

## VELLA 2023 (Virtual exchange Leipzig – Ludwigsburg – Auckland)

### Task 9B: Development of Open educational resource (OER) based on the basis of our interactive activity

#### 1 Title

Our Multilingual Hometown - Language Adventure

#### 2 Short Summary

Engaging 6th graders in interactive tasks focused on the languages spoken in Germany and New Zealand offers a valuable educational experience. By exploring the linguistic diversity of their own hometowns and surrounding environments, students gain knowledge about languages while also learning more about geography and demographics. This activity aims to cultivate global citizenship by highlighting both countries' multilingual and diverse societies.

#### 3 Overview

<b>Topic</b>	Which languages can be found in Esslingen and Auckland?
<b>Aims</b>	<p><b>Overall aim:</b> The aim of this lesson is for students to understand the value of multilingualism and recognize how the world, especially their hometown, is multilingual. Students also gain a better understanding of the global context of these countries.</p> <p><b>Detailed aims:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In this lesson, the objective is to promote language awareness among students by encouraging them to reflect on their own language skills, language background and heritage. They should recognize the importance of preserving and valuing their native language while also embracing the opportunity to learn additional languages.</li> <li>• The aim of this lesson is to build intercultural competence by helping students develop an understanding and appreciation for different cultures through language.</li> <li>• Students explore language diversity and help students appreciate the wide variety of languages spoken around the world, fostering respect and curiosity towards different linguistic traditions.</li> <li>• Students are able to locate Germany, Esslingen and, New Zealand, Auckland on a map.</li> <li>• Students are able to listen to different languages and correctly identify and connect them to the corresponding language.</li> <li>• Students connect different writing systems to the right language and country.</li> </ul>
<b>Level</b>	Grade 6 and 7
<b>Time</b>	2 double lessons
<b>Apps &amp; Materials (Index of OER)</b>	<p>A) Information and quizzes on <b>Genially</b></p> <p>B) Discussion on <b>Padlet</b> (included in genially)</p> <p>C) Activities on <b>Wordwall</b> (included in genially)</p>

#### **4 Background information**

Diversity is all around us. Languages are an integral aspect of diversity, identity, and learning. Our world is made unique by every individual's differences. Language identifies the individual with their culture, family and community, and fosters a sense of belonging and responsibility.

##### Definition of multilingualism

"Multilingualism" refers to a person's ability to speak or understand more than one language. An individual who speaks multiple languages is called multilingual. This can mean that the person is capable of communicating fluently in more than one language or have at least some understanding of one or more languages. The reasons for multilingualism can be diverse, such as that it can be influenced by cultural, familial, or educational factors. Multilingual individuals possess varying degrees of proficiency in each language (Dirim, Inci; Mecheril, Paul; u.a. (Hrsg.) (2018): Heterogenität, Sprachen(n), Bildung. Bad Heilbrunn: Klinkhardt. S. 159 bis 177).

##### Benefits of multilingualism and language diversity

There are several benefits of multilingualism. Multilingual students often demonstrate enhanced cognitive abilities, problem-solving skills, and academic performance. It fosters an appreciation for diverse cultures, promotes empathy, and encourages global citizenship. Students who can speak and understand multiple languages have the ability to successfully engage in international communication. Therefore, they have broader career options.

##### Multilingualism in the Classroom

Multilingualism is prevalent in today's classrooms due to migration, globalization and cultural diversity. Geographical barriers, such as mountains, rivers, or oceans, can isolate communities, developing distinct languages. Over time, geographic isolation can form different dialects and languages within a region. It is important to note that dialects are also their own languages and contribute to linguistic diversity. Language is significant in shaping personal identity and cultural belonging. It is essential to create an inclusive learning environment that values and respects the linguistic diversity of students.

##### Digital tool:

Genially is an online platform that allows users to create and share interactive visual content such as presentations, infographics, interactive images, posters, quizzes, and more. It provides a user-friendly interface with a wide range of templates, designs, and multimedia elements to enhance the visual appeal and engagement of the content.

With Genially, users can incorporate text, images, videos, audio, and animations into their creations. It also offers interactive features like pop-ups, hotspots, timelines, and interactive games, enabling the audience to engage with the content actively.

It is a great and fun way to stimulate student engagement. Using Genially in school offers numerous benefits, including interactive learning experiences, collaborative opportunities, and the ability to present information visually to cater for diverse learner needs. It empowers educators and students to create visually captivating content that enhances understanding, participation, and creativity in the learning process.

Users can access Genially through a web browser and create original content or customize existing templates. The finished creations can be easily shared and embedded on websites, blogs, and social media platforms and presented live to an audience.

Wordwall is an online platform that offers various interactive activities for educational purposes. The platform allows teachers to easily present their own content, such as vocabulary words, definitions, math problems, or foreign language phrases.

Padlet is an online collaborative platform that allows users to create virtual bulletin boards to share and organize various types of content. It provides a visually appealing and user-friendly interface that promotes collaboration and information sharing.

With Padlet, users can create digital boards, known as "walls," to post texts, images, videos, links, documents, and other multimedia content. These walls can be customized with different layouts, backgrounds, and themes to suit the purpose and aesthetic preferences of the user.

## **5 Didactic considerations**

Integrating this activity about language diversity into a teacher's regular coursework offers numerous benefits and can be implemented in various ways. To embed the activity into a lesson, teachers can utilize pre-task and post-task integration.

Before engaging with the activity, a platform like Padlet can be used as a pre-task to introduce the topic and prompt students to think about their language skills and backgrounds. This interactive platform allows students to share information and insights, encouraging engagement and active participation. This could easily be a home assignment where students can get help from their parents to gain more knowledge about their heritage. Encouraging students to involve their families in discussions about their language backgrounds adds an extra layer of engagement and connection to their personal lives. They can post pictures about the writing system, integrate audio where they or their parents use the languages or provide interesting information they want to share. For example, students who speak the same language can comment on their classmates' posts and add information. This activity helps students learn more about the language diversity in their classroom. After that, the teacher could initiate a follow-up discussion about the languages and countries they learned.

Another effective approach is to incorporate initial language exchange activities, where students with different language backgrounds are paired up for conversations or interactive exchanges. This enhances cross-cultural communication and builds students' linguistic competence as they engage with different languages.

The interactive activity on Genially creates visually engaging tasks that students can access in the classroom or remotely. This ensures equal access to interactive content regardless of the student's physical location. Genially allows for the integration of various elements such as videos, quizzes, and text, enabling students to listen to different languages and connect them to the corresponding language and country. Within the activity, teachers can provide support and scaffolding for students who may require additional assistance.

The activity can also be assigned as a home assignment, allowing students to explore it at their own time and pace. Students can access the activity and interact with the content on their own devices.

When implementing the activity in class, practical considerations must be taken into account. It is essential to ensure that each student has access to a device, such as an iPad or computer, for the activity. Ongoing support should be provided, and teachers should be available to address any questions or concerns that may arise during the activity. Additionally, testing and previewing the activity beforehand will help identify any technical issues or adjustments that need to be made for a seamless learning experience.

Integrating an activity about language diversity into regular coursework allows teachers to foster awareness, appreciation, and inclusivity among students. By exploring different languages and cultures, students develop a deeper understanding of the diverse world we live in. This activity promotes cross-cultural communication, linguistic competence, and a broader global perspective, preparing students to become informed and respectful global citizens.

After students have interacted with the language diversity activity, post-tasks such as mini-quizzes or reflection prompts can be incorporated to help students review their learning and reinforce the key points from the Genially activity. A link is embedded where students can directly access the language-matching games. One fun way to use the mini-games is to let the students compete against each other. On Wordwall, there is an option to set a timer and a leaderboard for each activity. These mini games can be a great and entertaining way to end the lesson.

Using Wordwall quizzes to promote healthy competition can motivate students to be actively engaged in learning, reinforce their understanding of the subject matter, and make the learning experience enjoyable.

## **6 Material**

*<https://view.genial.ly/645e071db159d20017cbf835/interactive-content-quiz-our-multilingual-hometown>*