THE LARGEST DOLPHINS ARE ORCAS!

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Topic: The Largest Dolphins Are Orcas!

School: Junior secondary school (Gimnazjum)

Level: Pre-Intermediate

Time: 45 minutes

Aims:

- to find out specific information about different animals of the world.
- to practise reading for specific information.
- to work on vocabulary connected with the animal world.
- to learn how to write a postcard to friends.

Preparation:

- The teacher checks sites for animals given below, to see if they are still available.

- The teaches goes to the sites of online dictionaries (www.dictionary.com, http://dictionary.cambridge.org, www.yourdictionary.com) to see which is the most comprehensible and the easiest for students to understand the definitions.
- The teacher may also provide bilingual dictionaries online. Here are some for Polish students(e.g. www.slowniki.onet.pl, http://slownik.angielski.edu.pl/slownik/, www.ling.pl, www.multislownik.pl)

Assumptions: Students know basic information on animals such as kind of food they eat, places they live in, which family they belong to etc.

Anticipated problems & possible solutions:

The website should be checked by the teacher before the lesson. In case it is under construction or not available the teacher may use a following site: www.kidsplanet.org/factsheets/map.html.

If most of students have got no Internet friends (e-pals) the teacher can give their e-mail address to students and they can send electronic postcards to the teacher. This exercise can be also done as homework if there is not enough time during the lesson and students have got an easy access to the Internet after the lessons.

Materials: English-Polish dictionaries

Procedure:

I. Pre–stage

1) The teacher says: Write a list of words you associate with the following animals; an orca (killer whale), a cheetah, a tiger, a dolphin and a panda.

2) Students report back and they are given the sites of online dictionaries they can find useful later during the lesson (the addresses are given above).

II. While-stage

1) The teacher tells the students to enter www.nationalgeographic.com/kids

2) Students select Creature Feature in the left column. Then they can choose different wild animals in the right column.

3) The teacher divides the class in 5 groups of 2-3 students. Each group is given a different animal to work on. The animals are: an orca (killer whale), a cheetah, a tiger, a bottlenose dolphin and a panda (giant panda). Each group is to give the following information concerning their assigned animal.

A/ The weight of the average animal –

B/ The places the animal lives in (you can go back to the **map** to check) –

C/ The names of food they eat -

D/ Two interesting facts about the animal -

4) Students write the answers in their notebooks then report back giving the lacking information to the other groups. When the exercise is finished each student has got complete information on 5 different animals in their notebooks

5) Students are given phrases that may be used while writing a holiday postcard (e.g.

With love,

Here I am at last!

Dear Jack,

P.S. How are you doing on your holiday?

Mark

I'm sitting on the beach and watching seagulls flying in the sky now.

Please drop a line.

Australia is really beautiful.

Mandy is sleeping in her room.

Wish you were here.)

They put the phrases in the correct order to make a postcard and report back.

III. Post-stage

1) The teacher tells students to select any two animals they like and write postcards to their friend or friends while watching their favourite animal in the wild. They need to click the animal in the right column again on www.nationalgeographic.com/kids and then click the postcard. The teacher assists students during the task.