Did you know it was German?

A Resource Packet by Kristel Smith

Edited by Dr. Ronald Warner
Did You Know It Was German?  
A Resource Packet

An Honors Senior Creative Project (HONRS 499)

by

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Abstract

Kristel Smith (German). *Did you know it was German? A Resource Packet*

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Ronald Warner

Kristel's project is a resource packet designed to help teachers in grades 3 and 6 teach their students about German-American culture. It can be used to help meet Indiana statewide social studies standards. The packet includes two booklets for 3rd graders and a handout for 6th graders. It also includes additional information on Indiana-German heritage, *What's Opera Doc* and Richard Wagner, words that are similar in German and English, and suggested additional resources.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Booklets and Handouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Indiana and German Connections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 4 | What's Opera Doc? and Richard Wagner  
  Does This Sound Familiar...? |
| 5 | Great Additional Resources  
  About the Author |
Introduction

This resource packet is designed to help teachers in grades 3 and 6 teach their students about German-American culture. It focuses on the connections between Germany and America. By focusing on things the students are familiar with from their own culture, they will be able to more easily understand aspects of another culture that are similar to or different from their own. This will enable them as they grow older to think of more than Oktoberfest and Nazis when they think of Germany. This packet is not a suggested lesson plan, but rather provides tools to help with a lesson.

The packet includes two booklets for 3rd graders and a handout for 6th graders. It also includes additional information on Indiana German heritage, What's Opera Doc and Richard Wagner, words that are similar in German and English, and suggested additional resources. I have included a CD in this packet; it can be used to print additional handouts for your classes.

Indiana State Social Studies Standards

It is my hope that this resource packet can be used as a tool to help meet 3rd and 6th grade social studies standards. Please keep in mind that it is only a tool and you will need to add additional information; several websites are suggested for this purpose. The targeted standard for 3rd grade is standard 3.5.2, which focuses on identifying connections your local community has with other communities, including cultural exchanges of several types, and ways that technology links communities in other places. The targeted standard for the 6th grade is Standard 5.

Indiana's state standards can be read online at:
http://www.doe.state.in.us/standards/welcome.html

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Dr. Ronald Warner, Janis Segedy, and Deb Smith for their help with this project.
So, although Germany is far away, you may share more with the kids there than you thought!

Did You Know It Was German?

By Kristel Smith

Intermediate Level
(Grade 3)
Germany is a country in Europe. It is about the size of the state of Montana.

When we talk about Germans in this booklet, we mean people not just from Germany, but all people who speak German because Germany’s borders are different today than they were many years ago.

Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Sleeping Beauty, and Hansel and Gretel are all German stories collected by the Brothers Grimm. Have you read any of them?
The Christmas tree also came from Germany. It was not a popular tradition in America at first, but today most American families decorate a tree at Christmas. Does yours?

America is a land of immigrants (im-i-grants), people from other countries who moved to America. More Americans claim to have German ancestors than from any other country.
Are any of your ancestors German?

Many Germans have been coming to America for over 300 years. Many came in search of a better life. Many everyday things you probably think of as American actually come from Germany.

Did you know it was German.....

The Germans brought the tradition of the Easter Bunny with them to America. However, the Easter Bunny was not popular in America until after the Civil War.

In German, the Easter Bunny is called the Osterhase (oh-stir-hah-sah), which means Easter hare.
There are many, many more famous German-Americans.

German-Americans have played important roles in science, entertainment, music, sports, industry, politics, and much more!

Did You Know They Were German?

By Kristel Smith

Sequel to "Did You Know It Was German?"

Intermediate Level
(Grade 3)
In this booklet we are going to learn about famous German-Americans.

German-Americans are people who were born in a German speaking country and moved to America or people born in America who have German ancestors.

Are you a German-American?

Charles M. Schulz was the creator of the Peanuts cartoon strip. He was born in America, but his ancestors were German.
Author Dr. Seuss was also a German American. His real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel. He was born in America, but both of his parents were German.

Actress Kirsten Dunst was born in America, but her father is from Germany. She played Mary Jane in both Spiderman movies.
Albert Einstein was born in Germany and moved to the United States in the early 1930s. Einstein was a genius and a scientist.

Babe Ruth's real name was George Herman Ruth. He was one of the greatest baseball players of all time. Babe Ruth was born in America, but his grandparents came from Germany. He spoke fluent German and was sometimes heard speaking German with Lou Gehrig, another famous German-American baseball player.
3rd Grade Booklets Picture Acknowledgements

Many of the pictures used in this resource packet are from Microsoft Clip Art.

3rd Grade: “Did you know it was German?” Booklet

The picture of immigrants is from 1888. It depicts some of my German ancestors.

3rd Grade “Did you know they were German” Booklet

Title page picture of German and American flags: http://www.newyorkled.com/special_events/German-American-Flag.jpg

Spiderman picture: http://www.sonypictures.com/

Kirsten Dunst Picture: http://www.agirlsworld.com/rachel/hangin-with/pix/kirsten1.jpg

Einstein: http://www.anecdotage.com/pics/einstein.jpg

Babe Ruth Picture: http://www.baberuth.com/flash/about/photos/rutb045.html


Cat in the Hat: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cat_in_the_Hat


Schulz: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/641897.stm

German-American Flag Map: http://www.germany.info/relaunch/culture/ger_americans/ger_americans.html
Did You Know It Was German?
By Kristel Smith

A Brief Introduction to Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany is a country in central Europe. Germany is bordered by Denmark to the North, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and France to the West, Switzerland and Austria to the South, and the Czech Republic and Poland to the East. It is composed of 16 federal states. The capital is Berlin and the national language is German. Germany is a democratic, federal, multi-party republic with representatives elected directly by the people. The national flag consists of three equal horizontal stripes of black, red and gold.

Where is German Spoken?

Germany is not the only country whose inhabitants speak German. It is also spoken in Austria, parts of Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg. In addition, German is also spoken by most Italian and French citizens near the borders of Germany and Austria (i.e. Alsace-Lorraine and Southern-Tyrol).

Who is a German-American?

The term German-American is not limited to people from Germany. Before 1871, Germany was not a unified nation; it was a collection of dozens of kingdoms, small states, duchies, etc. Speakers of German came to America from what is present day
Germany, but also from what are now parts of Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, and the Russia. Many immigration officials listed people as German because they spoke German, although they were not actually from Germany. When the term German is used in this handout, it is not in terms of present political boundaries (current German borders), but rather ethnic and cultural traditions of German speaking peoples. However, it should be noted that political boundaries are important, for example many Austrians would be offended to be called German.

German-Americans are people who were born in a German speaking country and immigrated (moved) to America or people born in America who have German ancestors. Only 4% of today’s German-Americans were born in Germany. Most German-Americans are people born in the United States who have German heritage. According to the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau report, more Americans claim to have German heritage than any other national ancestry.

Image from the German Embassy in Washington, D.C.
http://www.germany.info/relaunch/culture/ger_americans/paper.html

Germans have been coming to America for over 300 years. Many came in search of a better life or to escape religious persecution. Germans have had a tremendous influence on American culture. Many things you probably think of as American actually have their roots in Germany.
Easter Bunny: The Germans brought the tradition of the Easter Bunny with them to America. However, the Easter Bunny was not popular in America until after the Civil War. In German, the Easter Bunny is called the Osterhase (oh-stir-hah-sah), which means Easter hare.

Christmas tree: Although many countries today celebrate Christmas with Christmas trees, the origin of the Christmas tree tradition is Germany. It was not a popular tradition in America at first, but today most American families decorate a tree at Christmas.

VW Beetle: The Volkswagen Beetle (nicknamed Bug) is a small car from Germany. The name means ‘people’s car’. American servicemen returning from Germany started bringing Beetles home as early as 1947.

Cinderella: Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Sleeping Beauty, and Hansel and Gretel are all German stories and fairy tales collected by the Brothers Grimm.

Kindergarten: The word ‘Kindergarten’ is a combination of the German words for children and garden. The term and idea was invented in the 1840’s by Friedrich Wilhelm August Fröbel, a German who revolutionized early childhood education. German immigrants brought the word and idea to America with them. The concept gradually spread across America. The first American schools to have kindergartens were private schools started by earlier German immigrants. The first kindergarten associated with a public school system was established in St. Louis, Missouri in 1873. Today,
kindergarten is an important part of the American school system.

Kindergartens in Germany are not the same as in the United States. In Germany, kindergarten is for children ages three to six. As of April 2006, attendance is not mandatory (there is some talk of changing this). Kindergartens in Germany are paid for by a combination of money from the government, churches, charitable organizations, and occasionally by companies. Parents are also required to pay a fee for their child’s spot in a kindergarten. In addition to education, social aspects are also an important part of kindergarten.

Mozart and More: Many famous composers are German, including Mozart (actually Austrian), Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Bach, and Wagner. Germans brought their love of music with them to America. Many German immigrants got together to listen to or perform music. In the mid-1800s, most musicians and directors of chamber, orchestral, and choral music were of German descent.11

Gesundheit: You’ve probably heard someone say “Gesundheit” after someone has sneezed, but do you know what it means? The word Gesundheit (roughly: geh-zoont-height) literally means ‘health’ in German, but it is often used to wish someone good health after they have sneezed. Many Americans use it as an alternative to “bless you”.

Adidas: Adidas is a German shoe company, correctly pronounced ah-dee-dass. Most Americans pronounce it uh-dee-duss, but the ‘a’ in the first part should sound more like the “ahh”, like in ahh… look at the cute baby. The ending “das” is pronounced much like the computer term DOS.

Founder Adi (pronounced ah-dee) Dassler first began making shoes in the 1920’s. His goals were to produce the best shoe to serve the needs of athletics, to protect the athlete from injury, and to make durable products.12 His brother, Rudolf Dassler, is the founder of Puma, one of Adidas’ rivals.13

Did You Know They Were German…..
There are many famous German-Americans. A few examples include:

**Kirsten Dunst (1982-):** Famous Hollywood actress. She was born in America, but her father is from Germany. She played Mary Jane in both Spiderman movies (2002 and 2004).

**Albert Einstein (1879-1955):** Famous scientist, one of the greatest minds of the 20th century. Einstein was a physicist and a German Jew. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics in 1921. Einstein moved to the United States in the early 1930s because of persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany. He became a U.S. citizen in 1940.

**Theodor Seuss Geisel (1904-1991):** This author is best known by his pen-name, ‘Dr. Seuss’. However, his real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel. He was born in America, but both of his parents were German. One of his most popular children’s books is *The Cat in the Hat*.

**Charles M. Schulz (1922-2000):** This famous cartoonist was the creator of the Peanuts cartoon strip (characters Charlie Brown, Snoopy, etc). He was born in America, but his ancestors were German.

**Babe Ruth (1895-1948):** Babe Ruth’s real name was George Herman Ruth. He was one of the greatest baseball players of all time. Babe Ruth was born in America, but his grandparents came from Germany. He spoke fluent German and was sometimes
heard speaking German with Lou Gehrig, another famous German-American baseball player.15

The Effect of World War I and World War II on German-Americans

When the United States entered World War I and allied itself with Britain and France against Germany, many German-Americans faced anti-German feelings and many things that were German were criticized. There was a wide-spread anti-German hysteria throughout the United States. The teaching of German was dropped from most public schools and hundreds of German language newspapers stopped publishing. World War I forced many German-Americans to abandon the German language and alter German family names (to sound less German), speeding up the pace of assimilation (being absorbed into American culture). Some examples of last names that were commonly changed are: Schneider to Snyder, Mueller to Miller, and Schmidt to Smith.

As the century progressed, German-Americans became less German and more American. During World War II, there were also anti-German sentiments, but they were not as strong as in WWI. In addition, there were little pro-Nazi feelings from German-Americans.6

Many German-Americans today are not very aware of their heritage, partially because their families have been in the United States for many generations and have become assimilated. Many of you reading this probably have ancestors from Germany…I encourage you to embrace your heritage and pursue your roots.

Works Cited


2 http://german.about.com/od/culture/a/germanspoken.htm by Hyde Flippo, Last Viewed 4/22/2006


5 http://www.germany.info/relaunch/info/publications/infocus/german-americans/g-a_history.html, German Embassy, Washington D.C. Last Viewed April 2006


**Picture Acknowledgements**

- Many of the pictures used in this handout are from Microsoft Clip Art.
- The picture of immigrants is from 1888. It depicts some of my German ancestors.
- Babe Ruth: [http://www.baberuth.com/flash/about/photos/rutb045.html](http://www.baberuth.com/flash/about/photos/rutb045.html)
Indiana and German Connections

A large percentage of Hoosiers have German ancestry, roughly 23% according to the 2000 U.S. Census. Many German-Americans were attracted to Indiana because of farming opportunities, industry, similarities in landscape, and the presence of other German-Americans. The influence of German-Americans can be seen throughout Indiana.

![Map of German-American Ancestry in the United States](http://www.germany.info/relaunch/culture/ger_americans/paper.html)

Image from the German Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Indiana Places with German Names

Many Indiana towns and cities have German names. Some examples include: Bremen, Blocher, Elberfeld, Foltz, Hamburg, Haubstadt, Heilman, Herr, Luther, Metz, Munster, Oldenburg, and Weisburg. Some, such as Frankfort (Frankfurt), Leipsic (Leipzig), and New Harmony (Neu Harmonie) have undergone spelling changes. There is also a Germantown, Indiana.

Throughout the state, there are many annual German festivals and German heritage sites. For more information on your part of Indiana, visit the Indiana German Heritage Society's home page at [http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/IGHS/home.htm](http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/IGHS/home.htm).
Northern Indiana

Fort Wayne has an especially strong German heritage. In the late 19th century, roughly 80% of the population was German. Fort Wayne boasts the second oldest German singing society in Indiana, the Fort Wayne Männerchor/Damenchor. They still sing all of their music in German.3

Fort Wayne also celebrates German heritage with an annual Germanfest. For more information on the festival, visit http://www.germanfest.org/. The Fort Wayne German-Americans began the tradition in 1981.

Northern Indiana is also home to many Amish and Mennonite communities. They are descendents of German-speaking Swiss immigrants.

Central Indiana

Indianapolis also has a rich German history. According to the 1990 census 23.6% (175,101) of the total population were of German descent. Germans created many clubs, organizations, and societies in Indianapolis, some of which are still active today. A prime example is the Indianapolis Männerchor (one of the oldest extant men's choirs in the US).4 For more information on the choir, visit their website at http://www.maennerchor.org/.

The famous Soldiers' and Sailors’ Monument at the heart of the city was designed by Bruno Schmitz of Berlin. Rudolf Schwartz, a Vienna born sculptor, created the sculptures on the monument. The monument was completed in 1901 and appears to be Schmitz's only commissioned work outside of Germany and Switzerland.5

Southern Indiana

Southern Indiana has a rich German and Swiss heritage. There are several towns with annual festivals, including Tell City's Schweizer Fest, Ferdinand's Christkindlmarkt, and Jasper's Strassenfest. For more information visit:

http://www.perrycountyindiana.org/
http://www.ferdinandinchamber.org/
http://www.jasperstrassenfest.org/

Sister Cities

Many Indiana cities have sister cities in Germany. These long-term relationships allow the city officials and citizens of both cities to carry out exchange visits, develop friendships, and experience and better understand each other’s cultures. They also promote education and tourism.3 Sister cities include:
Indiana City | German Sister City
--- | ---
Columbus | Loehne
Evansville | Osnabrueck
Fort Wayne | Gera
Goshen | Bexbach
Indianapolis | Cologne
Jasper | Pfaffenweiler
New Harmony | Wiernsheim/Iptingen
Vincennes | Wasserburg am Inn

Works Cited


4. [http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/indianapolis.html](http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/indianapolis.html). Max Kade German-American Center

5. [http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/soldiers.html](http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/soldiers.html). Max Kade German-American Center
**What's Opera, Doc? And Richard Wagner**

*What's Opera, Doc?* is a 1957 short Loony Tunes cartoon. It was directed by Chuck Jones and the cartoon and lyrics were written by Michael Maltese. It is about 7 minutes long and features the characters Elmer Fudd and Bugs Bunny. If you want a fun way to introduce some famous German music, this is a fun short lesson. The music for the cartoon is adapted from several operas by Richard Wagner.

1. The opening storm scene: Overture to *The Flying Dutchman*
2. Elmer notices rabbit tracks, sings kill the wabbit...: “Ride of the Valkyries” from *The Valkyries*
3. Bugs: O mighty warrior of great fighting stock: “Sigfried’s Horn Call” from *The Ring of the Nibelung* cycle
4. Elmer gives a sample of his power: Overture to *The Flying Dutchman*
5. Ballet scene between Elmer and Bugs: (the dancing) Bachanal from *Tannhäuser*
6. Elmer sings “Oh, Brunhilde, you’re so lovely...”: Overture to *Tannhäuser*
7. Elmer sings “Return my love.....”:: Overture to *Tannhäuser*
8. Elmer sings “I’ll kill the wabbit....”:: “Ride of the Valkyries” from *The Valkyries*
9. Elmer sings “What have I done? I’ve killed the wabbit...”:: Overture to *Tannhäuser*

*What’s Opera Doc* is included on the *Loony Tunes Golden Collection* Volume 2 DVD (Disc 4). I have also included a sound file of the cartoon on the CD that accompanies this reference packet.

**Richard Wagner (1813 -1883):** Wagner was a great German composer. He mainly wrote operas. Unlike most composers, he also wrote his own libretto (words) for his operas. He introduced the idea of *Gesamtkunstwerk*, “total work of art” or “complete art work”. His opera works placed high emphasis not only on the music, but also on drama and visual arts.

One of Wagner’s most impressive works is *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (Ring of the Nibelung). It is a cycle consisting of four operas (referred to as a stage festival by Wagner because of their style). It takes four days to perform the whole cycle and Wagner wrote it from 1848-1876. The operas in the cycle are *Das Rheingold* (The Rhinegold), *Die Walküre* (The Valkyrie), *Siegfried*, und *Die Göttterdammerung* (Twilight of the Gods).
Wagner wrote many famous operas, including: Der Fliegende Holländer (The Flying Dutchman), Tannhäuser, Tristan und Isolde, Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg (The Mastersingers of Nuremberg), Lohengrin, und Parsifal.

Sources:  http://www.thomasvillecentral.com/operadoc.htm  
http://www.answers.com/topic/what-s-opera-doc


Picture from:  
http://www.cartoonnetwork.com/shop/lot/clt/nwr/LJE16LOT90042.01.html
Does This Sound Familiar.....?

There are many words in German and English that are identical or similar. This is partially because they share a common ancestry (these words are cognates) and partially because of interactions between Germans and Americans in business, technology, etc (i.e. downloaden and download). Some examples include:


For more examples visit:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/lj/language_notes/cognates.shtml

http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/KADE/nameword/apend-d.html

http://german.about.com/library/blcognates_A.htm

http://german.about.com/library/blfalsef.htm

Many German words have become common in American English. Some examples include: kindergarten, angst, waltz, kaputt, gesundheit, streusel, bratwurst, and poltergeist.
Great Additional Resources

I. The IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center

The IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center offers wonderful further information, including a whole section titled "Teaching Resources and Units". Most of the lessons are geared for middle school and high school students. Some example units include "German-Americans and Their Contributions to the American Mainstream and Culture: German Names and Words" and "German Immigrant Culture in America". The Center also has numerous publications, including *Hoosier German Tales—Small and Tall* and *The German-Americans, An Ethnic Experience*.

http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/teaching.html Teaching Resources and Units
http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/gpubs.html Publications
http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/gahist.htm German-American Historic Sites and Museums

Max Kade German-American Center
401 East Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

II. The Indiana German Heritage Society

The Indiana German Heritage Society is another good resource, especially for researching specific connections between your city and Germany. They are affiliated with the Max Kade German American Center. They collaborate with many other German related organizations in the state, which may be helpful in finding a festival or organization near you.

http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/IGHS/home.htm Home Page

Indiana German Heritage Society
401 East Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (317) 464-9004

III. The German Embassy in Washington, D.C.

http://www.germany.info/relaunch/index.html

http://www.germany.info/relaunch/culture/ger_americans/ger_americans.html#G_A : Celebrating German Heritage in America Today
http://german.about.com/library/blsurname01.htm “German Last Names with English Meanings” by Hyde Flippo. A fun way to find out what German last names mean in English. An example is Keller, which means cellar.

http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/europe/germany/ My favorite guide book for touring Germany was Lonely Planet’s Germany by Andrea Schulte-Peevers, et al. A less detailed version can be viewed online. The website provides images, information on several German cities, attractions, fast facts, etc. If you actually plan on visiting Germany, I would highly recommend purchasing the newest version of the book.
About the Author

Kristel Smith is completing her B.A. at Ball State University, with a major in German and a minor in biology. She studied abroad in Germany for six months in 2005 on a RENEUUS scholarship – one month in Berlin and five in Jena. She has also traveled to several other cities in Germany and Austria. She enjoys working with children and hopes this resource packet will be helpful to teachers and students.

Smith in Innsbruck, Austria