

Elves, or football fans? (key stage 2)



What the photo says

This lively, colourful image shows Dutch football fans at a Euro 2008 qualifier. (But this is not always self evident – my Year 3 class had no idea it was a football match, they thought the people were elves at a Halloween party!) Here the image is used to help the children see that geography is all around us: it is about all the people of the world and how they interact together.

Lesson idea

Context: Use as a morning warm up, as children enter the classroom, or as a speaking and listening activity. The suggested activities could be adapted for any of the 'Moving stories' family of photos – you could use a different photo each morning, then put them all up together on Friday.

Other resources

- Interactive whiteboard, paper/individual whiteboards, pens
- Laminated copies of the photos for closer observation
- Flipchart

Suggested activities

Display the photograph on the IWB as children come into the classroom in the morning. Have some geographical questions on the flipchart for the children to read. In pairs, children look at the photograph and answer questions – depending on their ability, either orally or in note form:

- Who do you think these people are?
- What are they doing?
- Why are they all wearing orange?
- Would you like to be in the middle of these people? If so, why?
- What is the action in the photo?
- Do the children support any teams, have they been to a match, how do they feel in a big crowd?

Once discussion has taken place in pairs, gather the class together and talk about their ideas. This should develop into an interesting discussion.

Each day you could put a different picture up as a stimulus and on Friday put them all together. The children decide which one they find the most interesting and say why. Have a class vote and then display the winning photo as the background on the whiteboard for the next few days. The topic should continue to develop in discussion.

a different view

a manifesto from the Geographical Association



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Curriculum opportunities

Global dimension: Football is worldwide and fans share many of the same characteristics, regardless of who they are and where they come from.

Citizenship: How people react around each other, does their behaviour change in any way? (the mentality of a football crowd, following their teams, etc.)

Community cohesion: How people who support different clubs within a country will all support their national team.

Personal, learning and thinking skills: Putting themselves in the shoes of others, how would they feel in that situation?

Speaking and listening skills: Opportunities to develop these.

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