

Short report of the results of the German Comenius-group for the last weeks and the programme for the next time till our meeting in Italy

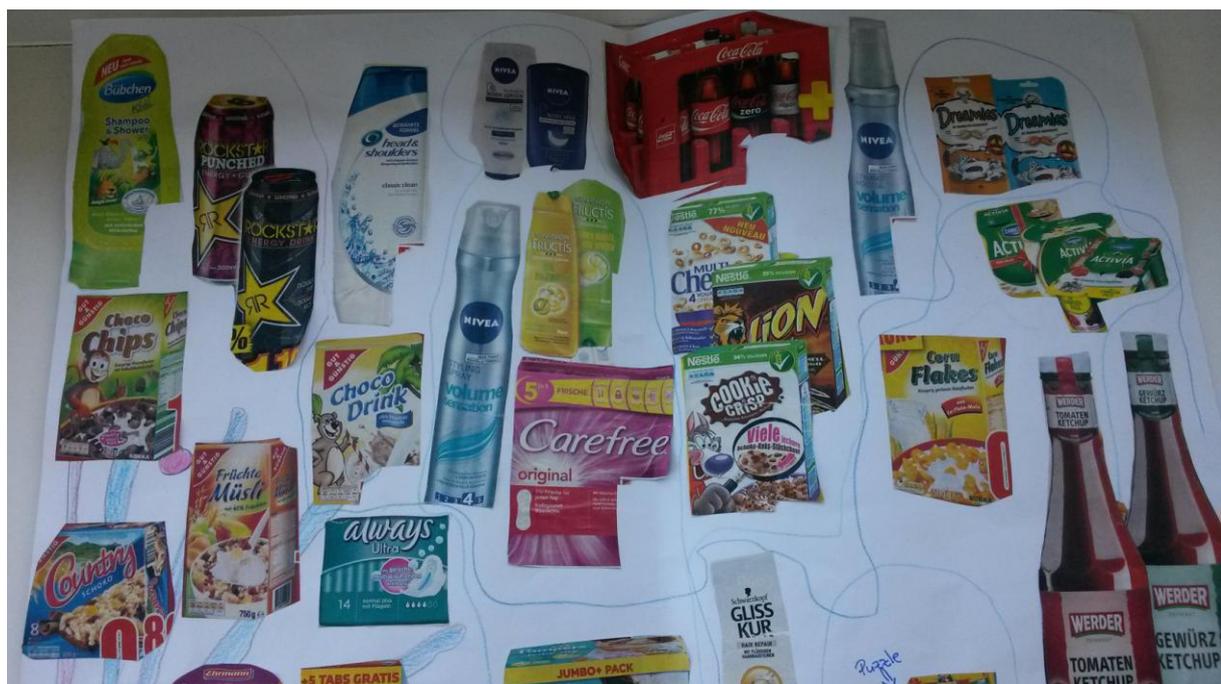
1. At the beginning of the project the German Comenius-group investigated the roots of the Germanic peoples. For this research we used the school library, the internet and other media.

It was interesting to find out that most of the European languages belonged to the Indo-European languages, also called Indo-Germanic languages. This is a language family of several hundred related languages and dialects that have the same origin.

We learned that it was not until the 19th century that the linguist Franz Bopp began to compare the old languages. As a result he saw that there are several words in European languages that sound similar and have the same meaning. So they had to belong to the same language family or at least to one of its major branches.

Here are some examples to show the similarity

Dt. Straße	-engl. Street	- it. strada
Dt. Markt	-engl. Market	-frz. marché
Dt. Wasser	-engl. water	
Dt. Haus	-nl. Huis	-engl. house
Dt. Vater	-nl. Vader	-engl. father-it. Padre



Another word we examined was the word –birch-. There are similar words for the tree birch that prove that the Indo –Germanic lived in an area where they could find birches and so the climate had been temperate climate. From this fact we can imagine how the Indo-Germanic people lived .Perhaps the country where they came from was in the southeast of Europe or in the Near East. About 3500 BC the Germanic peoples left their native land (common Germanic homeland?). They moved to different parts of the world e.g. to North India. Others moved to the West. Later some Germanic tribes occupied the shores of the Baltic and southern Scandinavia.

About 300 BC most of the Germanic tribes lived in all parts of North- and Middle Germany. From this time on you can distinguish between various Germanic tribes.

The first written record of them was written by the Roman historian Tacitus in 98 BC,

One branch of the North Germanic people is the origin of the Vikings, the so called northmen, Viking country was Denmark, Sweden, Norway and part of North Germany. The word –Germanen -was used by the Greek philosopher Poseidonius for the first time. Each Germanic tribe was a nation and most of the tribes fought against each other.

The **Germanic law** reflects the hierarchy within the society. This **hierarchy** was also seen in **the clothing** of the Germanic people.

The clothing of Germanic people was quite similar in style but different in material. We have little evidence of the clothing in early times. But we know that people wore wool from sheep and skin from many animals. Rich people liked to decorate themselves with marten, ermine, sable or other fur.

Germanic settlers wore trousers, sometimes beneath a tunic or an overtunic and sometimes only with a cloak or a cape. Belts were very important to hold up the trousers or for the drapery of the tunic or the skirt.

Some trousers were held up with a simple drawstring in the waist band. Germanic people invented the soap and the comb. This is evidence that care of the hair and the body was important for them.

Especially women liked jewellery like amber beads or brooches.

The students in our Comenius-project followed the description and tried to produce such clothes. Then we founded a drama group and try to act a role play about the old Germanic peoples.

On 31st March 2014 our students will go on an excursion to Halberstadt. It is a town not far away from the mountains called 'Harz'. There we will meet an archaeologist. He wants to show us a presentation about a 'Thing'. It is a special place which the men of a Germanic tribe used for meetings. Here they planned fights against other tribes or hunting of animals. We will visit a museum in Halberstadt and then we will go by bus to a place, where archeologists believe that it was really a 'Thing'.

Our students will put on the special clothes, act the scene and produce a small film.

- Students at our school collect proverbs that are used in English and German and which have a connection to fashion.



- Students of form 5 and 6 collected English words that are a component in the German language nowadays. Maybe we will create a dictionary with these words.
- Other students made interviews with grandparents and elderly people from the village. They researched about the political and economic changes of more than fifty years. (The time before 1989 → German Democratic Republic till now)

German Democratic Republic

Die DDR



2.14

Jenny-Moric-G