

## Languages in Context – Teacher Guide

### Foreign Language Tourist Fair

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#### What is a Foreign Language Tourist Fair?

Holding a Foreign Language Tourist Fair is a great way to get pupils using a foreign language in a real-life context.

In the course of the day, they will learn about the language of the tourist industry, look at key vocabulary and create a display to showcase their local area to foreign visitors.

#### TOP TIP

Add extra relevance by including a theme based on major sporting or cultural events in your area.

#### WHY NOT TRY...?

If pupils have recently been on a school trip or exchange, they could promote that region, rather than their home area.

#### Which pupils would benefit?

This is an extremely flexible activity and can be used with any foreign language.

It can be a boisterous activity for Years 8/9, with a large amount of “cutting and sticking” and basic language, or older students could use multimedia resources and highlight specific attributes of the region using more advanced structures and vocabulary.

#### Introductory Sessions

It is worth making sure that students have the necessary language skills that they will need to participate in their Foreign Language Tourist Fair.

It makes sense to start the day with introductory sessions to cover these areas:

- 1) Language for Tourism - Pupils are taught common phrases and vocabulary that are useful in the tourist industry
- 2) Other specific language – if there is a theme for the Foreign Language Tourist Fair, e.g. a famous nearby sporting or cultural event, or a particular attraction, this language can be covered here. For example, a Tour de France themed event would cover cycling terms.

#### DON'T FORGET!

Students will need to use this language later to create their Tourist Fair.  
Do they need hand-outs? Could there be a wall display for reference?

## The Tourist Fair

Give the students their brief – *in the foreign language if possible, depending on their level*

An example:

***“We have just heard that some very important visitors will be arriving from France at 2pm. They do not speak any English and need to find out as much as possible about our region.***

***You are employed by the Tourist Office and need to create a display in French, explaining all about our local area.***

***You can include information about the countryside, coast, cities, culture, sport, historical sites, museums or any other attractions.”***

Split the pupils into groups of 5-8 and allow between 60 and 90 minutes to create the display.

Provide each group with materials, such as:

- Tourist brochures, postcards, leaflets, newspapers, magazines, featuring scenes and attractions from the region – all to be cut up and used in the displays.
- Paper in various colours, sizes, textures, to be used as background or to be part of the decoration.
- Scissors, sellotape, glue, blu-tac
- Pens, crayons, pencils, felt-tip pens – all in various colours
- For older students, multimedia resources might be more appropriate, such as computers with colour printers.

### ADDITIONAL TASKS....

Stretch more advanced learners by asking them to produce more extensive information about attractions or the region's heritage.

It is best to give each group a section of wall and a table, as some might wish to create some three-dimensional content.

Make sure that the wall will not be damaged by sticking materials to it!

### TOP TIP

Encourage groups to share out different tasks amongst them. This allows pupils with different abilities and talents to contribute to areas where they are most confident.

Provide some questions that the visitors will ask each group when they arrive:

- At a basic level, “What is there to do here?”
- For more advanced students, try topics like “What advantages does tourism bring to our region?”
- If you have a theme for the day, refer to this in at least one question.

### ANOTHER IDEA...

Could you get some sixth form or university students to attend the fair and support younger pupils?

At the agreed time, the “visitors” arrive.

The visitors should be speakers of the foreign language, who are able to judge which group are the best

The decision on the winning team should be based on both the foreign language skills and the visual impact of the display.