealand and stay there for a long term or permanently (StatsNZ 2023).

With 600,000 inhabitants, Leipzig is one of the bigger cities in eastern Germany. It is mainly home to people from Syria, Romania, or Poland (at the moment probably also from Ukraine) who live in Leipzig. There are differences between the most spoken languages and the languages in the public sphere and also between the numbers of unemployed workers – more people with a migration background have no job. In the eastern part of Germany tolerance and prejudice are a big issue which is also reflected in the big support of the AfD and far-right parties. For more information visit <https://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/the-success-of-the-afd-why-is-the-right-wing-so-strong-in-eastern-germany-a-33536f9a-64e9-40ec-8589-f8e1fc833f9d>.

Auckland is the biggest city in New Zealand and is located on the Northern Island. Most immigrants live there, so the city is very diverse because of people with different cultures and languages.

The main differences between Germany and New Zealand are different cultural influences from neighbouring countries in Germany and Asian countries in New Zealand. Additionally, different groups of people come there. Germany has a lot of people escaping war or bad living conditions and hoping for a better life and more opportunities in Germany. Most people coming to New Zealand study there or do a year abroad. It is similar with the majority of Europeans and most diversity in the larger cities.

5 Didactic considerations

The material can only be used for classes with one digital device per student. It involves various tasks on the topic of multiculturalism and immigration as part of cultural diversity in Germany and New Zealand. The material is designed as an individual work with a group discussion in the end. The lesson could be embedded in the topic (Lernbereich mit Wahlcharakter/ Wahlbereich (learning area with elective character) 4) of “natives and immigrants” (Sächsisches Landesamt für Schule und Bildung Lehrplan Gymnasium Englisch 2022).

At the beginning of the lesson, the students are asked to watch an introductory video (3 min) about multiculturalism. All students can access the link on their own device via padlet. Students learn about multiculturalism and how it is perceived all over the world by seeing examples such as food and festive events in various countries and cultures. After the activity, students have about 10 minutes to answer the questions below the video and comment on their solutions in the padlet.

The second task is the Learning Snacks activity which is the core of the lesson. Students should have about 20 to 25 minutes to complete this activity on their own devices. The activity includes information and some questions and activities the students need to solve in order to progress. These questions revise the information which was provided beforehand. The activity is divided into six parts: first a general introduction to the concepts of diversity, cultural diversity, multiculturalism and immigration. This part is followed by two parts about the countries of Germany and New Zealand. The fourth and fifth part are about two cities, Leipzig and Auckland, which provide more specific knowledge as examples of multiculturalism in both countries. The final part of the activity is a comparison of the main differences and similarities between Germany and New Zealand. In this activity, differentiation is ensured by the possibility

to read through the information individually and at an individual pace. It is also possible to go back and re-read the pieces of facts. Since information is presented in chat style as short messages, students do not have to read long texts and additionally find many pictures and statistics additionally. After the activity, questions are accessible via the padlet. These questions could be used as discussion questions in the peer group.

Finally, students have the task of discussing the topic of multiculturalism and reflecting on issues related to the topic in their peer group or in the comments section of the padlet. These questions should involve critical thinking and enable the students to reflect on the topic and its problems in their own life. Students should have enough time to share their ideas and results and also to discuss issues of multiculturalism. About 30 minutes are suggested for this part. The provided questions will guide the discussion and provide some topics that will allow for an active and critical discussion by incorporating the knowledge from the Learning Snacks activity.

6 Materials

- link padlet: <https://padlet.com/bedanke23/multiculturalism-lcpvfpe1mnek9phe>
- link video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcnJ6OWxQvI>
- link learning snacks:
<https://www.learningsnacks.de/embed/365444/52d7df3ea35490ed60a75e68cae10afd07a02fac>
- script of the Learning Snacks activity (PDF document)
- key of the tasks in the padlet (PDF document)

7 Bibliography

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