



Continents

Context

Children stand up to play a 'Montrez-moi' game in which they listen and respond with actions to the French words for continents and weather phrases. They progress to listening and saying the sentences with the teacher and then to reading them from the board, while performing the actions.

This extracts illustrates work on continents in **QCA Unit 20 Notre Monde** and revises the weather phrases from **QCA Unit 12 Quel temps fait-il? And Unit 7 On y va.**

Exploration

Children have invented actions to remind them of the names of the continents and the weather phrases in French. Some actions illustrate things they know about the continents and others the sound of the words. These strategies:

1. enable the teacher to check comprehension
2. avoid the need for translation
3. allow the children to show understanding without having to say the words
4. ensure that all children take an active part, as those who don't remember can copy others
5. help ensure an efficient use of class time
6. help children have fun and remember

Progression in skill development is clearly shown in this lesson as children:

- listen and respond to single nouns, phrases and then sentences
- repeat the sentences
- read familiar sentences from the board
- analyse word order in sentences

Notice that the teacher uses only French in the first part of the lesson, ensuring that the class must listen carefully for the meaning of the new language. Later she changes to English in order to analyse differences in language and to introduce other activities. There is a useful list of language teaching games in the Teacher's Guide accompanying the QCA schemes of work on: <http://www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/local/pdf/tguidelanguagerevised.pdf>

Links to the KS2 Framework

Children:

- recognise and respond to sound patterns and words
- perform simple communicative tasks using single words, phrases and short sentences
- listen attentively and understand instructions, everyday classroom language and praise words
- listen for specific words and phrases

03.2 03.3 03.4 04.2

- read and understand a range of familiar written phrases
- follow a short familiar text listening and reading at the same time
- read some familiar words and phrases and pronounce them accurately

L4.1 L4.2 L4.3

- reinforce and extend recognition of word classes and understand their function
- recognise how sounds are represented in written form
- notice the spelling of familiar words
- recognise patterns in the foreign language
- recognise the typical conventions of word order in the language

KAL



- use actions to aid memorisation
- use gestures to show they understand
- look for visual and aural clues
- recognise patterns in simple sentences
- apply previous knowledge and clues
- apply known rules

LLS

Next steps

Children might:

- work in pairs, taking turns to say the sentences and perform actions.
- answer the question *Dans quel continent est ...?*
- go on to forecast the weather. Compare *il fait beau* and *il va faire beau*.
- learn to answer the question *Quel temps va-t-il faire?*

Development

- Notice the teacher's use of French and English in this lesson. How does she introduce and link activities in French? Why does she change to English? What are the advantages and disadvantages of changing to English at the stage she did. How does she praise children in French?
- Consider the reasons why children are standing up for this lesson. In what way does this aid language learning?