



BERLIN: A TOUR WITH POLAR BEAR KNUT

TEACHERS' NOTES

Introduction

This presentation has been designed to introduce the city of Berlin, the capital of Germany, to young learners with little or no German.

With more than 3 million inhabitants, Berlin is now the biggest city in Germany and one of the biggest cities in the European Union. It is an exciting metropolis and a place where past and future are intertwined.

In Berlin, the past is very much alive and present at nearly every corner. The Prussians, the two World Wars, the Nazi terror and the division of Germany from 1949 until 1990 – you will find traces of these historic events in many places throughout the city.

Berlin had been divided by the infamous Berlin Wall from 1961 to 1989. Many families had been torn apart and when the Wall came down in 1989, the people in Germany and beyond were jubilant. There are parts of the Wall which still can be seen today.

Slide Explanation

- 1 This slide can be used to introduce the topic to the pupils. The teacher might like to start by asking pupils what they know about the city of Berlin and if they have visited it before.
- 2 In this slide, a map shows the location of the German capital. This map can also be used to point out the position of Germany in Europe and the borders it shares with 9 neighbouring countries.
- 3 This slide contains the information that Berlin is the capital (*die Hauptstadt*) of Germany.
You can also see the Berlin coat of arms, the bear (*der Bär*).
- 4 The polar bear Knut has become very famous in Germany. His mother had refused to feed him and he was brought up by his keeper in the Berlin Zoo. Knut is going to be the guide throughout this presentation.

- 5** Translation:
Berlin is a beautiful city.
There is a lot to see and visit.
- 6 + 7** Popular sights of Berlin:
- 6** das Brandenburger Tor:
The Brandenburg Gate had been a national symbol for many centuries. It marked the border between East and West, and today it symbolises the modern, reunited Germany.
- die Gedächtniskirche:
The Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church was destroyed in 1943. The ruins of its tower remain as a memorial to warn future generations of the terrors of war.
- der Reichstag:
The house of Parliament is the place where the German government meets. It underwent reconstruction led by architect Norman Foster, who added the glass dome. It is a major tourist attraction.
- 7** das rote Rathaus:
The „red city hall“ is the residence of the Berlin Mayor. The building got its name because of the red brick front.
- der Berliner Zoo:
The Berlin Zoo is located in former West Berlin. It is Germany's oldest Zoo and has about 14000 animals.
- 8** Translation:
Berlin is Germany's biggest city.
3.4 million people live in Berlin.
- 9 - 16** The Berlin Wall
- 9** Translation:
Berlin is a very special city.
There was a wall that divided the city in two parts from 1961 until 1989.
- 10** - a map of Berlin during the 40 years of division –
You can point out to the pupils where the Wall had been and how it went right through the city of Berlin.

- 11** Translation:
The Wall was built here in 1961.
- 12** Translation:
That is what the Wall looked like.
- 13** - more photos –
- 14** Translation:
The Wall is coming down in 1989. The people are jubilant.
- 15** Pieces from the Wall are being sold as souvenirs to the many tourists who visit Berlin today.
- 16** Translation:
There is no longer a West Berlin or East Berlin, only one Berlin!
- 17** The Knut song: Some entertainment to end this presentation. You can listen to the children's song about polar bear Knut by clicking on the speaker icon.

Translation:
I am Knut and this is my song:
- 18** Knut is saying Goodbye.