

JL

Janua linguarum - Vrata v jezike



Topic: *LANGUAGE DETECTIVE*

Class: 3 (eight-year primary school)

Age: 9

Duration: two school hours (2 x 45 minutes)

Tried out: October 2001

School: OŠ Veliki Gaber, Veliki Gaber

Teacher: Tanja Korošec

Cross-curricular links: Slovene, Social studies

Task– A mysterious letter*

* This letter is one of a series of letters that the teacher will receive from a mysterious sender. The sender obviously wishes to achieve a certain aim which students will try to gradually discover, thus becoming language detectives.

Aims and objectives:

- to motivate students to find out from where the mysterious letter came and in what language it is written,
- to make students notice some cultural and language features of a particular country (Austria),
- to motivate students to translate the words circled in the letter,
- to help students find out which letters do not exist in the Slovene alphabet (ä, ü, ö, ß, w),
- to help students find out that in the German language consonants are often doubled,
- to make students aware that in German all the nouns are capitalised,
- to make students aware that Slovene has adopted a lot of words from German,
- to make students find a criterion to spot the odd word out, which will be the key to the sender's message,
- to help students find their ways when looking for information,
- to motivate students to gather information from different sources,
- to motivate students to use dictionaries and learn how to use them,
- to motivate students to use the index in the atlas to find the country of interest (Austria).

Proposed procedure

1. Preparation:

The teacher brings an »authentic letter« from Austria and photocopies for every student. The teacher prepares a dossier for every group to fill in. Each group has a map of the world or an atlas and a German-Slovene dictionary.

2. Activities: students work as a whole class, in groups and individually. They try to help solve the mystery of a strange letter their teacher received the day before from an unknown sender. In groups, students fill in their dossier, i.e. gather information about the country from which the letter came, find out the meaning of the circled words in the letter, what they have in common and spot the odd word out. The odd word out will bring them closer to the solution of the mystery.

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