

An American Experience

The aim is to make a presentation together in class. First pupils are inspired by a power-point presentation on different topics/aspects of American life. The focus is on three important towns on the east coast – Philadelphia, New York and Washington. Pupils also get some images of school life and the Amish community.

Pupils have to work with a partner and do some research on certain topics/pictures, design one or two slides and present their findings in class.

But there is also a wide range of topic-related issues for further presentations.

(Preparation either at school or at home, individual work etc.).

Warm up

- Discussion about America – brainstorming
Question: *What do you associate with America/the Americans?*
(stereotypes, “typical” behaviour, prejudices, favourite/important cities, ...)

Main activity

- Presentation of five pictures (one by one).
Ask students to describe what they see and let them express their ideas.
Questions: *What do these pictures illustrate?*
What do you associate with these pictures?
...
- Finding the right topics
Task: *Name the topics and list them on the board.*
(school, New York, parades, Washington ...)
- Uninterrupted presentation of the slide-show
Task: *Watch the slide show and complete your list of topics.*
Name the other topics and write/add them on the board.
- Concentration on 10 topics for further work and explanation of the task.
Task: *Let’s make a class presentation and find an appropriate title.*
(“An American Experience“, “This is America” ...)

You all have to make your contribution to complete the show.

Housing	The Amish	Washington
School	Festivals and Parades	New York
Philadelphia	Shopping	
Sports	Food	

Each group gets three or four topic-related pictures for further research.

*Define the topic of “your” pictures and describe what they show.
(Pictures on 10 topics, copies with three to four images on one topic)*

Use the Internet to get more interesting and important information about your topic and add two slides with facts for the group presentation.

You and your partner have to present your findings/impressions to your classmates. (Compare/Relate/Contrast these pictures to your environment at home or Germany.)

- Making the Power-Point-Presentation
You as the teacher will have to work in the new slides in the upcoming show and keep control of everything.
- Presentation of the Show
Present the show and interrupt it for any additional remarks made by the students. Enjoy the presentation.

Option for computer-based research to be done by the students

Topics for further presentations (no group work)

- School sports
- Most popular American sports
- The Super Bowl
- My favourite sportsman/-woman
- The American school system
- Private schools in America
- Americans and patriotism
- Michelle Obama’s food initiative
- American recipes
- The role of religion in the American society
- New York and its parades

Feel free to include personal ideas and experience based on individual visits to the United States.