

Spotlight

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ERLEBE ES!

Fascinated by Urban Farms



Lisa-Marie ist gerade aus den USA zurückgekommen, wo sie ein Jahr als Austauschstudentin verbracht hat. Sie musste einen Bericht für ihre Heimatuniversität verfassen, in dem sie ihre Erfahrungen und Erlebnisse schildert. Lesen Sie hier einen Auszug aus ihrem Bericht.

SCHWER by Clare Maas

Having spent a year in Portland, Oregon, at a partner institution of my home university, I have encountered various new concepts and perceptions. One particularly pertinent example of a new concept I have encountered, and which I can envisage implementing in my home town, is urban farming. Around Oregon, there are these farms within the cities, which are often community-run resources to provide organic food to the local inhabitants. Being run by volunteers, they improve community relationships and offer an awareness of farming to people who live in built-up areas. Near my halls of residence was Zenger Farm, which has four acres of vegetable crops and fruit orchards, as well as chickens, honeybees and composting worms. Zenger Farm is particularly large for an urban farm; many of them are on small plots of land between apartment blocks. The majority of urban

farms apply sustainable farming practices to grow healthy food while protecting the land for future generations. Moreover, they usually promote organic farming, without the use of synthetic products. In Portland, I experienced how these farms constitute key components in the local communities. Zenger Farm is funded by donations from the public, and offers great opportunities for local residents to get involved, for instance with school trips, family cooking workshops and farmers markets. I was incredibly impressed at the value of these farms in terms of community feeling, healthy eating and environmental protection. I hope that the mayor of my home town is equally enthusiastic about starting an urban farm project: that would be an amazing example of the intercultural exchange that spending time abroad can bring about!

acre

• Morgen (Flächenmaß, ca. 4047 m²)

halls of residence

• Studentenwohnheim

The words you need

Wie können Sie als Lehrer oder Lehrerin den Text in Ihrer Klasse bearbeiten?

LEICHT MITTEL SCHWER

1. Vocabulary	5
<p>Find the nouns in the text that match the following definitions.</p> <p>a. a belief or an image you have as a result of how you understand something</p> <p>b. a small piece of land that is used or intended for a special purpose</p> <p>c. a supply of something that a country, an organization or a person has and can use</p> <p>d. a social group whose members live in one place, share government and often have a common cultural and historical heritage</p> <p>e. an idea or a principle, often connected with something abstract</p> <p>f. an important organization that has a particular purpose, e.g. a university or bank</p> <p>g. knowing that something exists and is important; being interested in something</p> <p>h. a person who lives in a particular place or who has their home there</p> <p>i. the largest part of a group of people or things</p> <p>j. the act of protecting or the state of being protected; preservation from injury or harm</p>	

2. Vocabulary	5
<p>The following words are verbs or adjectives from the Academic Word List. Look up what they mean in your dictionary and find less formal synonyms.</p> <p>a. constitute f. involve</p> <p>b. encounter g. pertinent</p> <p>c. environmental h. promote</p> <p>d. envisage i. sustainable</p> <p>e. implement j. urban</p>	

Text comprehension: Make notes in your own words about the main points in the text, to answer the questions Who? What? Where? Why? How?

Discussion: You are going to accompany (*begleiten*) a class of primary school pupils on a visit to an urban farm. In groups, discuss what activities you could do with the children to make the visit interesting and what you would hope for them to learn.

Writing: Write a letter of about 200 words in English to the head teacher of a primary school to convince him/her to take a class of children on a visit to an urban farm. Explain what an urban farm is and the learning activities the children could do there. Try to use formal words and phrases.

Notes for teachers

Language level: B2-C1 on CEFR.
New B2+ vocabulary: includes content-based nouns and formal verbs/adjectives from the Academic Word List.

Language & skills practice: vocabulary & formal register; reading comprehension; note taking; writing a formal letter.

Content aim: to demonstrate the intercultural exchange of spending time abroad, to introduce the concept of urban farms and to encourage discussion on participating in an urban farm project.

Procedure: best used in a double lesson, or give certain tasks as preparatory homework.

Reading	5 mins	Can also be done at home
Vocabulary 1	10 mins	Can also be done at home
Vocabulary 2	10 mins	Can also be done at home. Pupils can share synonyms to enlarge their vocabulary pools.
		Check the answers to the vocab tasks before moving on to the text comprehension task.
Text comprehension	15 mins	Encourage pupils to use their own words and not copy from the text. Encourage pupils to write in bullet points.
Discussion	10 mins	Encourage pupils to use their notes to prompt ideas, and to note down the ideas that come up in their discussion. Ideas can be shared in plenum.
Writing	30 mins or as homework	Pupils should use the ideas from their notes and discussions.



Answers

Clare Maas

Clare is a lecturer in EFL and EAP at Trier University. Before moving into tertiary education, she taught general English at German grammar schools, and English for Specific Purposes at several language academies in the UK and Germany.

2. Vocabulary: synonyms are underlined.
- to be made up of, to be created from
 - to meet somebody, or discover or experience something new
 - connected with the natural conditions in which people, animals and plants live, ecological, green
 - to imagine what will happen in the future
 - apply, make something happen
 - take part in something, be affected by something
 - relevant, suitable, fitting
 - advise, support, tell people about
 - renewable, green, not harmful for the environment in the long term
 - inner-city, within a city or town
1. Vocabulary
- perception
 - plot
 - resource
 - community
 - concept
 - institution
 - awareness
 - resident
 - majority
 - protection
- Text comprehension:
- Answers expected to include the following points:
- Urban farms in towns/cities in America, e.g. Zenger Farm in Portland, Oregon.
 - Farming (crops & animals) without harming the environment.
 - Local residents run the farms voluntarily – community projects. Money from donations.
 - Events for children, family and other visitors.
 - Raise awareness of connection between farming and food.
 - Encourage people to eat healthily and buy organic products.



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!

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