

EUROPEAN SCHOOLS

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EUROPEAN HOURS

(approved by the Board of Governors  
during its meeting on 21 and 22 may 1980)

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TO BE INSERTED IN THE BROCHURE

"TIMETABLE AND HARMONIZED PROGRAMMES"  
(1977 edition)

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replaces page 172



## I. OBJECTIVES

European Hours, which constitute one of the basic features of the European Schools, have a dual aim :

- follow definite teaching syllabuses;
- combine pupils from different language sections in one class, to promote, through working jointly, an awareness of what it means to be European.

## II. ADOPTED SOLUTION

- Remove the element of systematic teaching from "European Hours";

Consequently :

- the range of topics which could be chosen would be increased and a climate in which European awareness is developed could be re-introduced into these periods of common life;
- the learning of basic techniques would improve.

## III. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

All teachers are involved in European Hours. The special nature of the European Schools demand complete commitment by every one to the recreational and teaching aspects of these activities.



It is desirable that :

- a number of themes be chosen in consultation, for a certain period, and that these should take into account the language problem as far as giving instructions are concerned;
- the subjects chosen be drawn from the various aspect of daily life, in the School or the environment, and provide opportunities for practising basic techniques studied in class (see annex for concrete examples);
- other activities than the treatment of a topic may, of course, be practised;
- the interests and capabilities of each class teacher will influence the choice of themes and will yield better results as far as organization is concerned;
- by rotating the groups during the year, each teacher's special knowledge can be made available to all pupils;
- if several groups work together on the same project, the result could be an activity of interest to the whole School.

### Annex I

#### List of some possible themes

- fairy story, legend, fable
- voyage round the world
- the Tour de France
- the Olympic Games
- volcanic eruption
- puppets
- school party
- Santa Claus
- Red Indians
- prehistoric caves
- the castle
- famous bridges
- the zoo
- the aquarium
- folklore
- decoration of the School : drawings, pottery etc.
- greasy pole
- model : School and surroundings, village, town (district)
- application of environmental studies
- traffic
- carnival time
- ... etc ...

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### Annex II

#### Example of the use of a theme

##### General procedure

When a theme is being used in "European Hours", there are five important phases to be borne in mind :

1. Creation of an atmosphere where each child will feel really comfortable, and where this atmosphere will encourage him to involve himself actively in the group work;
2. Fixing a realizable goal;
3. Drawing up a realistic working programme, and forming working groups;
4. Realization : to communicate, to search, to try, to work ... together;
5. Showing results to the rest of the School (demonstrations, theatre, songs, dances, exhibitions etc.).

##### One possibility

#### Theme : CARNIVAL TIME

##### 1. Composition of the group

Teacher - German

- 5 pupils from 5th year German section
  - 6 pupils from 5th year French section
  - 6 pupils from 5th year Italian section
  - 5 pupils from 5th year Dutch section
- 22 pupils



II. Time allotted  
- 6 weeks (6 x 1,30 h.)

III. Procedure

(1) Creating a "carnival" atmosphere

- slide-show on the Cologne carnival
- comments and conversation "teacher ↔ pupils"
- listening and talking about carnival music
- telling about own experiences

Conclusion : We are going to get ready for and hold our own carnival together !

(2) Fixing our goals and reaching them

What can we do ?

Discuss possibilities :

- collect and study material
- design and make costumes and masks
- make decorations or ornaments
- choose the best music, songs, texts.
- ask parents to join in (preparing biscuits or other special cakes for the season)
- decide what material to use.

(3) Drawing up the final working programme - simple and easily achieved.  
Make small groups which can work as a team.

(4) Carrying out the jobs - working together

- masks, costumes,
- decorations or ornaments
- studying music, songs, texts  
(drawing, measuring, cutting, sawing, sewing, modelling, singing, dancing, etc.)

(5) Showing results to the rest of the School

The carnival group gives a demonstration for the other pupils -  
and the show begins ...

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