Voluntourism

Eine Zeit als Freiwilliger im Ausland bei einem Projekt mitzuarbeiten kann nicht nur eine tolle Erfahrung sein, sondern auch die fachlichen, die sozialen und die interkulturellen Kompetenzen erweitern.

**Voluntourism**

Voluntourism lets you combine a holiday with useful voluntary work and is becoming an increasingly popular form of travel. Adam, who has just left school, is thinking about trying out voluntourism for himself.

**Lots of options**

**Susi:** Have you made any holiday plans, Adam?

**Adam:** Yes, I have. I’m thinking of going on a volunteering holiday for the summer.

**Susi:** A volunteering holiday?

**Adam:** Yes. You travel to some far-off country for a few weeks and work there as a volunteer.

**Susi:** Doing what?

**Adam:** Oh, all sorts of things: helping in an orphanage, for example, or building a school, or something to do with wildlife conservation. I’m still looking at various options.

**Susi:** That sounds interesting! But isn’t it quite expensive?

**Adam:** Not really! They usually pay for your accommodation and food, and you get to see a new country!

**Second thoughts**

**Susi:** Hi, Adam! Have you booked your volunteering holiday yet?

**Adam:** No. To be honest, I’m having second thoughts.

**Susi:** Why’s that?

**Adam:** Well, if I go and help build a school in Angola, say, I might be taking work away from the locals. I wouldn’t want to do that.

**Susi:** Yes, that’s true. And if you work in an orphanage for a few weeks, you might break a child’s heart when you leave.

**Adam:** Exactly! I also read about a voluntourism organization the other day that was shown to be a scam. There are good organizations out there, but you have to do your homework and weigh up the pros and cons.

**Back at home**

**Susi:** Wow, Adam! You look well. Have you been on holiday?

**Adam:** Yes. I’ve just come back from my volunteering trip. Remember?

**Susi:** Oh, yes, of course. So, where did you end up going?

**Adam:** To Romania.

**Susi:** Romania? I thought you were going to, say, Peru or Cambodia or somewhere exotic like that.

**Adam:** No. I decided I’m not cut out for exotic places and I wanted to do something I am good at. So I looked nearer to home and found a volunteering project coaching football. It was great!
1. Vocabulary: crossword

Use the words in bold from the dialogue above to complete the crossword.

CLUES
Across
4. An adjective meaning “healthy”.
5. Not having the qualities needed for a particular activity.
6. To finally be in a place or a situation after a series of events.
7. The protection of the natural environment.
8. A home for children whose parents are dead.
9. To work willingly without being paid, or a person who works without being paid.
10. A short form of “let’s say” meaning “for example”.
11. A clever but dishonest plan for making money.

Down
1. Another way of saying “recently” or “a short time ago”.
2. A change of opinion; not being sure whether you have made the right decision.
3. Another way of saying “advantages and disadvantages”.
4. Animals, birds, insects, etc. that are wild and live in a natural environment.

2. Translation

Translate the words and phrases from the crossword above into German and write them in your notebook. An example has been done for you.

well (= healthy) = gesund

3. Group discussion

Are you interested in going on a volunteering holiday? Why / Why not? Where would you like to go? What would you like to do? Why?

4. Text comprehension:

Are the following statements true, false or not in the text? How do you know? Write in your notebook. An example has been done for you.

Adam is a school pupil. False — he has just left school.

Volunteering whilst on holiday has always been very popular.

There are numerous activities you can do on a volunteering holiday.

You have to stay wherever you volunteer for at least six months.

Volunteering in certain countries takes jobs away from local inhabitants.

Volunteering agencies are always a good place to find a volunteering holiday.

You have to try a new activity when you go on a volunteering holiday.

Most volunteers want to work in exotic countries.
Notes for teachers

Language Level: B2-C1 on CEFR.
Language level: B1-B2 on CEFR.
New B2-level vocabulary: includes idiomatic expressions such as well; be cut out for; end up; say; the other day; second thoughts; pros and cons, and content-related nouns such as wildlife conservation; volunteer; orphanage; scam.
Language & skills practice: vocabulary; reading comprehension.
Content aim: to introduce the concept of “voluntourism” (=volunteering holidays) and to encourage evaluative discussion about spending time abroad as a volunteer.
Procedure: best used in a double lesson, or give reading, crossword & translation as homework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>5 mins</td>
<td>Can also be done at home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossword &amp; Translation</td>
<td>20 mins</td>
<td>Can also be done at home</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Check crossword &amp; translation answers before proceeding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>15-20 mins</td>
<td>Best done in small groups (4-5 pupils).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text comprehension</td>
<td>10-15 mins</td>
<td>Check answers in plenum &amp; use answers to highlight key facts about volunteering holidays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Find out more about a volunteering holiday you would be interested in, and how to apply.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answers

**Reading 5 mins** Can also be done at home

**Crossword & Translation 20 mins** Can also be done at home

Check crossword & translation answers before proceeding.

**Discussion 15-20 mins** Best done in small groups (4-5 pupils).

Check answers in plenum & use answers to highlight key facts about volunteering holidays.

**Text comprehension 10-15 mins** Check answers in plenum & use answers to highlight key facts about volunteering holidays.

**Homework Optional** Find out more about a volunteering holiday you would be interested in, and how to apply.

**Crossword**

4 WELL
5 NOT CUT OUT FOR
6 END UP
7 CONSERVATION
8 ORPHANAGE
9 VOLUNTEER
10 SAY
11 SCAM
12 WILDLIFE

**Translation**

well gesund
not cut out for für etwas nicht gemacht
end up +ing letztendlich tun
conservation Naturschutz
orphanage Waisenhaus
volunteer ehrenamtlich arbeiten / Freiwillige(r)
say zum Beispiel
scam Betrug / Schwindel
the other day kürzlich
to have second thoughts es sich anders überlegen
pros and cons Vor- und Nachteile
wildlife Wildtiere

Across

4 WILDLIFE
3 PROS AND CONS
2 SECOND THOUGHTS
1 THE OTHER DAY
11 SCAM
10 SAY
9 VOLUNTEER
8 ORPHANAGE
7 CONSERVATION
6 END UP
5 NOT CUT OUT FOR
4 WELL

In fünf Schritten zum Studium, Praktikum oder Sprachkurs im Ausland: „studieren weltweit – ERLEBE ES!” liefert die wichtigsten Informationen, Organisations- und Planungshilfen für einen Auslandsaufenthalt während des Studiums. Schau dir die Infos jetzt schon an und lass dich von Correspondents - Studierende, die weltweit live von ihren Aufenthalten berichten und Tipps geben - inspirieren!

Hol dir die Infos und Inspiration auf studieren-weltweit.de und auf instagram.com/studierenweltweit, facebook.com/studierenweltweit, twitter.com/studieren_ww. Informationen zu allen englischsprachigen Ländern dieser Welt findest du außerdem unter: daad.de/launderinformationen.

Fotos: Clare Maas

Clare Maas
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