

Presenting the world

Country poster presentations

Douglas Perkins and Adam Pearson

Musashino Joshi Gakuin Junior and Senior High School

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Quick guide

Keywords:	Presentations, peer-teaching, foreign geography, foreign culture
Learner English level:	Junior high school and up
Learner maturity:	Junior high school and up
Preparation time:	5 minutes
Activity time:	30-40 minutes
Materials:	Handouts (see appendices), blackboard or projector and screen

Presentations are common activities in English conversation classes, but because gathering data is difficult and time consuming, the scope is typically quite narrow. The goal of this activity is for students to develop and deliver a presentation on a foreign country without the burden of research. A presentation can be divided into four parts: information gathering, writing, practicing, and presenting. All of these are important skills, but since doing all of them together can be overwhelming, in English as well as in one's native language, this activity removes the first step, simplifies the second, and allows students to focus on the remaining two.

Preparation

- Step 1: Print one A3 copy of as many posters (from appendices A-F) as you need in order for each student group to have their own, plus one (Appendix G) for your demonstration. If available, color is preferable to monochrome.
- Step 2: Print one copy of the worksheet (Appendix H) for each student.

Procedure

- Step 1: Put students in pairs or groups of three. Give each group a poster with information about and pictures of a foreign country.
- Step 2: Give an example demonstration with a poster (Appendix G) about America. This demonstration shows what students are supposed to do and include in their own presentations. Include the country's name, capital, common languages, population, and size. Presentations can also include descriptions of famous foods and sports, the national flag, and major industries.
- Step 3: Hand out a worksheet (Appendix H) that includes the example demonstration and a

blank writing space for the students' presentation. Explain that the rules are: the presentation must start with a greeting and the country name, it must end with a closing phrase, and each student in the group has to say at least three things using information from the poster. Sentences from the example presentation can, with small changes, be used in students' presentations. If students want to formulate new sentences, that is wonderful, too.

- Step 4: Give students fifteen minutes to write their presentations.
- Step 5: Students take five minutes to practice their presentation. The key points are volume, pronunciation, and eye contact. Because this is a one-class activity, perfect memorization is not necessary. Students can use a note sheet, provided they make regular eye contact with the audience.
- Step 6: Each group presents their country to the rest of the class. If the classroom has a projector or large TV, display the poster digitally on that. Alternately, put the group's poster on the blackboard.
- Step 7: (Optional) Conduct a written or oral quiz to check classmates' attention to and comprehension of what they have watched.

Conclusion

If you have the time, you can do the same project with different countries a few weeks after doing it the first time. Students should be much faster the second time around. A common problem when talking about countries is improper generalization. Consider the statement, "In the U.S., people like to eat pizza." That's not entirely true, because many people don't. It would be better to say, "Pizza is popular in the U.S." By carefully choosing how we display the information on the posters, teachers help students avoid this kind of pitfall and simultaneously provide examples of ways to properly make large-scale observations. The vocabulary that students need to deliver these presentations is taught in JHS 3 and above. However, if the topic is changed from "countries" to "foreign schools" or "celebrities", and new posters are carefully created, the same general procedure can be used with JHS 1 and 2 students.

Appendices

The appendices are available from the online version of this article at jalt-publications.org/tlt/departments/myshare.

Appendix A

Iceland Fact Sheet

September, 2013



COUNTRY NAME 正式国名	Republic of Iceland
CAPITAL 首都	Reykjavik (レイキャヴィーク)
POPULATION 人口	320,000 people (in 2008)
SIZE	103,000 km ² (40% Japan)
WEATHER	Cold, snowy, rainy
LANGUAGES 言語	Icelandic (アイスランド語), English
COMMON ANIMALS	Sheep, puffins, horses
POPULAR FOOD	Lamb, fish, seafood
OTHER	Lowest population in Europe
	Fishing is popular
	Almost no trees
	No family names
	School is free



Appendix B

Morocco Fact Sheet

September, 2013



COUNTRY NAME 正式国名	Kingdom of Morocco
CAPITAL 首都	Rabat (ラバト)
POPULATION 人口	33,000,000 people (in 2013)
SIZE	710,000 km ² (1.8x Japan)
WEATHER	Warm, some rain
LANGUAGES 国籍言語	Arabic (アラビア語), Berber (ベルベル語)
ANIMALS	Camel (らくだ), Fennec fox (フェネック), Dorcas gazelle (ガゼル), Golden jackal (キンイロジャッカル)
POPULAR FOOD & DRINK	Mint tea, couscous, lamb, beef
POPULAR SPORTS	Soccer, track and field, tennis, golf
OTHER	Eat with your hands
	Beautiful carpets



Appendix C

South Africa Fact Sheet

September, 2013



COUNTRY NAME 正式國名	Republic of South Africa	
CAPITAL 首都	Pretoria and Cape Town	
POPULATION 人口	52,000,000 people (in 2011)	
SIZE	1,200,000 km ² (5x Japan)	
WEATHER	Mostly warm, sunny, dry	
LANGUAGES 國籍言語	English, Afrikaans, isiZulu, and 8 more	
COMMON ANIMALS	Leopard, giraffe, hippopotamus, lion	
POPULAR SPORTS	Soccer, cricket, rugby	
OTHER	20% of the world's gold	
	Second largest fruit growing country	



Appendix D

Chile Fact Sheet

September, 2013



COUNTRY NAME 正式国名	Republic of Chile	
CAPITAL 首都	Santiago	
POPULATION 人口	17,000,000 people (in 2012)	
SIZE	760,000 km ² (2x Japan)	
WEATHER	Desert (north), rainy (central), cold (south)	
LANGUAGES 言語	Spanish	
POPULAR FOOD	Empanada (エンパナーダ, a bread pastry with meat, cheese, and vegetables)	
		
POPULAR SPORTS	Soccer, tennis	
		
OTHER	Grows the most salmon in the world	
	33% of world's copper mined here	
	Many volcanoes	
	Was a part of Spain until 1913	
	In South America	



Appendix E

New Zealand Fact Sheet

September, 2013



COUNTRY NAME 正式国名	New Zealand
CAPITAL 首都	Wellington (ウェリントン)
POPULATION 人口	4,500,000 people (in 2013)
SIZE	270,000 km ² (x Japan)
WEATHER	cool, mostly sunny
LANGUAGES 言語	English, Maori (マオリ語)
COMMON ANIMALS	Sheep (31,000,000 sheep)
OTHER ANIMALS	Kiwi (a bird that can't fly)
OTHER	Auckland is the biggest city
	2 big islands and many very small islands
	Very young country
	30% forest









Appendix F

Norway Fact Sheet

September, 2013



COUNTRY NAME 正式国名	Kingdom of Norway
CAPITAL 首都	Oslo (オスロ)
POPULATION 人口	5,000,000 people (in 2013)
SIZE	390,000 km ² (x Japan)
WEATHER	Rainy and 20 hour days (in summer) Snowy and 4 hour days (in winter)
LANGUAGES 言語	Norwegian (ノルウェー語)
COMMON ANIMALS	Reindeer (トナカイ), arctic fox
  	
POPULAR FOOD	Frozen pizza, lutefisk (ルテフィスク), lefse (レフセ)
  	
OTHER	Beautiful mountains and sea
	2 hours from London by airplane
	Grocery stores are closed on Sundays
	Nobel Peace prize is given in Oslo



Appendix G

Fact Sheet Example



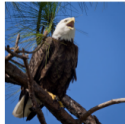






September, 2013

RULES

1. In small groups, make a short presentation.
2. All students must speak.
3. Say at least 2 sentences. 一人は2文以上を言います。
4. Use some information from the sheet. You can choose what you like.

U.S.A. Fact Sheet



COUNTRY NAME 正式国名	The United States of America
CAPITAL 首都	Washington, D.C.
POPULATION 人口	316,000,000 people (in 2013)
SIZE	9,800,000 km ² (26x Japan)
LANGUAGES 言語	English
COMMON ANIMALS	Deer, bear, eagle
  	
SPORTS	Baseball, football, basketball
  	
FOOD	Pizza, hamburgers, Mexican food
  	
OTHER	4 th largest country in the world 3 rd largest population in the world

EXAMPLE PRESENTATION

Today we're going to talk about America.

America is the 4th largest country in the world.

The population is three hundred sixteen million people.

Pizza is a popular food.

Many people like to eat hamburgers, too.

In America, most people speak English.

Some normal sports are baseball, football, and basketball.

Thank you for listening.

Appendix H

Country Posters

STEP 1 Read the example.

1. Today we're going to talk about America.
2. America is the 4th largest country in the world.
3. The capital is Washington, D.C.
4. The population is three hundred sixteen million people.
5. America has the 3rd largest population in the world.
6. Pizza is a popular food.
7. Many people like to eat hamburgers, too.
8. In America, most people speak English.
9. Some common sports are baseball, football, and basketball.
10. Thank you for listening.

STEP 2 Make your own presentation.
Each student must say at least three things.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____