

Cooking in the classroom: To cook or not to cook!
A Centropa Lesson
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Type of school: Jewish Day School, Budapest
Course lesson taught in: World Language Class
Primary category the lesson belongs to: Jewish Culture
Grade level of students and academic level: 14-15 years old
Total required time to teach lesson: 16 lessons

From Cili:

My school has a school kitchen, and I am convinced that this is a great place for students not only for home economics lessons, but in History and English lessons also. Last year I received a collection of recipes from Ed and our Hungarian Centropa representatives and last year we started to deal with them. Mrs. Hedvig Endrei is a Holocaust survivor who collected different kinds of recipes in the concentration camp during the Second World War.

We wanted to prove that we can teach 20th century history through her cookbook. Why and how?

History does not mean only the political, economic or war events. History is the life of everyday people, those who had families, went to schools, made friends, suffered, and enjoyed life. Gastronomy is also part of our history. If we compare the recipes of the present with the Endrei recipes, we will see lots of similarities.

I started working with the World-class students, because they have an extra (bonus) year after the 8th grade, most of them have good English, and they had a cooking project in Hungarian language with me. The project name: Kitchen of the continents. We used recipes and Mrs. Endrei's biography from the Centropa website.

Summary of Lesson

The lesson opens with a warm-up activity in which students ask their grandparents what they ate during the week, on weekends and on holidays. They compare those answers with their own answers to those questions. Then students are divided into four groups and each group reads excerpts of Mrs. Endrei's interview and does a project related to what they read: a timeline of her life, a report on her early life, a report on her time in the camp, menus based on Mrs. Endrei's recipes. Students then cook several of Mrs. Endrei's recipes, and debate three statements using Karl Popper's methods: 1) History never changes our personal life; 2) We always must keep a kosher household; 3) Dreams can help us survive. The concluding activities consist of: translating the posters and Powerpoints into English, present the cooked recipes at the school's festival, and have students collect their own favorite recipes, with photos, including those from Mrs. Endrei, into a cookbook.

List of classroom supplies required

- Hedvig Endrei interview excerpts (4)
- Students need supplies to make posters (glue, posters, markers, etc) and PowerPoints (computer, PPT program)
- a school kitchen
- ingredients for the recipes
- cameras to document making of the recipes
- computer to make PowerPoints
- a projector with screen for PPTs

Subject-Related Objectives and Skills-Related Objectives

Subject related objectives: Students explore their own family’s culinary history, learn about Hungarian Jewish cuisine, learn about the experience of being in labor camps during the Holocaust. Students learn that their family stories are also part of our history and they learn how important it is to talk to the older generation and learn from them.

Skills-related objectives: cooking skills, reading skills, presenting information in a Powerpoint or poster format.

Lesson One

Warm-up activity: What do you eat for lunch during the week at school or work?

What kind of special food do you eat on the weekends?

Did your grandparents eat the same foods as you do?

Draw a chart and compare foods now and during your grandparents’ childhood.

	My grandparents	Now
Weekdays		
Weekends		
Special events(Hanukah, birthdays..)		

Questions to discuss:

1. What can you cook in a forest camp without electricity, any spices, if you have only 1000 forints for one week, for 4 persons? Discuss.
2. Pre-reading: New vocabulary-It depends on the level of students.

3. Time line: Draw a timeline, and write down the most important historical events during the 20th century in Europe and Hungary.

Lessons 2, 3 and 4: Working with the interview excerpts

Students are put into groups and given one section of Mrs. Endrei’s interview to read (excerpts). They can read this for homework, or in class, depending on the class schedule.

1. Family life
2. Household
3. Deportation
4. Recipes

Group 1: Mrs.Endrei’s family life.

Read the excerpts about Mrs. Endrei’s family life and write a short timeline and create her family tree. Use a big poster for the family tree and do a PPT about her family.

Childhood	
Marriage	
Parents	
Career	

Group 2: Mrs. Endrei’s household

Read the excerpts about Mrs. Endrei’s household growing up, and write interview questions to ask Mrs.Endrei. What can we ask her about her childhood? Collect 10-15 questions and write your report about her time growing up.

Group 3: Deportation

Read the excerpts about the Mrs. Endrei’s camp experiences. Write interview questions to ask her about her time in labor camps. Collect 10-15 questions and write your report about her time in the camps.

Group 4: Recipes

Read the excerpt about the recipes, then study Mrs.Endrei’s recipes. Answer these questions:

- Can you find Kosher foods?
- Are there any vegetarian meals?

- Have you found soups, main course, desserts, salads?
- Have you found absolutely new recipes for you?
- Does it have any recipe for Peszach, Hanukah, Rosh Hasana?
- Which ones would you try, prepare at home?

Choose recipes for 4 groups, including main course and dessert, also.

Write 4 posters with the chosen recipe, the ingredients and the instructions.
We will use them in the school kitchen next time.

Lesson 5: Presentations

Classes present their PowerPoints, reports and posters.

Lessons 6, 7 8 9: Cooking

Working in the school kitchen, students prepare the recipes. One person from each group is going to take photos and later upload them to the school or Centropa websites.

Lesson 10: Debating

Using Karl Popper methodology, we debate the following statements:

- History never changes our personal life.
- We always must keep kosher household
- Dreams can help to survive.

Follow-up Activities

1. Translate the PPTs, posters into English.
2. Present the foods at our school festival: garden party
3. Our cookery book: Collect our own favourite recipes with photos, and our favourite Mrs.Endrei's recipes .

Feedback/Remarks

I always enjoy the cooking with students, we share our experiences, feelings, family stories. It is a real fun! I can recommend it to everyone!