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Exploring your country

by [Larissa Aksinovits](#)

Exploring your country - making a video presentation about your country

Context

The project is interconnected with the topics of identity (multicultural identity, the feeling of belonging and being proud of the place you live in) and knowledge (various fields of knowledge - history, geography, arts and culture)

Aim

To develop the following academic skills: reading, writing, speaking, listening, information search, planning and time management, group work and collaboration. It is usually challenging for home language class students to speak/write about matters related to mainstream culture, history, geography, holidays, because they used to speak about these issues in the language of instruction (Finnish in our case) and find it difficult to switch into their mother tongue, because they lack the vocabulary.

Content

1. Active brainstorming: students are asked to collect and write down the ideas on the interesting things about Finland: the national symbols, history, people, inventions, food, places, literature, sports.
2. Teacher collects the lists and compiles the ideas into one general list and hands it to the student on the next lesson.
3. Students are divided into groups (or stay in the same groups as in the previous lesson), five things for information search each. They have to negotiate with each other and agree to divide the topics in the way that each student has a different topic. Some help from the teacher might be needed.
4. Students proceed to information search and write down notes on their topics. They also search for pictures to illustrate their written texts or draw the pictures themselves. Teacher prints the pictures out if needed.
5. Posters are made at the next step (activities involve glueing the texts and the pictures, designing the poster)
6. A video presentation is made as the last step. Students read their text once again and then they can go to some quiet place in the school building to make a video presentation with their telephones.

It is realistic to take into consideration that the project takes 4-5 weeks to complete.

Form

Group work



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Adjustments

Students of all the different levels can participate. The ones that do not speak a lot can still participate in the group work and listen or act as a video operator.

Assessment

It was a fun activity for the students. Even not too motivated students participated (wrote very short texts, though. Some students were very fast to search for information, write texts and make a video. For some groups it took several hours more time to complete the project. The “slower” categories: very creative students in the same group had a lot of ideas to discuss and the excitement was too large to handle; groups with some slower or less motivated students, who slowed down their group’s active proceeding.