



Atatürk and Turkish National Days

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A Cultural Education Program

Turkish Culture and Tradition

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1 Aim of the program and motivation

The project 'Turkish Culture and Tradition' (short: T-Cat), took place in Braunschweig from January 30th until February 8th 2014. German and Turkish students – in total 20 - worked together to realize our goal – informing german students about turkish culture, and to fight prejudices and bias.

The aim of this educational program called “Atatürk and Turkish National Days” is to teach the student about the founder of the Republic of Turkey, Atatürk, and thus learn about the foundations of today’s Turkish Culture and Traditions.

During this class the main focus lies on the life and work of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. As a turkish hero and revolutionist Atatürk is still a role model to many turks in these days and marks the foundation of turkish culture. It is vital for the understanding of today’s relations in Turkey to learn about the political and social influences of Kemal Atatürk in the past. In addition the class also approaches the most important national days. These and their background show different historic and social aspects important to Turkish culture.

2 Overview of the lesson

Name of the unit	What happens in general	Aim of the Unit	Timeframe
Personal Hero? (Introduction)	Students are supposed to name their personal hero and give reasons why.	Students should think of people and characteristics, which are important to them. Introduction / connection to the main topic.	15 min
Life of Atatürk (Slide show)	Presentation of Atatürk's life including some discussions.	Getting to know the Life of Atatürk and his work of life.	15 min
The six principles of Atatürk	Students are divided in six groups. Each group has to present and discuss one principle to/with the others.	Deal with the principles and develop their own opinion.	45 min
National Days (Slide show)	Presentation of national days	Showing the influence of Atatürk on the current situation.	15 min

3 Teaching units

3.1 Personal Hero?

Time:

15 minutes

Material:

- None

Realisation:

To introduce the students to the topic of Atatürk as a national hero and important leader of Turkey the students are asked to think of a person who is their biggest hero. At this point the students do not know the exact topic of the following class. Each student tells everybody about their personal hero and explains their decision underlining the characteristics of their hero. In the end one of the turkish students will present Kemal Atatürk as their personal hero and explain his character to introduce the students to the following unit.

Conclusion:

Students should think of people and characteristics, which are important to them. Introduction to the role model Atatürk.

3.2 Life of Atatürk

Time:

15 minutes

Material:

- Slide show
- Computer, Beamer etc.

Realisation:

In this unit the life of Atatürk is presented to the students. The presentation includes the following aspects:

- Childhood
- Education
- Military career
- Characteristics
- Political and social work

In the following the students are encouraged to discuss certain phrases or steps Atatürk made in his life and to reflect on them in context to their own life.

Conclusion:

During the presentation the students will figure out how the different phases of Atatürk's life has later influence his character, his political decisions and social behaviour.

3.3 The six principles of Atatürk

Time:

45 minutes

Materials:

- Paper slips with explanation of the six principles

Realisation:

In the beginning the students are separated into six different groups. Each group will get one paper slip which will have information about one of Atatürk's principles written on it. The principles are:

- Republicanism
- Populism
- Laicism
- Revolutionism
- Nationalism
- Statism

In these groups the students will figure out the meaning of their principle, explain it to each other and ask the teacher if they are unsure about something. Then they are asked to discuss the consequences this principle could have or already has in a political and social sense.

The main part of this unit will be the presentation of each principle to the class. During these presentations the teacher will encourage the students to discuss the principles including the following aspects:

- Enlargement of the EU
- Kurden
- Death penalty
- Homophobia in Turkey
- Empowerment of the woman
- Atatürk a sign of increased nationalism?

Conclusion:

This unit will teach the students about the political and social foundations of the Republic of Turkey. The discussion will encourage a critical view of the present situation of Turkey compared to the original mentality Atatürk's.

3.4 Turkish National Days

Time:

15 minutes

Materials:

- Slide show “Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and his life”
- Computer, Beamer etc.

Realisation:

The following national days will be presented to the students:

- National sovereignty and children’s day
- Youth and Sports day
- Victory Day

Conclusion:

This supports the statement that Atatürk is still in the mind of the turks and that they are still connected to Atatürks believes and achievements.

4 List of all materials

- Computer, Beamer, etc.
- Slide show of Atatürk's life and Turkish national days
- Paper slips with explanation of the six principles