

Learning a new language and discovering a new culture – by Hilary Anson

*Language and Literacy; Expressive Arts; People, past events and societies; Social wellbeing
Primary and Lower Secondary*

These activities use Dorrit Sim's testimony and her book 'In my Pocket' to develop language skills and cultural awareness .

Dorrit Sim- listen to her testimony- 'Before the War'.

If available, read her book.

Look for any other testimonies describing coming to a new country.

Task 1

Language Differences – Idioms, Body Language, Cultural nuances

Discuss-

1. When in Rome, do as the Romans.
2. No man is an island.
3. The early bird catches the worm.
4. Saying Hello - formal Bow (European); Handshake (British).

What else? Pupils should provide other examples from their cultures

Task 2

Different cultures - Meeting someone new; not English speaking

Activities for Drama; Cartoon Strips, Writing

1. Challenges facing a new pupil / refugee / asylum seeker / immigrant coming into school for the first day
 - Differences in lifestyle
 - Language challenges
 - Differences between schools
 - Correct behaviour

Further Activities

1. Pupils explain how to make a sandwich
2. Direction of how to go to the playground from your classroom.
3. Food – pupils explain what Haggis, tablet, shortbread is.
They can share their knowledge of typical foods.
4. Acting a scene out: - **First day** at Nursery; Primary 1; new school; new town; new country.

Please note - We can put you in touch with German schools so that your pupils could become Pen Pals