

# INTERCULTURAL TRAINING

All activities are designed to work asynchronously and in-person. All topics consist of an introduction, followed by some activities. . They do not focus on “German” and “American” stereotypes, but try to show how globally interconnected the two cultures are.

Interactive tasks are vital for the success of the training. Experience has shown that students feel more encouraged to start an activity if the teacher or instructor has first given an example of the task at hand. Teachers/instructors are therefore encouraged to start each activity with an example.



## TOPIC OVERVIEW

Topic	(Inter-) Action	Time
INTRODUCTION	Text: <b>Reading</b>	5 min
LET'S GET STARTED	Forum: <b>Reading and answering questions</b>	10 min
NAMES	Wiki, Forum: <b>Researching on the internet, creating a post in the forum, answering questions</b>	15 min
FREE TIME LEISURE TIME	Photo Journey, Blog Post: <b>Taking pictures of free time activities, posting them in a blog post, commenting on others' blog posts</b>	15 min
LANGUAGES	Mix & Match, Interview, Forum: <b>Matching greetings and languages, interviewing a partner, presenting the partner in a forum post</b> <i>Optional: Animal languages</i>	20 min
GREETINGS	Pictures, Forum Post, Blog Post: <b>Taking pictures of different forms of greetings, creating a forum post, reflecting in a blog post</b>	15 min
MY INTERNATIONAL LIFE	Mapping, Blog Post: <b>Mapping where items come from, reflecting in a blog post</b>	10 min
IDEAS OF A NATION	Wiki, Blog Post: <b>Listing ideas of “typically German/U.S.-American” things, reflecting in a blog post</b>	10 min
HOLIDAYS	Mix & Match, Forum, Wiki: <b>Matching holidays and descriptions, reflecting on what is celebrated, writing a wiki on commonalities and differences between Germany and the U.S.</b>	15 min
SCHOOL	Blog Post: <b>Comparing important parts of school life</b>	10 min
WORLD TIME	Wiki: <b>Comparing schedules, researching additional time zones</b>	10 min
MY INTERNATIONAL DIET	Blog Post: <b>Sharing experiences with international food, sharing a new recipe</b>	15 min
REFLECTIONS	Journal: <b>Reflecting on the entire experience</b>	15 min

# INTRODUCTION



*“You are made up of your family, your friends, your neighborhood, your school, what you see on social media and read in books, what you hear and listen to, what you eat, what you wear, what you feel, your dreams, the stories you cannot wait to share and those you don’t want to tell. You are everything within you and everything that surrounds you.”*

*(Tiffany Jewell, This Book is Anti-Racist, p. 10)*

**That’s how we get to know each other,  
our neighborhoods and others’ neighborhoods,  
our nations and others’ nations,  
and even ourselves.**

# LET'S GET STARTED



Choose three questions and ask someone in the forum.  
Answer the questions assigned to you.

**What do you do first when you get up in the morning?**

**When do you have your best ideas?**

**What would you do if you had more free time?**

**If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would it be?**

**If you could change one thing on your street, what would it be?**

# NAMES



**Info:** What does your name mean? We may often forget our names have meanings at all. But when we're confronted with names we don't at first recognize as names—such as Lerato or Aishe—we may wonder what they mean.

**Add to the Wiki\_** Research the three most popular baby names in Germany and the U.S. in the current year and in your birth year. What do you think about those names?

Do they seem “normal”?

**Info:** Something is “normal” when it is common in our environment and we become used to it. That is, as you might guess, a matter of perspective.

For Lerato and Aishe, your name might sound unfamiliar and odd.

**Research what your name means, illustrate it, and upload the photo into the forum.**

**Look at the meaning of the other participants' names. Comment if you see a similar or opposite meaning.**

# FREE TIME, LEISURE TIME



**Info:** How people spend their free time varies across nations, regions and families. While the most common club sport in Germany is soccer, in the U.S. people often watch American football or basketball.

**Take us on a photo journey.** Take at least one picture of yourself on the way to or participating in one of your free time activities.

If possible, also take a picture of the people who participate in the activity with you.

Post them as a blog post. Look at the other participants' photo journeys. Comment on commonalities and differences.

**Where and how do you spend most of your time outside of school?**

**With whom do you spend it?**

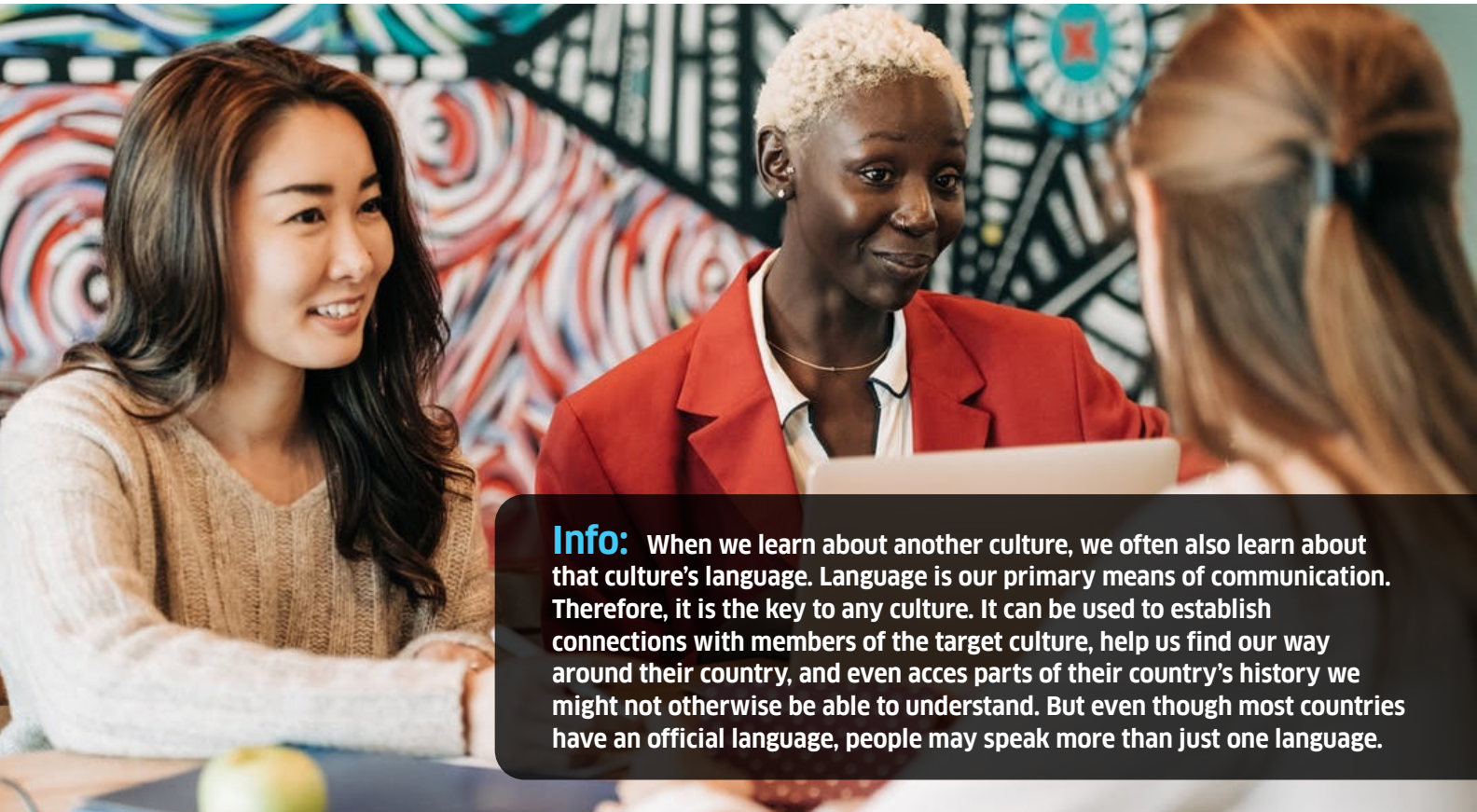
**How do you spend your free time?**

**How do you get there?**

**Optional:** Write a blog post. Who inspired you to pick this activity in particular? Someone in your family, someone famous, etc.?

Share a picture of them and explain how they inspired you.

# LANGUAGES



**Info:** When we learn about another culture, we often also learn about that culture's language. Language is our primary means of communication. Therefore, it is the key to any culture. It can be used to establish connections with members of the target culture, help us find our way around their country, and even access parts of their country's history we might not otherwise be able to understand. But even though most countries have an official language, people may speak more than just one language.

The languages in the list on the right are among the most common mother tongues in Germany and the United States.  
Match each language to the proper greeting.

**Konnichiwa**

**Salut**

**Merhaba**

**Ciao**

**Kumusta**

**Hola**

**Hallo**

**Hello**

**Cześć**

**Ni hao**

**Privyet**

**Xi chào**

French  
English  
Italian  
Spanish  
Chinese  
Japanese  
Turkish  
German  
Vietnamese  
Russian  
Tagalog  
Polish

# LANGUAGES

## Which languages do you speak?

Interview someone from your partner school, then introduce them in the forum.  
Use flags to show how many languages factor into their daily life..

## What language do they speak at home?

## What language do they speak with their friends?

What language have they heard in places they go,  
for example the supermarket, a friend's house, on vacation, etc.?

## What language do they want to learn and why?

**Optional:** Did you know that animals speak different languages as well? Watch these international versions of "Old McDonald has a farm" and add additional languages to the wiki.



Old McDonald: **English**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Th0txeldRzg>

Old McDonald: **German**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwMxNqIAqd4>

Old McDonald: **Spanish**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwkADbTrNrQ>

Old McDonald: **Korean**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7xPbmhbMV8>

# GREETINGS



**Info:** When we learn about a new culture, we want to know how to greet members of that culture respectfully. You may have heard statements like, “In Germany, we shake hands when we greet,” or, “In the U.S., we wave at people to say hello”. That sounds like a good rule of thumb, but greeting people is actually not so straightforward. See for yourself.

**Take a picture of yourself greeting the people below.**  
Look at the pictures students in your partner class took.  
Here are some greeting rituals: shaking hands, kissing cheeks, bowing, high fiving, ...

- How do you greet **which people**?
- How do you greet **your grandma**?
- How do you greet **your friends**?
- How do you greet **your parents' friends**?

Reflect on these questions with a blog post:  
**What other forms of greetings do you use?**  
**Which ones do you dislike?**  
**How do you know which form of greeting to use?**

**Optional:** Why do we shake hands?  
Watch these YouTube videos:

**The History  
(and uncertain Future)  
of the Handshake**

6:54min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E43sUDJBhN4&t=1s>

**Handshake -  
Origin of Shaking Hands**

1:36 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80-YixHgeno&t=2s>



# MY INTERNATIONAL LIFE



**Info:** You might think that because you live in Germany or the U.S., your life is purely German or American. The truth is that our lives are very international. We use brands from around the world, many of which have travelled through multiple countries on their way to us. Meanwhile, online games connect us to players from around the globe, and the internet allows us to read news breaking all over the world.

**How international is your life?** Write down where these everyday items are from:

**Your family's car** is from

**Your favorite food** is from

**Your favorite piece of clothing** is from

**Your favorite drink** is from

**Your cell phone** is from

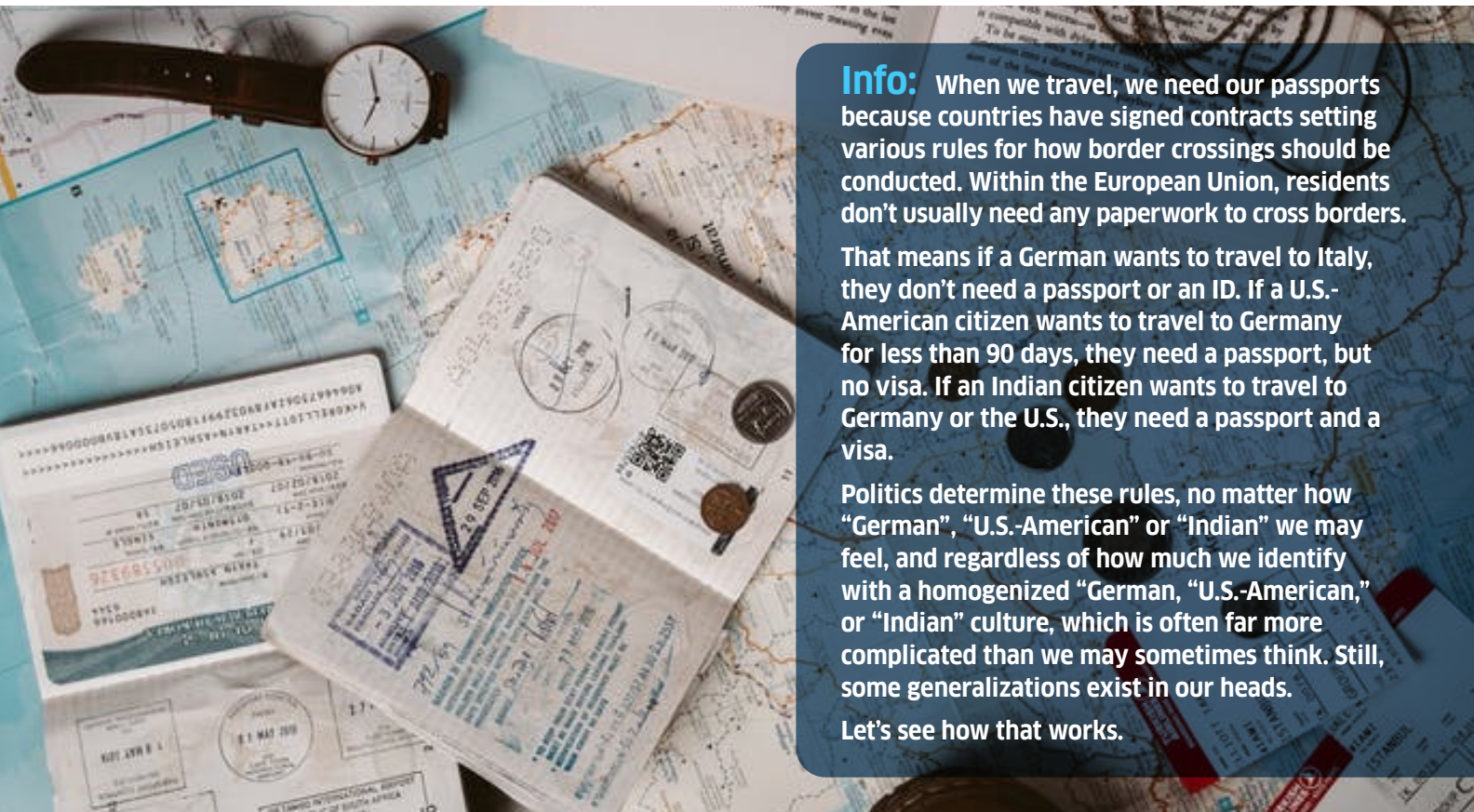
**The numbers that you use** are from

**The form of government that you live in** is from

Write a short blog post and reflect:

**Are you surprised by the outcome of the group? Why or why not?**

# IDEAS OF A NATION



**Info:** When we travel, we need our passports because countries have signed contracts setting various rules for how border crossings should be conducted. Within the European Union, residents don't usually need any paperwork to cross borders.

That means if a German wants to travel to Italy, they don't need a passport or an ID. If a U.S.-American citizen wants to travel to Germany for less than 90 days, they need a passport, but no visa. If an Indian citizen wants to travel to Germany or the U.S., they need a passport and a visa.

Politics determine these rules, no matter how "German", "U.S.-American" or "Indian" we may feel, and regardless of how much we identify with a homogenized "German, "U.S.-American," or "Indian" culture, which is often far more complicated than we may sometimes think. Still, some generalizations exist in our heads.

Let's see how that works.

**Add to the Wiki:** What do you think is typically U.S.-American/German?

**Write three things about your own nation and three things about the other nation.**

I am **U.S.-American**. Some typical **U.S.-American** things are...

I am **German**. Some typical **German** things are...

I am **German**. Some typical **U.S.-American** things are...

I am **U.S.-American**. Some typical **German** things are...

**Write a blog post and reflect on the following questions. Answer at least one:**

*Is what you think about your own nation identical with what other people think? Why or why not?*

*Where do you think those ideas come from?*

*What surprised you?*

# HOLIDAYS



**Info:** Holidays lend a natural rhythm to the year. We might plan to visit our relatives for Thanksgiving or Christmas or plan a Halloween party with friends. However, holidays vary between nations and communities.

Which holidays do you know? Match the holidays to their descriptions.

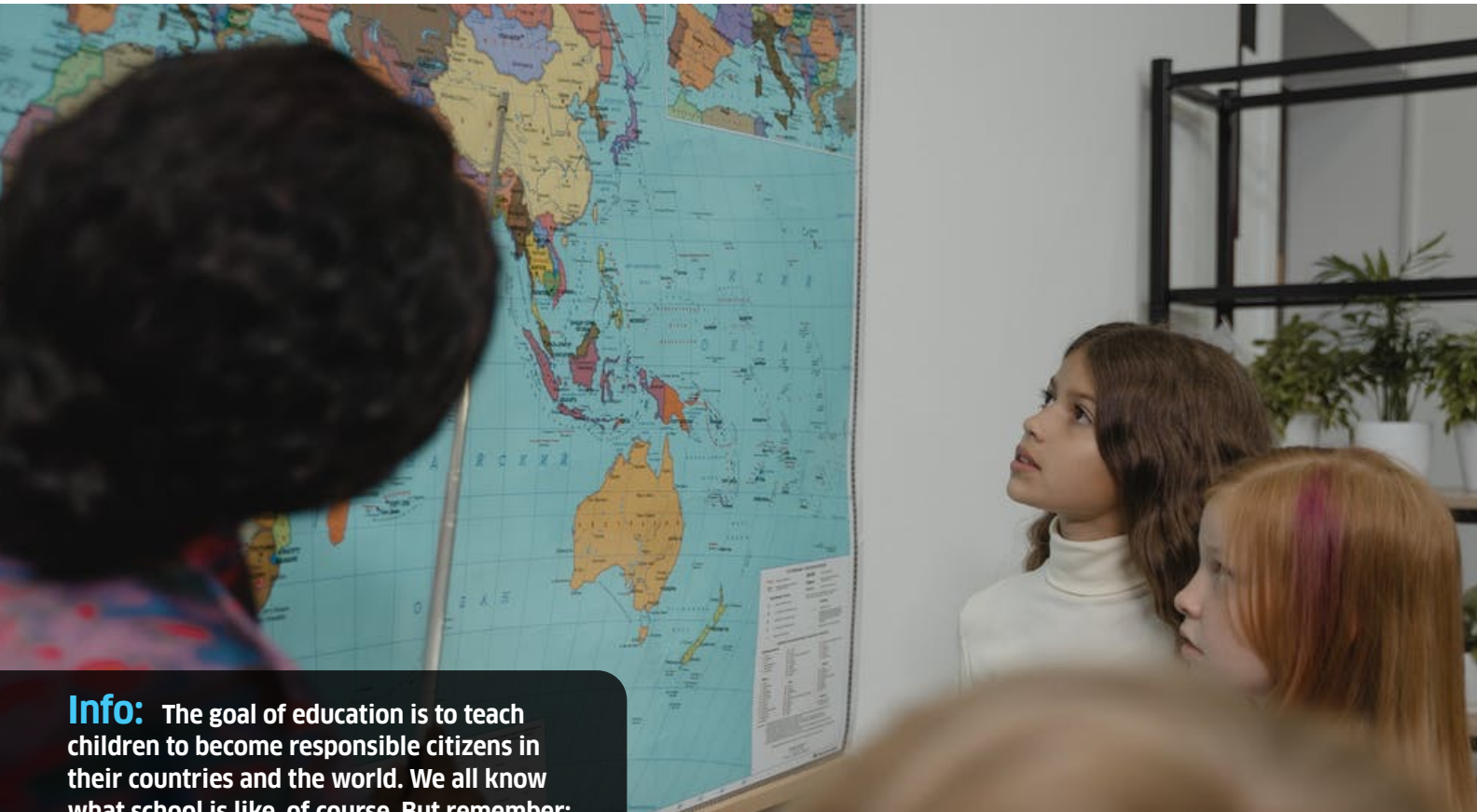
- Thanksgiving
- German Unity Day
- Valentine's Day
- Labor Day
- Mother's Day
- Jom Kippur
- Independence Day
- Christmas
- Halloween
- Holi
- Ramadan
- Easter
- Father's Day

- A** Custom on the eve of All Saints' Day. Children dress up in costumes and ask for sweets
- B** The Day of Atonement is the highest Jewish holiday
- C** Day in honor of the father
- D** Indian spring festival, festival of colors
- E** Day in honor of the mother
- F** The birth of Jesus
- G** Celebration showing gratitude for a good harvest
- H** Fasting month of the Muslims and ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Celebrates the arrival of the Qur'an.
- I** Celebration on the occasion of the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- J** Day of lovers, when people give each other flowers and sweets
- K** A federal holiday in the United States commemorating the declaration of independence from Britain.
- L** A day commemorating the U.S. labor movement
- M** A day commemorating German reunification in 1990 when the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) were reunited.

**Write your answers in the forum.**  
**Comment on at least one other post:**  
*Which ones do you know?*  
*Which ones do you and your family celebrate?*  
*Which ones would you like to celebrate?*

**Add to the Wiki:**  
**Which of these days exist only in Germany/only in the U.S.?**  
**Which ones exist in both?**  
**Are they celebrated on the same date?**

# SCHOOL



**Info:** The goal of education is to teach children to become responsible citizens in their countries and the world. We all know what school is like, of course. But remember: what may be considered normal in one classroom isn't necessarily the norm for every classroom across the world.

How might schools in the U.S. and Germany differ?

**Write a blog post on important aspects of school life.**  
You can choose to focus on only one aspect.

*How is the first day of school celebrated in Germany/the U.S.?  
Do you still have a picture of your first day of school?*

*How is the last day of (high) school celebrated?*

*What does a "normal" day of school look like?  
Does it involve an assembly, the national anthem, prayers,  
eating at a school canteen, a school uniform, etc.?  
Try to also describe aspects that seem normal to you.*

# WORLD TIME

**Info:** If you live in Germany, have you woken up in the middle of the night to watch the Super Bowl? If you live in the U.S., have you watched the Euro Cup on a Saturday morning?

We know that the world is divided into time zones, but it is weird and fascinating to imagine that while you are eating breakfast at 8 AM, someone is beginning to get ready for bed at 8 PM.

**Work on a wiki with your partner:** Fill in the schedule for your favorite day of the week.

U.S. TIME | MY ACTIVITY

GERMANY TIME | MY ACTIVITY

# WORLD TIME

**Write 5 sentences such as**

*“When you have breakfast, I come back from my soccer practice.”*

**or**

*“When I come back from school, you have dinner.”*



1

2

3

4

5

**Now, research what time it is in Hanoi, Canberra, Anchorage and Brasilia.**

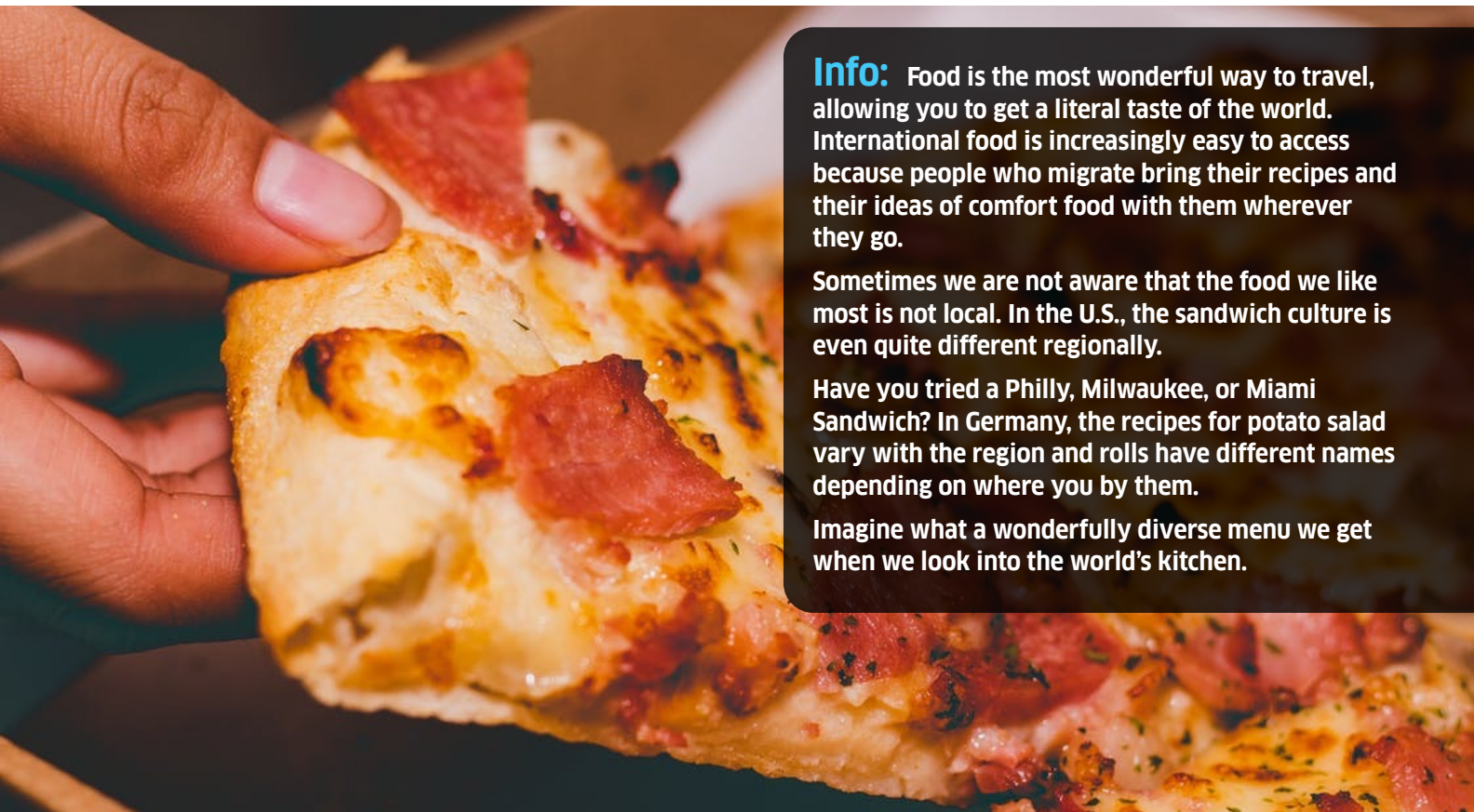
**Write 3 sentences what high school students there could do at these times.**

1

2

3

# MY INTERNATIONAL DIET



**Info:** Food is the most wonderful way to travel, allowing you to get a literal taste of the world. International food is increasingly easy to access because people who migrate bring their recipes and their ideas of comfort food with them wherever they go.

Sometimes we are not aware that the food we like most is not local. In the U.S., the sandwich culture is even quite different regionally.

Have you tried a Philly, Milwaukee, or Miami Sandwich? In Germany, the recipes for potato salad vary with the region and rolls have different names depending on where you buy them.

Imagine what a wonderfully diverse menu we get when we look into the world's kitchen.

Look at the (made-up) international menu and write a blog post:

What dishes have you tried already?

Which ones did you like?

Can you get these dishes where you live?

## STARTERS

Patatas Bravas  
Salad with Tuna  
Chicken Skewer with peanut sauce  
Empanadas  
Guacamole  
Bruschetta  
Spring Rolls

## MAIN DISHES

Pizza  
Pasta Vongole  
Spaghetti alla Carbonara  
Schnitzel with Fries  
Cevapcici  
Cheeseburger  
Ostrich Steak  
Sushi Platter  
Döner Kebab  
Gyros  
Thai Curry  
Beef Stroganoff  
Fondue  
Mac and Cheese  
Chili con Carne

## DESSERTS

Crème brûlée  
Apfelstrudel  
Alfajores  
Baklava  
Cannoli  
Black Forest Cake  
Cinnamon Rolls  
Chocolate Mousse  
Coconut Cake  
Cornes de Gazelle  
Dan Tats  
Eszterházy Torta  
Flan  
Gelato  
Japanese Cheesecake  
Paulova  
Jian Dui  
Triamisù

Present a dish that is not on the list but that you like very much. Post a picture, so that we know how it looks.

# REFLECTION



**Write a journal entry.**

Only you and your teacher/instructor will see your answers.

**What did you learn?**

**What surprised you the most?**

**How do you think about differences and commonalities between the German and the U.S.-American students now?**