

Using a culture box in the language classroom

Top tips for creating a culture box

- Print a 'Wanted for My Culture Box' poster to display in the school
- Encourage students to bring back things like leaflets, tickets and receipts if they go on holidays or on a school exchange to the target language country/ies
- Look for items in supermarkets and shops from the target country/ies
- Ask e-pals to send items from their country, local, area, school, etc.
- Source tourist information leaflets in the target language at your local tourist office, museums or galleries
- Include DVDs and CDs from the target country
- Write to the embassies for the target countries and request posters and brochures for your school's culture box
- Source authentic artefacts for your culture box such as magazines and newspapers
- Include receipts, timetables, menus, etc.
- Scan, laminate and print multiple copies of items from your culture box for use in classroom activities
- Use the internet as a possible source of authentic materials such as timetables, menus and maps

Suggestions for activities

- Place postcards on a map of the target country and find out more about the places in groups
- Do a cultural audit comparing and contrasting photos from your country with those from the target country
- Collect supermarket advertising /mail order catalogues and create your own shopping list
- Listen and respond to music from the target country
- Ask your pupils to choose their favourite item from the culture box and give their reason for doing so
- Do a WebQuest using internet pages in the target language
- Create a town trail using tourist brochures, menus, postcards, receipts, etc.
- Use some of the materials from the culture box as props for role plays
- Do simple map reading activities using town maps from the target country
- With wrappers from food and drink items, design a collage from the produce of the target country
- Collect artefacts from the target country – let your students guess their use
- Ask students to fill in speech bubbles or create captions for a number of selected photos from newspapers/sports magazines/teen magazines/cartoons, etc.
- Use newspapers and magazines for classroom activities
- Give students maps and receipts from your culture box and ask them to create an "A day in the life of..." presentation
- Prepare an itinerary for a visitor
- Use artefacts from your culture box to explore aspects of life in the target language countries