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# DER ERSTE SCHULTAG – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

## TEACHERS' NOTES

### Introduction

This presentation has been designed to familiarise young learners with the German tradition of celebrating the first day of school. It is suitable for learners with little German.

The first day of school is a very important day for pupils in Germany. The children celebrate this day with their family and friends. In this presentation, you will get to know the most common traditions which are associated with this celebration in Germany, such as die Schultüte (the "school cone") and der Schulranzen (the school bag).

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 asking pupils what they remember about their first day of school.
- 2** Anna introduces herself. She is going to lead the learners through some of the slides.
- 3** Anna tells you about her age. Children are usually 6 years of age when they enter school in Germany. In some cases they can also be 5 or 7 years old, depending on their date of birth.
- 4** Translation:  
*We are having a big party.*  
  
It is common to celebrate this exciting event with your parents, grandparents and friends. There is a celebration in the school where pupils from higher classes prepare a little programme for their new peers.

- 5** Translation:  
Family and friends are there, too.
- 6** The children receive many cards from their relatives and friends to congratulate them on this important day. This is an example of such a card.
- Suggestion for an activity: Ask your pupils to draw their own card, wishing somebody *“Alles Liebe zum 1. Schultag!”*
- 7** In this slide you can see a picture of a family. Terms for different members of the family in German are introduced.
- 8** Translation:  
Each child receives a *Schultüte* (“school cone”).
- This tradition is very popular and unique to the German speaking countries. Parents and other relatives give the child a cone made from cardboard, which is filled with sweets, stationary and little gifts. These cones come in all colours, designs and sizes. The biggest cone usually comes from the parents.
- 9** In this slide you can see what is in the *Schultüte*: sweets and stationary.
- 10** Quiz: What is not in the *Schultüte*?
- The pupils are supposed to find the three fibs: *eine Katze, ein Fisch, ein Brötchen*
- 11** Each child has his or her picture taken, usually with their school cone and a sign saying “Mein erster Schultag.” This picture is a nice souvenir for the child and the family.
- 12** Translation:  
The school cone has existed since 1810!
- This slide can be used to explain to the pupils that the Schultütetradition has existed in Germany for a long time.

**13**

Translation:

How old is this photograph? What do you think?

The pupils can try to guess how old the picture is by looking at the boy's clothes and shoes.

answer: The photograph was taken in 1900.

**14**

The school bag is another important gift that the child receives on his or her first day of school. In Germany, the bag for school kids has a special name (der Ranzen) and special features: it is usually not a conventional backpack, but specially shaped and bolstered not to hurt the child's back. It comes in all colours and designs and it features cat's eyes to enhance the child's safety on the way to school.

**15**

Anna speaks about her school bag. This slide can be used to repeat the colours in German, as you can ask each pupil to name the colour of his or her own school bag.

**16**

Quiz: What goes in the school bag?

The pupils are supposed to find the three right items: *der Radiergummi, das Schulheft, das Federmäppchen*

**17**

The first day of school is very much a happy day for the children. They enjoy the gifts and the celebration, and most of them are very proud to be entering school!

Translation:

On their first day of school, the children have lots of fun.

**18**

Anna is saying goodbye.

Translation:

That was a beautiful day. Bye!