

THIS CHRISTMAS I WANT THE PRESENTS I GIVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

This idea for developing the Christmas theme is based on Christian Aid's 'Present Aid' leaflet that arrived with my Sunday newspaper this weekend. The idea is that you buy 'virtual presents' for your friends and relatives, but the gift actually makes a difference in the lives of the people the Charity helps around the world (regardless of colour or creed). If you want to find out more about the scheme, go to <http://www.presentaid.org/promo>

Targets

Language:	Christmas vocabulary and phrases to do with giving, etc.
Citizenship:	Learning about global issues and thinking about the part individuals can play in alleviating poverty
Enterprise:	Fundraising for good causes

Examples are in French, but the ideas could be developed for any language. Alternative language levels are suggested, but these **are** only suggestions. Develop the ideas to suit your class.

Qu'est-ce qu'on peut faire pour aider des familles pauvres à Noël? Voici une idée - grâce à Christian Aid

Stage 1: Language

Begin with the usual approach, asking what they are hoping to get for Christmas, and what they are planning to give to friends/relatives. Existing resources no doubt provide suitable stimulus materials. Vocabulary and structures may include, for example:

Qu'est-ce que tu espères recevoir comme cadeaux?

Tu vas faire des cadeaux? À qui? Qu'est-ce que tu vas offrir/donner?

Pour mon père j'ai acheté/je vais acheter une écharpe (etc.)

Stage 2: Language + Citizenship

Teacher introduces new idea, for example:

Moi, cette année, je vais faire des cadeaux différents, des cadeaux virtuels qui vont aider des familles pauvres. Voici des exemples:

Images from the Christian Aid site (examples below) can be used to provide support material for projecting, making flash cards or photocopying. Items used and the level and extent of language for talking about them will be determined by the abilities and interests of students. Here are some suggestions for describing some of the cheaper items in the catalogue and perhaps explaining more about them (what they will be used for, or what they consist of, etc.)

Je vais acheter/offrir...

<i>une boîte de vers de terre</i>	<i>pour aider un fermier (ça coûte quinze livres)</i>
<i>des petits cochons</i>	<i>on peut les vendre ou les manger</i>
<i>huit dindons</i>	<i>on peut les élever et manger ou vendre la viande ou les oeufs</i>
<i>seize canards</i>	<i>on peut manger ou vendre la viande ou les oeufs</i>
<i>un troupeau de chèvres</i>	<i>on peut boire le lait, manger la viande, utiliser les crottes comme engrais or combustible</i>
<i>un ballon de basket</i>	<i>pour encourager la co-operation entres les jeunes de différents races ou sects</i>

etc.

Explain that one source of money for buying these virtual presents comes from using the money you would have spent on real presents and sending a card instead - a card that explains what you have done. More advanced classes should be able to understand a simple explanation such as:

Au lieu d'acheter un vraie cadeau pour un ami ou un member de ma famille, j'achète un cadeau virtuel et j'envoie à la personne une carte qui explique ce que j'ai fait. Le cadeau que j'ai acheté aide une famille pauvre à améliorer leur vie.

The idea is that you match the present to the person who receives the card. More advanced students might find this an interesting creative task. Create a sentence structure that they can adapt to suit their own ideas, for example:

Pour mon frère, au lieu d'acheter des Cédés, j'ai décidé d'acheter deux petits cochons. Sa chambre est une vraie porcherie!

Stage 3: Language + Citizenship + Enterprise

Discuss with the class, in French if possible, what they think of this scheme. make as much as you wish of the global issues it raises and the moral implications. If they respond positively to it, invite a discussion about how the class could make money to spend on a shopping list of this kind. Perhaps have a look at the website at this point, and draw attention to some of the more expensive gifts., e.g.:

<i>une source d'eau potable</i>	<i>une pompe, des tuyeaux, un robinet (£45)</i>
<i>des boeufs</i>	<i>pour aider le fermier à travailler la terre</i>

etc.

The discussion can be straightforward:

Qu'est-ce qu'on peut/pourrait faire pour gagner de l'argent/pour collecter des fonds pour faire des cadeaux comme ça?

On peut/pourrait...

- faire des gâteaux et les vendre*
- demander aux parents de donner de l'argent au lieu de cadeaux*
- organiser une vente de charité / une tombola / un bal*

Some examples of gifts from the website:



For more gift ideas along these lines, see:

Oxfam Unwrapped: <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/shop/Hub.aspx?catalog=Unwrapped>

CAFOD: <http://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk>

Sightsavers International: <http://www.giftofsight.co.uk>

<http://www.goodgifts.org>

For gifts large enough to involve a group or class: <http://www.sendacow.org.uk>