

WORLDWIDE CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIPS



“worldwide surprise” is a campaign for children. While combining fun with intercultural learning and development-oriented commitment, the campaign gives children the opportunity to widen their cultural horizons and promote the idea of a more equitable world.

The concept of “worldwide surprise” is based on a Christmas custom called ‘Wichteln’ in Germany, ‘Amigo secreto’ in Brazil and ‘Secret Santa’ in America. The campaign gives the custom of exchanging gifts a deeper meaning, especially in a global context.

Children in Germany buy presents and cotton hand “Wichtel” puppets for each other at a Fair Trade Shop, which they decorate and exchange in Kindergarten or in Sunday school. The puppets are produced in a fair trade project in India, which supports the physically handicapped women who sew the puppets. By making hand-decorated “Wichtel” puppets, the children in Germany surprise children in other parts of the world. These are then sent to different parts of the world.



Having Fun with the Wichtel-puppets in a school in Ethiopia.



Girls in Bolivia with their Wichtel-puppets. They got them in Sunday school.



Sudanese boys painting colorful puppets for a german group.

There are three possibilities for you to join in and be a part of this campaign.

1. If you already have a partnership abroad and wish to start a 'Wichtel' partnership.

You could organise a 'Wichtel' session i.e. a handicrafts lesson where the children could use their creative minds and make/draw etc something that describes Christmas and life in their city, town or village. This could range from drawings and paintings, to photos and poems.

If you wish, you could also design and decorate "Wichtel" hand puppets, which can be ordered for 2,50 Euro under www.worldwide-surprise.org. During the 'Wichtel' session, you could tell the children something about Christmas in Germany or in the country of your respective partner, for which materials are attached to this letter. Pack a package with the 'Wichtel surprises' from your group for the partners abroad. Please do not send food, electrical articles, clothes or toys. Only photos, letters, self-made handicrafts and/or "Wichtel" hand puppets.

Please attach a letter in English that explains the campaign and clearly expresses your wish for a reply. A draft can be found under www.worldwide-surprise.com. The exchange can be repeated every year with new aspects.

2. If you have received a package and wish to respond back to the sender.

You could organise a 'Wichtel' session i.e. a handicrafts lesson where the children could use their creative minds and make/draw etc something describing Christmas and life in their city or village. This could range from drawings and paintings, to photos and poems. During the 'Wichtel' session, you could tell the children something about Christmas in the country of the sender, for which materials are attached to this letter. Pack the package with the 'Wichtel surprises' from your group and send it to the sender. If you wish, you could attach an English letter of appreciation.

3. If you wish to start a 'Wichtel' partnership but do not have a partner.

For an address contact: "Worldwide Surprise". After receiving an address follow the instructions found above under point 1.

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