

Global Snapshots

Published by Metro International's GLOBAL CLASSROOM for globally minded kids.

GERMANY

Country Facts

Official Name: Federal Republic of Germany
Capital: Berlin
Official Language: German
Currency: the Euro (€)
Head of State: Johannes Rau, Federal President
Head of Government: Gerhard Schroeder, Federal Chancellor
Population: 82,163,000
Largest City: Berlin
Area: 137,826 sq. miles (356,970 sq. km)
Geography: Central Europe: Denmark to the north, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, France to the west, Switzerland, Austria to the south, Czech Republic, Poland to the east.



Meet Your Global Classroom Tour Guide



Name: Wen-Hsiang Thomas Luk
Hometown: Stuttgart, Germany
Current Field of Study: Investment Management

Thomas Luk, the Global Classroom Tour Guide for Germany, has been living in New York City taking business courses at Pace University through a Fulbright scholarship. During a recent Global Classroom presentation, he spoke to high school students about youth life in urban areas and gave an overview of German history.

What was the first thing you learned about the U.S. when you came here?

The U.S. is totally different than Europe or any other place I have been before. I would describe NYC as a point of convergence—everything seems to be more intense here. For instance competition, diversity, opportunities...

Siblings: I have one elder brother, who I believe is totally different from me. That is good, because otherwise it would be boring.

Pets: None

Favorite Childhood

Game(s): Table tennis, I played during every single break when I was in high school, even if it was only for five minutes.





Meet Your Global Classroom Tour Guide (continued)



What advice would you give students from the U.S. who want to visit or study in Germany?

Get involved! Start getting involved in any activity that sounds a bit appealing to you and you will have the opportunity to get a better understanding of a country.



Favorite National Food:

Well that's a difficult one, since I like a lot of good food, but one of my favorite German dishes is roast pork with Knödel (dumplings).

Favorite Native Saying:

"Alle Menschen werden als Original geboren, die meisten sterben als Kopie." It means that everyone is born to be unique and should try to find his or her own goals and way of life. Otherwise you will end up being just a duplicate of someone else.

Favorite thing about living in NY:

Once you have found or better shaped your own NY, you can really enjoy its diversity and opportunities. I enjoyed the exhibitions and perform-

ances by different artists and it was a pleasure to attend concerts of the New York Philharmonic.

Favorite Native Holiday/Festival:

I like the Oktoberfest the best. It is always a lot of fun celebrating this event, especially when you are in Munich or Stuttgart.

What would you like kids in NY to know about your country?

If you have the opportunity, come and see it on your own. I can only say it is worth coming and it is different to what you have experienced until now.

What made you want to study in another country?

I wanted to come to the U.S. in order to create my own impression after getting to

know the U.S. only through the media. I believe that studying in a foreign country is also a great opportunity to achieve personal growth.

What do you want to do when you finish your degree?

After my studies in NYC, I am going to intern in consulting. At the same time, I am thinking of starting my own business and maybe preparing myself for further studies in strategy and philosophy. That sounds great for any job interview, but honestly there is more to life than just career goals. Let's see what I can do to achieve something more important than that!





You Can Learn More about Germany by Visiting the Following Websites:

Germany: Brief descriptions of history, government and culture

<http://www.germany-info.org/relaunch/index.html>
<http://www.germany-tourism.de>
<http://www.germany-tourism.de/1593.html#>
<http://www.deutsche-kultur-international.de/eindex.htm>

Germany just for kids:

<http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com/explore/nations/germany.html>
<http://www.travelforkids.com/FuntoDo/Germany/germany.htm>

Learn German:

<http://www.germanfortravellers.com/learn/index2.html>
<http://quizhub.com/quiz/f-german-food.cfm>
<http://www.littleexplorers.com/German/>

Germany in New York:

Consulate General of Germany

<http://www.germany-info.org/relaunch/info/missions/consulates/newyork/newyork.html>

Goethe Institut

<http://www.goethe.de/uk/ney/deindex.htm>

GERMAN BREAKFAST!

Apfelpfannkuchen
(Apple Pancakes)
serves 4 people

Ingredients:

2/3 C flour
2 T plus 2 t sugar
1/4 t salt
4 Lg eggs—beaten
1/2 C Milk
2 C apple—slices
3/4 C butter
1/4 t cinnamon

Preparation:

- Sift together the flour, 2 t sugar, and salt.
- Beat together eggs and milk.
- Gradually add flour mixture; beat until smooth.
- Sauté apples in 1/4 C of butter until tender.
- Mix together 2 T sugar and the cinnamon; toss with apples.
- Melt 2 T butter in a 6-inch diameter deep frying pan.
- Pour in batter to a depth of about 1/4-inch. When set, place 1/4 of the apples on top; cover with more batter.
- Fry the pancake until it's lightly browned on both sides. Keep warm.
- Repeat the procedure 3 times until all the batter and apples are used. Serve immediately.



Global Classroom brings trained international speakers into New York City schools to do presentations about their countries/cultures. To learn more about Global Classroom, please contact the Global Classroom staff at info@metrointl.org or 212.431.1195.

