

CULTURE BOX

"My Journey as a Language Assistant"



My time as a language assistant at Lucan Community College has been an incredibly educational journey that has allowed me to develop as a teacher and share my culture and language.

To represent this wonderful journey, my culture box illustrates a train, in which every carriage has a special focus. It is coloured in my home country Austria's colours red, white, and red and it is filled with symbols and cultural artifacts that my CTs and I have included into our German classes throughout the year. We created my culture box together with the help of our TY students.





CARRIAGE 1 – FÜHRERSTAND

The first carriage is the driver’s cabin. When looking through the front window, you can see me as the driver, wearing the traditional Austrian dirndl and a driver’s hat. Since the driver decides on the destination, this was the perfect opportunity to bring in the Austrian maps that I had used in class with the 1st years. When they were on the topic of directions, I brought some physical maps of my hometown Linz and we explored some of the sights while simultaneously learning to give and follow directions.



WEGBESCHREIBUNGEN IN LINZ

Helft den Leuten, den richtigen Weg zu finden! Verwendet den Imperativ!

Ich bin am **Hauptplatz**.

Wie komme ich zur **Landesbibliothek**?



Ich bin bei der **Landesbibliothek**.

Wie komme ich zum **Neuen Rathaus**?



Of course, whoever is sitting in the driver’s seat also gets to pick the music. When the 2nd years were on the topic of leisure time and music, I took the opportunity to teach them about Austrian musicians from different genres and periods. While listening to these artists, I asked the students to rate the songs and then use the phrase “Ich höre (nicht) gerne” to describe their taste in music. Some of the Austrian musicians, such as Mozart, Wanda, Rainhard Fendrich, and Andreas Gabalier are portrayed on the back wall of the driver’s cabin.

🎵 Musik in Österreich 🇦🇹

1. Höre die Lieder und kreuze an, wie gerne du sie hörst! 🗣️ ✕

Ich höre ...		🙄 gar nicht gerne	😐 nicht gerne	😊 gerne	🥰 sehr gerne
	Klassische Musik Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart				
	Rock Bilderbuch				
	Popmusik Mathea				
	Schlager DJ Ötzi				

2. Frage deine/n Partner/in! 🗣️

Hörst du **gerne** Popmusik / Rap / Volksmusik / Austropop ...?

Nein, ich höre **gar nicht gerne** 🙄 / **nicht gerne** 😐 Popmusik / Rap / ...

Ja, ich höre **gerne** 😊 / **sehr gerne** 🥰 Popmusik / Rap / ...

3. Schreibe 3 Sätze über dich und deine/n Partner/in in dein Heft! 📝

z.B.: Ich höre gar nicht gerne Popmusik aber Lisa hört sehr gerne Popmusik.
Ich höre nicht gerne Rap und Lisa hört auch nicht gerne Rap.

In the driver’s cabin, we can also find a little booklet called “Wir können alles sein, Baby”. This represents a German poem by Julia Engelmann that I read with students of all year groups. Based on their language level, we translated single words or even whole paragraphs together. The main goal was to show them that German is not an isolated language and that there are loads of songs, movies, and poems (“Gedichte”) for them to explore.



CARRIAGE 2 – SPEISEWAGEN

The second carriage is the dining car and it is dedicated to the topic of food. Since the topic of food is so big and fun, I incorporated it into our German lessons several times throughout the year. A special project was the Think Languages day, where I held a workshop on traditional Austrian cookies and introduced the students to Linzer Augen, a cookie recipe from my home town Linz. The students learned about the ingredients, the recipe, and the origin of Linzer Augen. They even got to assemble and taste the cookies themselves. In my culture box, this workshop is represented by the Linzer Augen recipe book that the students got to take home and a few cardboard Linzer Augen that are clipped to the wall of the carriage.

On the opposite wall, we find a menu that I made for my 2nd year students when we were on the topic of food and drinks. The menu is based on my favourite restaurant in Linz “Gasthaus zum schiefen Apfelbaum” and only contains authentic food and drink choices. We used these booklets for roleplays and the students got to play waiters and guests in their fictional Austrian restaurant. In the middle of the carriage, we find a little table that is made up of Austrian Manner Wafferl. It is surrounded by four chairs, which are conversation cubes that I used to practice general conversation and different tenses.

The carriage’s walls are covered in pictures of typical Austrian dishes, such as Schnitzel, Linzer Torte, and Sacher Torte. I introduced the 1st and 5th years to typical Austrian food with a little quiz and a song called “Aber bitte mit Sahne”. We talked about typical starters and main courses, such as Kaspressknödelsuppe and Schweinsbraten, and learned about desserts, such as HARIBO Goldbären, and Mozartkugeln, which are also displayed in the culture box.



Die Hinterbliebenen fanden vor Schmerz keine Worte; mit Sacher und Linzer und Marzipantorte hielt als letzte Liliane getreu noch zur Fahne,
ABER BITTE MIT SAHNE!
The one's left behind could find no words for the pain. .
With Sacher, Linzer, and Marzipan cake, Liliane stayed true!
But please with whipped cream!





CARRIAGE 3 - FESTE & FEIERN

The third carriage is dedicated to the topic of festivities and represents different Austrian holidays that we celebrated throughout the year. The first holiday that came up in my time as a German language Assistant was the Austrian national holiday on October 26th. I reminded all year groups that it was the Austrian national holiday but with the 5th years, I went into more detail on the topic. I explained the origin of the holiday, and showed them the official Austrian hymn “Land der Berge” as well as the unofficial hymn “I am from Austria”.

Die österreichische Bundeshymne

Land der Berge, Land am Strome,
 Land der Äcker, Land der Dome,
 Land der Hämmer, zukunftsreich.
 Heimat großer Töchter und Söhne,
 Volk, begnadet für das Schöne,
 Vielgerühmtes Österreich, vielgerühmtes Österreich.



Nationalfeiertag

26. Oktober 1955

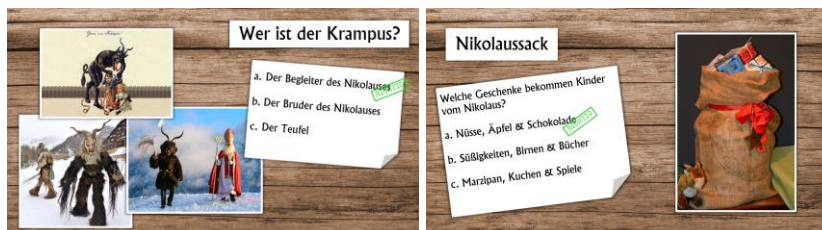


1. Geschichte – Decide whether these statements are true or false!

Der österreichische Nationalfeiertag ist am 28. November.
 Es wird gefeiert, dass Österreich ein freier und neutraler Staat ist.
 Am Nationalfeiertag sind alle Schulen und Geschäfte geschlossen.
 Nach dem ersten Weltkrieg war Österreich von den Alliierten besetzt.

richtig ✓	falsch ✗
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The next holiday was Nikolaustag, which is celebrated on the 6th December. I told the students about Nikolaus and Krampus, and we did a little quiz that included a few facts on the holiday as well as some pictures of my family celebrating Nikolaustag. They were all quite shocked and interested when I showed them a video clip of a typical Krampuslauf, which is a parade where people dress up as Krampus and run through the streets. In my culture box, we can see a Krampus looking through the window.



In February, I also did some fun activities on the topic of Fasching, which is an Austrian and Southern German version of Carneval. I introduced the 1st years to a song that is typically played in Fasching season, the Fliegerlied. Together, we sang and danced along to the lyrics, which include “Ich flieg wie ein Flieger” and “Ich bin groß wie eine Giraffe”. This is why I put an airplane and a giraffe in my culture box as well. I also told my students about Faschingsparaden and traditional dancing and showed them pictures of me and my Austrian dance group.



MY JOURNEY

As a whole, my culture box represents the incredible journey that the language assistance programme has allowed me to go on. It holds so many memories of teaching and bonding experiences that I have had throughout the year and shows how many great opportunities I have had to share my culture with students and teachers. I have profited immensely from my time as a language assistant and I dearly hope that my students and teachers can say the same.

