

SITUATION PROFILE

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Le Carnaval de Binche

SITUATION

Tim has received a letter from Jean-Guy, a Belgian student who will soon be visiting him in Louisiana. Tim is so excited that he brings the letter to school and shares it with his teacher and the rest of the class. The teacher records Tim reading the letter so she can use it as a classroom activity.



task

Listen to Tim reading Jean-Guy's letter outloud. Then show the teacher how much you understood by completing the statements on the worksheet.



standards

Communication (Interpretive Mode)
Cultures (Practices and Products)



benchmarks

- CM-1-B4 Identifying familiar people, events, places, animals, and things based on oral and/or simple written descriptions
- CM-1-D3 Demonstrating comprehension of spoken and written messages on topics such as personal interests, memorable experiences, school activities, family life, and other pertinent events
- CL-1-B7 Demonstrating an awareness of social customs related to folklore and holidays



materials

- cassette tape
- map of world (optional, provided by teacher)
- transparency of letter
- student worksheet

 activation

About two weeks before Mardi Gras, the teacher identifies the date on the calendar and asks students if they know some French-speaking countries where Mardi Gras is celebrated throughout the world. The teacher then points out on a map the countries of France and Belgium as well as the state of Louisiana, and then indicates the cities in which Mardi Gras (Carnaval) is celebrated in these countries. (New Orleans, Mamou, Nice, and Binche.)

 information

Be sure to read the cultural information on the Carnaval de Binche. Place the transparency of the letter from the Belgian student on the overhead projector. Play the cassette of Tim reading the letter, while using visuals to indicate vocabulary that the students have not yet been exposed to.

Examples: Draw a picture of "Jean-Guy" and a picture of "Tim". Write the number 14 for Jean-Guy's age, show a picture of a high school, show the location of Binche on the map. Work with the information in the letter by rewording, using visuals, and asking the students questions such as:

Quel âge a Jean-Guy? Où est-ce qu'il habite? (Montre-moi) Quand est-ce qu'il arrive en Louisiane? Pendant combien de temps est-ce qu'il reste? (Montre sur le calendrier.) Comment est le costume du Gille?

Cassette Script: (see situation transparency)

 student task

Pass out the student worksheet telling the students that they will hear Tim reading Jean-Guy's letter again. Before playing the tape, ask the students to read over the questions on the worksheet. Then play the cassette and allow time for the students to answer. If the students are having difficulty responding, play the cassette again and allow them more time.

 feedback

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to the conversation again while looking at a transparency of the student worksheet. Ask a student to come to the projector and point out the answers. Ask the other students to agree or disagree. The students should correct their answers. Either collect the work to be kept in a folder or instruct the students to place the paper in their own portfolio.

Nom _____

Instructions: Listen to Tim reading Jean-Guy's letter aloud. Then indicate how much you understood by completing the following statements.

1. Jean-Guy attends a high school in
 - a. Liège.
 - b. Binche.
 - c. Bruxelles.
2. Jean-Guy is coming in
 - a. January.
 - b. February.
 - c. March.
3. Jean-Guy is staying with
 - a. Tim's teacher.
 - b. Tim's family.
 - c. Another student in the class.
4. Jean-Guy will be staying for
 - a. 3 months.
 - b. 3 weeks.
 - c. 3 days.
5. He must return home for a celebration of
 - a. Easter.
 - b. Carnival.
 - c. Christmas.
6. Carnival in Binche is celebrated _____ Mardi Gras in Louisiana.
 - a. At the same time as
 - b. Three days after
 - c. At a different time than
7. The main characters in the Binche Carnival are called
 - a. Les Gilles.
 - b. Les Rois.
 - c. Les Capitaines.
8. While Jean-Guy is in Louisiana, he hopes to learn about
 - a. Louisiana food.
 - b. Louisiana music.
 - c. the similarities and differences between Carnival in Binche and Mardi Gras in Louisiana.

Le 7 janvier

Salut Tim,

Je m'appelle Jean-Guy. J'ai 14 ans. Je suis élève dans un athénée (école secondaire publique) à Binche, une ville en Belgique, au sud-ouest de Bruxelles. J'arrive en Louisiane le 1er février avec ma classe d'anglais. Mon prof d'anglais m'a dit que j'allais rester chez toi pendant trois jours.

Je sais que c'est un séjour très court, mais je ne peux pas rester longtemps parce que je dois retourner en Belgique. Cette année je fais partie du carnaval de Binche qui a lieu au même moment que le Mardi Gras en Louisiane. Ces jours-ci je prépare le costume spécial du Gille. Les Gilles sont les personnages principaux de ce carnaval.

Pendant mon séjour en Louisiane, j'espère apprendre comment vous célébrez votre carnaval que vous appelez Mardi Gras.

J'attends de faire ta connaissance.

A bientôt,

Jean-Guy Ardenet