



A day out in Berlin

Teachers' notes

- Use atlases and maps to locate Germany and its position in Europe. Point out that the country is almost landlocked, although it does have coastline on the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. Germany shares borders with a number of countries including Poland, France, Denmark and Austria. Locate Berlin in the north east of Germany, close to the Polish border.
- Use the map drawn to scale on **Photocopiable 2**, 'Flying to Berlin', to work out the distances from major cities in Britain including London, Manchester, Cardiff, Bristol, Edinburgh and Belfast. If the average cruising speed of a jet airliner is about 600km per hour, the children should be able to work out the approximate flight time to Berlin from these airports.
- Berlin has had a long and varied history since it was first founded in the early 14th century. Assemble the timeline on **Photocopiable 3**, 'City timeline', and encourage the children to find out more about some of the most notable events and the personalities involved.
- One of the best ways of making a tour of the central part of Berlin, called the 'Mitte' (middle), is aboard a No.100 bus. Use the **A2 poster**, 'A day out in Berlin', and other maps to plot its route and discuss possible stopping places. The bus starts at the zoo and passes round the Tiergarten to the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate, down Unter den Linden, to Alexanderplatz.
- Just off Unter den Linden (meaning 'under the Linden trees') is the Humboldt University, where famous mathematician and scientist Albert Einstein studied. Find out more about him and other famous people associated with Berlin, such as the collectors of fairy tales, the Brothers Grimm; the composer Felix Mendelssohn; and the film star, Marlene Dietrich.
- Show the children pictures and photographs of the Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate) at the eastern end of Unter den Linden. This is Berlin's top tourist attraction. It is designed in the style of the entrance to a classical Greek temple. Challenge the children to design and make models of the gate using cardboard tubes for the 12 supporting pillars. Find out more about the famous sculpture that sits on top of the gate. There are also many Greek treasures in the Pergamon Museum, which is built on an island in the River Spree. It contains many statues of gods and goddesses like Zeus, Apollo and Athena. Try modelling some of these statues from clay.
- The Tiergarten – known as the green lungs of Berlin – is Europe's largest city park and covers over 200 hectares. It was originally a hunting estate and now contains Berlin's zoo. Why do children think gardens are important in city centres? What kind of attractions do they think the park should have for locals and tourists? What are their views on keeping animals in zoos?
- Provide the children with copies of **Photocopiable 4**, 'German phrases', so they can try out some short conversational pieces in German. It will help them learn basic phrases like 'Hello', 'Goodbye', 'Please may I have...' and 'Thank you', as well as some vocabulary to assist them role play ordering fruit in a shop.

