Didactic applications of relevant pedagogical, geographical, historical and cultural aspects

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Title: Didactic applications of relevant pedagogical, geographical, historical and cultural aspects.

Abstract
Didactic applications of relevant pedagogical, geographical, historical and cultural aspects. At Primary Education, students should acquire meaningful socio-cultural aspects, close to their interests and motivations, of the countries where the foreign language is spoken. The main socio cultural aspects related to the English speaking countries we can teach in the English class are: Geographical aspects, Historical aspects and Cultural aspects. In this article you can find examples of activities to get this objective.

Keywords: Methodology, culture

Título: Aplicaciones didácticas más relevantes en aspectos geográficos, históricos y culturales.

Resumen
Aplicaciones didácticas más relevantes en aspectos geográficos, históricos y culturales en la enseñanza del inglés como segunda lengua. En Educación Primaria, a la hora de enseñar una segunda lengua hay muchos aspectos a tener en cuenta, entre ellos la cultura, geografía y la historia de los países en los que se habla ese idioma. Aquí podemos ver una serie de ejemplos de actividades para poder desarrollar en nuestros alumnos estos conceptos.

Palabras clave: Metodología, cultura.

At Primary Education, students should acquire meaningful socio-cultural aspects, close to their interests and motivations, of the countries where the foreign language is spoken.

The main socio cultural aspects related to the English speaking countries we can teach in the English class are:

- Geographical aspects
- Historical aspects
- Cultural aspects

A. GEOGRAPHICAL ASPECTS

We can teach the main English speaking countries, cities, weather... Some ideas are:

- Maps- They are very useful to locate countries, cities, important places.
- For example: to show students where is Nottingham when you are working Robin Hood Story.
- Flags- Students can practice the names of the countries and its nationalities.
- Quizzes- we can prepare a quizz game about curiosities, characteristics of English speaking countries.
- Listening- students can listen to the different accents.
- Play the differences- Between English and American words or expressions.
- Make a video tour for the capital cities and find characteristics similarities and differences.
- Sing the song "Let’s call the whole thing off" by Louis Armstrong, about different pronunciations.
B. HISTORICAL ASPECTS

The students should know about the history of the country and can learn relevant events, through these resources:

- Comics- about relevant historical characters such as: King Arthur, Robin Hood...
- Text- students can read text about past events to learn past tense.
- Videos or films about historical background such as Pocahontas, King Arthur and the round table...
- Songs to introduce historical elements such as:
  - "London’s burning"
  - "Molly Malone"- The Irish fisher
  - "Bloody Sunday" by U2.
- Projects about historical events of the English speaking countries.
C. CULTURAL ASPECTS

In Primary Education cultural aspects include a variety of topics: social conventions, schools, food and drink, money, festivals, music, TV programmes, sports...

We can teach English cultural aspects in a motivating way by using the following activities:

- Role play and simulations- Each student has a role or simulate that they are different people.
- Projects- students have to work on a topic using their previous knowledge and finding out more. For example: students have to compare Spanish and British culture. If we allow them using computers they will also be developing ICT competence.
- Realia- The use of real objects motivates students. We can use realia in communicative activities... Realia things such as posters, tickets, money, magazines, labels, postcards, food...
- Recipes- Cooking recipes to learn new vocabulary about festivities such as pancakes.
- Jokes- Jokes also transmit British humour, habits... For example:
  "Which one is the best Christmas carol for parents? 
  Silent night."
- Stories- popular stories of the Anglo-Saxon culture also transmit habits, attitudes and ways of life of the target language.
- Celebration in class- one of the best ways to bring into the class cultural aspects is to celebrate the festivities: Halloween, Christmas, St Valentine, Easter...