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*One fun way of applying maths and numbers to an international themed event is to incorporate maths into a real life style situation. One of the easiest and most effective activities to base on maths is to involve currencies and run activities that help the students to learn about spending habits/living costs in other countries.*

ACTIVITY IDEA 1 – PLANNING A MEAL AND WORKING OUT THE COST OF THAT MEAL IN A GIVEN COUNTRY

 Equipment needed - Ingredients lists with prices for the students

 - Calculators

 - Coloured pens and paper

 - Pictures/food magazines for cutting out images from

Give the students a budget (e.g. 5 euros) and ask them to plan a meal for …. (A family, group of friends etc). Give them the ‘ingredients list’, a list of many different foods that they would be able to buy at the prices written on there. Ask them to prepare a recipe, including a ‘receipt’ that they’ve made showing how much they’re going to have spent and pictures of their finished meal.

*Make it more challenging… for older students/with computer access, get them to search the costs of ingredients, or set a specific budget/a specific meal requirement to be met.*

*Make it easier… for younger students – run it as a class lesson, use powerpoint and images of ingredients for a well known meal that the children will know, get them to ‘guess’ the costs or bring in real ingredients for a meal, pass them around and have different amounts of money/ play money laid out on the table and ask the students to put the ingredients next to the money they think it costs.*

ACTIVITY IDEA 2 – BASIC ITEMS AND THEIR COSTS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Equipment needed - Basic everyday items (choose items appropriate to age group – eg younger children – fruit, toothpaste, bubble bath, bread, milk cartons etc. older students – ipods, phones, video games etc.

 - Different currencies (either real money, play money or just signs typed up and cut out that have the amount written on them eg “£1”.

 - Teacher’s list – have a list of all of the items in a table with the cost of each one in different currencies written next to it.

Get the students to guess the costs of different items in different countries.

*For older students – could introduce the day’s current exchange rates and get them to work out the difference in price for different items compared to GBP.*

*For younger students – make it more of a ‘guessing game’ and include a plenary/summarise explaining to the children the difference in price of an item in one country compared to ours (eg “milk costs 80p for 1 litre in England but it costs $1.50 in America which would be £1 here” - \*made up example, not true to current currency rate)*