

Austria: My House in Austria

My Beautiful House Series

Subject Areas: Social Studies, World Geography and Cultures, Multicultural Studies

Synopsis: Twelve-year-old Bernadette lives in the Tyrol region, in a huge chalet over 300 years old. There are ten children in her family, which takes some organizing! Today is Sunday, after church, Bernadette is happy to be looking after the animals rather than staying at home working.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to compare and contrast their culture, family, and activities with Bernadette's culture, family and activities.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of cultures on our planet.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to locate Austria on a map or globe.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to identify cultural traditions of Austria.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to compare how Bernadette's basic needs are met with the way their own needs for food, clothing and shelter are met.

Vocabulary:

Austria, Tyrol, precise, stable, parsley, territory, sculpted, speck knodel (an Austrian dish), organized, religion, furnace, balcony, breathtaking, chapel, intimate, operate, veterinarian, meadow, practical experience

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) Locate Austria on a map or globe. Ask students on which continent Austria is located. Point out the Alps, Vienna and the Danube River on the map. Make sure viewers know where Austria is in relation to the rest of the world, including the United States and North America.
- 2) Discuss general characteristics of Austria such as climate, geographical features, the people, customs, etc.
- 3) Ask students to draw a map of their homes. Have them include the number of rooms, number of bedrooms, who lives with them, etc. Compare and contrast the different maps.

Post-Viewing Questions:

- 1) Describe Bernadette's family. Compare and contrast Bernadette's family-life to your own. How is it similar or different? How many brothers and sisters does Bernadette have? Do you have any brothers or sisters? If so, how many? With whom does Bernadette share a room? Where do Bernadette and her family eat their meals? Why is it necessary for them to be so organized about meals? What do they eat? From where do they get their milk? Where do you eat your meals? What kind of food do you like?

- 2) Describe Bernadette's house. How is her house similar or different from your home? Describe the "winter room" in Bernadette's house. Why is it called that? Describe a very unique part of Bernadette's house. What makes your house special? How many bathrooms are in Bernadette's house? How many are in your house? What is Bernadette's favorite place in her house? Do you have a favorite room? If so, what is it?
- 3) Compare and contrast Bernadette's activities to your own. How are they similar or different? What does Bernadette want to be when she grows up? How do her chores reflect her desire to be a veterinarian someday? What do you want to be when you grow up? How do you help with chores at home? How is Bernadette's religious experience similar or different from your own?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Have students draw a picture of their neighborhood or write a story about their family and home. Then, have the students read their stories or display and describe their drawings for the class.
- 2) Have students prepare a geographic profile of Austria noting its size, location, climate, natural resources and outstanding cultural traits. Have the students describe Austria's history, principal industries, people and major tourist attractions.

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