

Differences

During our week in Germany, we noticed there are not only similarities but also differences between the three participating countries. Not only language but also the school systems, climates, food habits etc. are different. We did some research about the main differences between our cultures.

Language



The most obvious difference is language. During our project we have to use English as common language because all three groups speak another language. The Swedes speak Swedish, the Belgians speak Dutch and the Germans speak German. Although these are three different languages you hear they are related. Sometimes we use the same words but with other meanings and written differently. An example is the word 'Spring', in

Swedish it means 'run', in English it is a season and in Dutch and German it means 'jump'.

Climate

Another difference is the climate. In Belgium and Germany, the climate is about the same. In winter the temperature is between -10 and + 10 degrees and in summer it is around 20-30 degrees. In Sweden the climate is a bit different. During the summers in Sweden, which last from June until August, it is usually around 20-25 degrees. The winters are very cold and snowy in the Northern parts, while the southern parts aren't as snowy.

School system



Our school systems are totally different as well. In Belgium primary school is from the age of 6 until the age of 12, so it lasts 6 years. Just before secondary school, which lasts 6 years, the pupils need to choose what they want to do. They can choose three different programmes, depending on what you want. Do you want a lot of theory or do you want to choose a specific subject? In Sweden the system is a little bit different. The pupils start in grade school at the age of seven and they graduate when they are fifteen. After

grade school they have to choose what programme they would like to go to in high school. High school lasts three years, from the age of 16 until the age of 18. In Germany has a school system that is different from the Swedish and Belgian system. From age six to ten the pupils go to primary school, where they all have the same courses. At the end of primary school the teachers choose (or give

advice about) what kind of programme they think the pupils should do. They graduate at the age of 16 or 18 depending on the programme they did.

School

We talked about differences in school systems in general, but there are some differences in our schools as well. In the Belgian school you can do programmes with general courses such as mathematics, sciences, economics, languages, Latin etc. but you can also learn more specific subjects such as learning how to start an enterprise. The school in Belgium consists of 1,000 pupils while the Swedish school counts about 500 pupils. In the Swedish school you have 2 periods of 3 hours and a lunch break of 2 hours while the Belgian school has 7 or 8 different periods and a lunch break of 55 minutes. During the lunch break in Sweden, the pupils get free food. In the German school, the pupils are being prepared for a certain profession. After the last grade, they can get a job or if their grades are good enough they can still study. The school consists of about 300 pupils. Each day, those pupils have 8 hours, each hour a different course.

Sport



The sport that is practised the most in all three countries is European football. In Belgium, other popular sports are swimming and biking. In Sweden, skiing, ice hockey and bandy (some kind of hockey) are often practised. In Germany, football is the national sport, but tennis is very popular as well.

Food

Typical food is different too in the 3 countries. Belgium is famous for its French fries with stewed meat, chocolate, waffles and beer. When you go to Sweden, you should taste the typical meatballs, cabbage rolls, Swedish brownies, potato dumpling and Trocadero, some kind of soda. In Germany, the sausages (bratwurst, currywurst...), schnitzel, potato salad, pickled cabbage, beer and the many different types of pastries are definitely worth trying.

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