

GEBURTSTAGSFEST IN DEUTSCHLAND –

BIRTHDAY PARTY IN GERMANY

TEACHER'S NOTES

Introduction

This presentation has been designed to familiarise young learners with special traditions regarding birthday celebrations in Germany. It's also suitable for learners with low German language skills.

The birthday is maybe the most important day of the year for children. In some regions in Germany the 'Name Day' plays an important role as well. But the majority of families celebrate the birthday more intensively. This presentation deals also with information about the most common traditions which are associated with this celebration in Germany, such as "Kaffee und Kuchen" (coffee and cake) and special birthday games.

We have included some little activities to keep your learners active and motivated throughout this presentation.

Slide Explanation

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | This slide can be used to introduce the topic to the pupils. The teacher might like to start by naming the birthday hat and the birthday cake as important items on a birthday. |
| 2 | Lynn introduces herself, mentions her age and the fact that it's her birthday. She is going to lead the learners through some of the slides. (Lynn is a girls' name which has become quite popular in Germany in the last few years.) |
| 3 | Translation:
<i>The party begins.</i>

It's common to celebrate the birthday with family and friends. Usually on the Saturday after the actual birthday or on the birthday itself the birthday boy or girl invites for "Kaffe und Kuchen" (coffee and cake). Before everyone arrives, the party location has to be prepared. This slide shows the most important items for decoration. |

Translation: *the candle, the balloon, the confetti*

4

Translation

My family congratulates me.

On the left-hand side the whole family comes together to enjoy their coffee and cake and to say 'Happy Birthday' to Lynn.

Translation

All the best for your birthday, Lynn.

On the right-hand side there is a typical German cake.

Translation

Coffee and cake

The birthday is a really important holiday in Germany. The whole family and almost all people in the surrounding of a person congratulate on this day. Birthday cards and presents given by friends, colleagues, family, class mates and bosses are quite usual.

5

Translation

Childrens' birthday party

My friends are there.

The two pictures show a colourful children's birthday party with cake, jelly and sweets.

6

Translation

Birthday song

It is a common tradition to sing a birthday song for the birthday girl or the birthday boy. The slide gives an example. It is the German version of 'Happy Birthday'. Many people in Germany sing 'Happy Birthday' in English but there are lots of different birthday songs in German as well.

The teacher might like to sing it in front of the children and practise with them or play it. A possible source is youtube.

7

Translation

My presents

On the left-hand side there is a photograph of Lynns birthday presents.

Translation

These are my presents.

On the right-hand side Lynns mum is giving her present to Lynn.

Translation

For you.

Below: A girl is overwhelmed by all her presents and says 'Thanks'.

Translation

Thank you.

8

Translation

What do we need for the birthday card?

This slide is an active one. The task is to find out which items are necessary to write a birthday card to the birthday boy or girl. The pupils should name the things they would need for this.

Above: Translation

The envelope, the lily, chocolate

Below: Translation

The card, the pen

9

Translation

Birthday games

The following three slides present examples for birthday games which are played on every children's birthday party. Each slide shows a different game. The teacher is welcomed to try the games in the class rooms. Only a few items are necessary.

(1) "Topfschlagen"

We need: pot or plastic bowl, wooden spoon, scarf or cloth, sweets

One person is blindfolded. The pot has to be positioned on the floor somewhere in the room. Some sweets should be put under the pot. The player takes the wooden spoon and has to find the pot by crawling on the floor. If he finds the pot he has to hit it once. Now he can keep the sweets and another player gets the chance.

10 (2) "Blinde Kuh"

We need: cloth or scarf

This game is played in a limited area of the room. A player is blindfolded and has to find another player.

The other players are allowed to move around. If the player who is blindfolded touches another player, he has to guess the person he just caught. If he is right, he is no longer the "Blinde Kuh" but the person who has been caught.

11 (3) Apfelangeln

We need: a barrel or a big bowl

Two children, standing next to each other, and in front of the barrel which is filled with water and 9 apples. Both children have to fold their hands behind their backs. Now both children have to try to catch as much apples as they can by using nothing else than their teeth. They start at the same time with fishing for their apples. The child with more apples wins and gets a prize.

12 Translation

Blow out all the candles!

This slide is an active slide. There are eight candles on top of the cake. The pupils have to work out the number of candles and the German word for it. Three possible answers are provided.

Translation

How many candles are on the cake?

A: two

B: five

C: eight

13 Translation

What else are we doing on a birthday?

This slide informs the pupils about possible birthday treats that can be done on the birthday of a child. The family usually goes on a small trip or does a similar activity. The following slides show three examples of such treats.

(1) Translation
We go to the zoo.

14 (2) Translation
We go swimming.

15 (3) Translation
We go to the cinema.

16 Lynn is saying goodbye.

Translation:
That was my birthday.
That was a beautiful day.
Bye!