



Efamily4U News, year 1st, n°1 May 2013

A Product of The Multilateral Comenius Project **EFamily4U 2012-2014**

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## EuroFamily News, Good News

by Amelia de Angelis

European Family is important, not only because it is an essential contribution to the economy, but also because of the long-term stability it brings. Schools feel this responsibility. As Comenius partners, they play a significant role in ensuring recognition of every country's contribution to the social cohesion in Europe, in order to support the next generation of citizens.

First year of our school partnership has gone and we learned a lot about different cultures in Europe. We discovered that the Member States of the European Union have a variety of family traditions and habits and that every country

can gain from an exchange of information on that. We also made new friends.

We exchanged our traditions: those little rituals passed down from generation to generation that help shape your family by creating a sense of unity, warmth and closeness. If you can do the same with your European family members, it is priceless. There are no rules and

there is no "right" way to do this. Just take initiative,

get creative, make it happen and, most importantly, have fun!

Thanks to everybody.

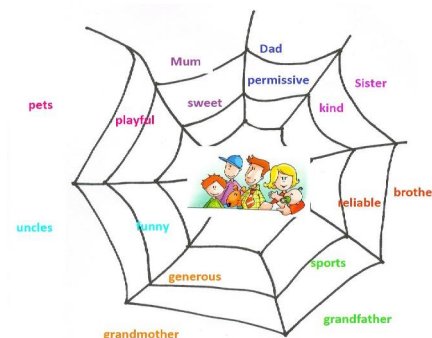


The Project Mascotte

## FAMILY SHOULD/SHOULDN'T....

**Family should be...** a point of reference, harmonious and sweet, a place where sons and daughters can speak of their problems, insecurity and fears.

**Family shouldn't be....** antisocial, antique, pessimistic. Fathers shouldn't speak about their job at home. Brothers and sisters shouldn't be selfish.



Simona Romano, IIP, Middle School, Italy

## Where Does The Italian Family Go?



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□ □ A □ □ AN FAM □ □ □

□y Sabrina Costagliola, □iulio  
□roschitto, □ucia Cangiano,  
II □, Middle School

□uman beings have the natural need to relate to each other. They need to share sorrow and joy and to receive protection and love, that's why people start a family. □owever this is the modern idea of family, but long time ago things went in different ways and the marriage was considered a sort of contract □mostly church wedding□ basic to start a family. Upper and middle classes people married just to shelter their wealth or

social rank, while low class people married in order to get working help. In both cases the head of the household was the husband.

As time goes by the Italian family underwent many changes and nowadays in Italy, as well as in Europe, you can find different types of family. First of all marriage is not considered a contract anymore, and it is not necessary to be married to start a family. So in Italy nowadays there are many "like families". Then there are the traditional families based on marriage, and the "traditional family", including grandparents or uncles and aunts. There are also the so called nuclear family, a basic family unit of par-

ents and children, but there are also families with only one parent, a mother or a father, that for different reasons □such as divorce or death□ lives alone with the children. Finally there are the so called mononuclear families, made up of a single unmarried man or women, the single's family. □owever family is something more than a small group of people living under the same roof. Family is the place where parents teach their children how to live. It is the place where children get their qualities and faults and will develop into adults, ready to leave the nest, ready to start a new family.



Xmas's or New Year's Eve Dinner Table

ITA □ IA □ T □ A □ ITI □ □ A □ CE □ E □ □ ATI □ □ S A □ □ FESTI □ A □ S

□ □ □ □ □ MA □ □ N □ □ A □ □

By Enola □eglia, Erika Consiglia, Esposito, □orenzo □racale, Siria Migliaccio, II H, Middle School

Whether it is extended or nuclear, traditional or a like family, family is not only the basic organization of the society, but also the whole spectrum of traditions and costumes that can characterize the lifestyle of an entire country.

In Italy we use to celebrate, as in most of Europe, special days, as the mother day or the father day, weddings or birthdays, but above all we love Christmas celebration. This is the most important festival of the year and in this occasion the whole families meet and display their own tradition as regards food and decoration. □n Christmas Eve, for example, my family use to get together with grandparents, uncles and aunts, and we have a fantastic delicious Christmas dinner prepared by grandmother, mum and aunts, generally based on fish, seafood and □eapolitan fried vegetables.

We use to decorate the house and the Christmas tree, but we also make the Christmas crib. The Christmas crib has a long lasting tradition all over Italy. □ere in □aples there are special little shops where the artisans still use to carve or mould by hands the characters used to set up the □ativity scene. Almost each family in □aples has a Christmas crib, large or small. My



family also has one and on Christmas Eve we wait for midnight by the holy crib, singing Christmas carols and then we put the little □oly Child sculpture in the cave.

□n Christmas day we also get together and spend our time telling old family stories or playing traditional cards games. Then in the night everybody goes home.

The house seems empty. A glimpse to the sparkling Christmas tree. It's all so quiet. The □oly □aby rests peacefully. In a few days the Three Wise Men will arrive with their gifts for the □oly Child, gold, silver and myrrh.

Another Christmas went away, another story to tell my children when I'll grow up.





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By Umberto Guardascione,  
IIIM, Middle School



Christmas is my favourite holiday because I like to spend this day with my relatives and share presents

with them. Each year the night before Christmas my family and I go over my grandparent's. We have our traditional dinner with fish dishes. Our traditional dish is: "capitone" and my grandmother knows how to cook it really well. I love the atmosphere you can breath that day and especially because we remember Jesus's birthday.

## FREEDOM OF SEX

By IIA,IIIA Middle School students

### Would you like to get married?

Absolutely! Thousand of Italian gays, who already form a family, haven't got the chance to be legally recognized. Therefore they constantly find difficulties in relating to society.

### Do you feel as a couple?

We feel as a couple but even more as a family. We share every decision and we make projects. Our parents, relatives and friends have always supported our behavior and opinions.

### Would you like to have children?

We support the law which allows gays families to file for adoption as well as the heterosexual families legally smoothing every difference between the two.

### Does the society help you?

The society doesn't help us because the gay families cannot be publicly recognized, cannot legally inherit after the death of the partner, medical assis-

tance, reversibility of retirement and so on.

The government should educate and spread the culture of diversity as far as sexual orientation and promote awareness among people.

### Did you know that gay couples can get married in Spain and Germany?

Yes, we did..... and not only! Come and see what has just appened in Paris!!!

### Do you feel as a family?

Yes, we do as we have already said. The Pope stated that the Pope is in serious danger with the approval of laws which level gays' marriages to regular man-woman's marriage.

### When did you realize it?

From the very first moment we met we decided to live together and we have been living together for seven years now.

**Same-sex marriage**, also known as **gay marriage**, is marriage between two persons of the same biological sex or gender identity. 12 countries (Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, Sweden and recently also France) allow same-sex couples to marry nationwide. Same-sex marriages are also performed and recognized in Mexico City. Same-sex marriage has been legal in Spain since 3 July 2005. In Denmark on 7 June 2012 the Folketing (Danish parliament) approved new laws regarding same-sex civil and religious marriage.

Gaetano Ruocco, freely taken from Wikipedia

## NEA AN FAM E AN A AN N

### "O Monaciello": a playful ghost

Based upon Clara Barbara Manacorda,  
*Partenope magica, miti e leggende della Napoli antica, L'isola dei ragazzi* - Team-work II H, Middle School

During the Forties and the Fifties Italian families, and particularly Neapolitan families, used to think of their home not only as the space in which they live, but also as something or someone able to assimilate emotions, thoughts and facts belonging to the people who had lived in it for generations.

Many years ago families were huge, with many children, and they included not only the parents and their children, but also grandparents, uncles, aunties, and sometimes great grandparents too. They used to live all together in large flats and, as the television, computer and videogames were not invented yet, after dinner the grandparents used to tell the old stories of the family and the legends of the house. Among these old stories there were many tales about "O Monaciello".

The terms "O Monaciello" mean "The little monk" in Neapolitan language, "piccolo monaco" in Italian. He appears like a little child monk-dressed with a small bonnet (skullcap) on his head. The colour of the bonnet changed depending on the occasions. In fact it revealed the Monaciello's intentions. If it was red, it announced good luck and richness. If, conversely it was black, big troubles were coming. It is an old belief, but nowadays some Neapolitan people still believe in "Monaciello".



## Men and women



### GENE DIFFERENCES

*Thanks to scientific studies, man and women are considered different from a physical and psychological point of view*

*By Belinda Moreno Hernández*

According to scientific studies, men and women have physical and psychological differences. Firstly a man has a different reproductive organ, is bigger and furthermore, stronger than women. Secondly, **ES Theory** says that in general, men are better at systematizing and women are better at empathizing.

Children participate in more sports and are more interested in video games than girls, who participate in more artistic hobbies, related to dancing and music. In adolescence, girls are the first to mature and boys the last with a difference of one year. In girls, their brain becomes very sensitive to the emotional subjects of acceptance or rejection. Their goal is to interact socially, to go to parties, to wear high heels and dresses and to be liked by the boys. On the other hand, usually kids start to smoke and drink alcohol because they want to look older and stronger, and also go to parties and be liked by the girls, but not in order to have serious relationships. Girls tend to be better students, and usually there are more girls than

boys at university. In the workplace, men tend to get more jobs and higher wages than women. This is because a woman can get pregnant, and then would have to ask for a maternity leave, which would suppose an expense for the company where this woman worked. In addition to that, maternity leave does not exist in all countries, thus, worsening the whole situation.

Something else worth considering is gender violence. It is a form of physical or psychological violence against any person of a different genre that negatively impacts their physical and psychological identity. There are cases of gender violence in men and women but in women is much higher. Many associations have been created to stop the violence, which help women in rebuilding their lives.

In conclusion, men and women should have equal rights. There is no excuse for encouraging discrimination based on gender. Being physically different does not make one better than the other. We are all human and should be treated respectfully.

#### Love in the Family

You have to feel the love, the love of your mother, and of your father. The family is very important, the family is the first. The family is like an ant, strong and is the best.

*Alberto Hernández Berzosa,, Spain*

#### Friendship in the Family

The friendship is very important, the boyfriend or the girlfriend too.

But the love of family, is the best in the world.

Enjoy this life,

because you don't know when it will end.

Smile you laugh you and above be happy.

Don't forget to be happy above all.

Give it your way always for too long.

*Luz Maria Martínez Sánchez, Spain*

**FAMILY**

#### Mother

Am muttertag schenke ich mutter eine Blume

Am muttertag male ich meiner mutter ein bild  
*Mirko Di Bello, Italy*



## a grievous reality

### GENE GA

by Maria Dolores Gae

***Gender differences are still a grievous reality in many European countries in which gender differences and, specifically, discrimination against women are overtly observed.***

For years, equality has been searched for and advances in this matter have been made with, consequently, sex-related differences being milder in some sectors of society. Modern life allows for women and men to enjoy life similarly though it is always women who get the wrong end of the stick when preferences are

made on job status and family responsibilities.

It is commonly the case that male workers get up the ladder more easily whereas female workers also do but, sometimes, with strenuous effort, which is increased by the condition of being a mother. Moreover, we move on shifting lands in other fields such as wage growth, which is smaller for women on the grounds of just ... physical complexity. Equality in education and health is steady but the situation varies when housework comes into play. Also a matter of physical complexity. Work and housework seem to be words whose connotative meaning sparks inequality, being women who have a higher unemployment rate and who force-

fully enjoy housekeeping most often.

Unfortunately, relationships are also marked by a tendency towards the male having greater advantages. In some parts of Europe, female action against unfairness within the home has led some of them to be victims of gender violence, having been battered to death. All things considered and, in spite of all issues concerning female and male condition in current society, life keeps on changing and evolving, heading for levelled gender treatment in all spheres.



***In some parts of Europe, female action against unfairness within the home has led some of them to be victims of gender violence***

### he es ind o o

There are many loves,  
but only one,  
really true,  
the family.  
Every day with you,  
If it's cold or it's sun,  
always they are with you.  
When you have a problem,  
They help you,  
you family is the best thing.

Javier Gómez Nsue, Spain

### Madre sola una

Madre sola una de amor todo su  
cuerpo trasform  
ue en su vientre muchos meses  
llevy de sus senos mucho mas te  
alimento  
Madre sola una  
ue tus sueos por la noches vigil  
ue tu vida de cari rebaz  
Cual leona a su cachorro protegi  
Madre sola una  
Compaera, amiga, hermana y mucho  
m,

Una voz que no te habl con falsedad  
tus defectos supo perdonar  
Madre sola una  
ue el mirarla en su ojos encontrar  
Tus raes, tus entraas, tu verdad  
un amor como no existe otro igual  
Madre sola una  
ue al pasar el tiempo nunca  
olvidar  
ue su imagen para siempre vivir  
Tan presente como un dios ante el  
altar

Stefania Esposito, Italy



## The "Roccocò"



*Imma Miano, IIIQ, Middle School*



Pastiera is a traditional Neapolitan pie which you absolutely cannot miss at Easter even if it has been introduced to the Christmas table recently.

### You can't miss it!!

#### Method:

- Let the pastry thaw at room temperature.
- Pour into a casserole cooked wheat, milk, butter and the grated rind of 1 lemon, cook for 10 minutes, stirring often until it becomes creamy.
- Whisk in the "ricotta", sugar, 2 eggs plus 2 egg

yolks, a teaspoon of vanilla, a tablespoon of orange blossom water, and a pinch of cinnamon.

- Working all up to make the dough very thin. Add some grated rind of one lemon and candied fruit cut into cubes. Mix well with the grain.

- Take the dough and straighten it to a thickness of about 1mm cm with a rolling pin. Coat a baking tin with oil and brush with the dough. Cut the excess part off and cut the strips to put on the top later.

- Pour the ricotta mixture into the pan, level the filling, bend the edges of the

dough inward and decorate with strips to form a lattice pattern. Then brush them with beaten egg yolk.

- Bake at 180 degrees for an hour and a half until the pastiera reaches an amber colour, and let it get cold. Before serving, sprinkle with powdered sugar.

By Giulia Viola. IIP, Middle School



The Neapolitan "Pastiera"

#### Ingredients

- a pack of 1kg of frozen shortcrust pastry
- 500 grams of ricotta
- 100 grams of cooked wheat
- 100 grams of sugar
- a lemon.
- 100 grams of candied citron
- 100 grams of candied orange
- 100 grams of milk
- 100 grams of butter or lard
- 4 Whole eggs plus two egg yolks
- a sachet of vanilla
- a tablespoon of orange blossom water
- a pinch of cinnamon

## Murcian Rice: The Paella



The rice cultivated in Murcia deserves a chapter all to itself. The Muslims grew this crop throughout the region and from henceforth it has formed a vital component of Murcian cuisine. Today, Murcian rice, with the denomination of origin **Calasparra** –for example the exquisite rice known as "bomba", is famous world-wide. This is not surprising when we take into account that by the fourteenth century the rice cultivated in the area of Calasparra was already being exported to Majorca and North Africa. The Murcians prepare their rice in many ways. Apart from the typical rice with vegetables, the traveller can also choose between rice with rabbit and snails, rice with pork or "caldero", a typical coastal dish, made by cooking rice in abundant fish stock. Other dishes shouldn't be forgotten, such as the gypsy casserole and wheat stew.

Although vegetables form a great majority of Murcian dishes, as we have seen other ingredients are also used. Besides fish, meat is also a very important component of

the local cooking and meat lovers who visit the region will enjoy the range of dishes on offer. These include kid and suckling lamb.

The very famous and unique "chuletas de cordero al ajoblanco" are suckling lamb chops served with a dressing comprised of chopped garlic, vinegar and a bay leaf. Worth special mention is the game, especially rabbit, hare, partridge and quail.

The local meat pie and hind deer pie are very original contributions to Spanish gastronomy. Another dish which supposes a "must" as far as the visitor goes is the "caldo con pelotas" - a stew made of turkey with meatballs, traditionally served over Christmas. - It is just another example of the imaginative cooking of this region.

<http://www.spain-recipes.com/murcia-recipes.html>



### Paella Recipe



An authentic seafood and chicken paella that boasts some of Spain's finest ingredients, from calasparra rice to chorizo.

#### Ingredients

- 1kg short-grain rice
- 100g paprika
- 100ml 1 fl oz dry white wine
- 2 litres 2 pints chicken stock, heated with 1 tsp saffron strands
- 2 chicken thighs, each chopped in half and browned
- 2 small clams, cleaned
- 100g 4 oz fresh or frozen peas
- 2 large tomatoes, de-seeded and diced
- 100ml 1 fl oz good olive oil
- 1 head garlic, cloves separated and peeled
- 2 jumbo raw prawns, in shells
- 100g 1 lb squid, cleaned and chopped into bite-sized pieces

- 1 tbsp chopped flatleaf parsley
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

#### Preparation method

Heat half the olive oil in a paella dish or heavy-based saucepan. Add the chorizo and pancetta and fry until crisp. Add the garlic, onion and pepper and heat until softened. Add the thyme, chilli flakes and calasparra rice, and stir until all the grains of rice are nicely coated and glossy. Now add the paprika and dry white wine and when it is bubbling, pour in the hot chicken stock, add the chicken thighs and cook for 10 minutes. Now place the clams into the dish with the join facing down so that the edges open outwards. Sprinkle in the peas and chopped tomatoes and continue to cook gently for another 10 minutes. Meanwhile, heat the remaining oil with the garlic cloves in a separate pan and add the prawns. Fry quickly for a minute or two then add them to the paella. Now do the same with the squid and add them to the paella too. Scatter the chopped parsley over the paella and serve immediately.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/paella\\_10111](http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/paella_10111)  
<http://www.thepaellacompany.co.uk/paella-tips.html>

<http://www.delicious-spanish-recipes.com/murcia-recipes.html#UJUaleimfs>  
<http://www.squidoo.com/spanish-food-murcia>

## Dish called "Bigos"



### Ingredients

- 1 kg of sour cabbage,
- 1 kg sweet cabbage,
- 100 g pork,
- 100 g smoked bacon,
- 100 g beef,
- 100 g lardon,
- 1 onion,
- 100 g dried plums,
- bay leaves,
- sugar, salt, pepper – pinch,
- 100 g sausage,
- 1 glass of red, dry wine

"Bigos" dish is very tasty. It is often served at the Christmas time with mushrooms. Try it and you won't regret for sure.

### It's delicious

### Preparations

Cut meat into chunks. Slice bacon and cut lardon into small chunks.

Fry bacon and lardon in a pan.

Roast meat with onion.

Cut sweet cabbage

and mix with sour cabbage in a pot.

Cut layers warstory of: cabbage, meat, onion, fried bacon and lardon in a big pot.

Slice dried plums and put them on the top of the layers.

Cut the pot into heated oven and simmer for 1 hours a day for 1-2 days.

Take care not to burn it!

Mix it several times. After 1-2 days it gets a special colour and aroma, so at the end add bay leaves.

Add pinch of sugar, salt and pepper.

Add red, dry wine.

When the dish is ready you can serve it with boiled sausage, fresh bread or roll.

## Danish Meatballs in Curry (Boller I Karry)



### Ingredients

#### Meatballs:

- 1 pound ground pork
- 1 cup breadcrumbs or 2 tablespoon flour
- 2 finely chopped onions
- 1 egg
- 3 garlic gloves
- Salt
- Pepper

#### Curry Sauce:

- 2 tablespoons Danish butter
- 2 heaping tablespoons yellow curry (use a mild curry if you are at all concerned about it being too spicy)
- 1 large chopped onion
- 1 large chopped leek
- 5 tablespoons flour
- 3,5 ounces cream 35% chopped fresh parsley (just enough for a light sprinkling just prior to serving)
- 4 cups Beef stock

This great tasting traditional Danish recipe is very popular amongst Danes of all ages. Do not be concerned if you are not a fan of spicy food. This is a very mildly spiced dish, and many Danish children happily call this their favorite food.

This is not a recipe you want to miss out on. Chances are it could end up making a regular appearance in your families meal plan.

Serves 4

### Equipment

### Meatballs

Mix breadcrumbs or flour, egg, onions, garlic salt and pepper go into a big bowl.

Be sure to mix it well. Add ground pork and mix it well again.

Leave the mixture in the fridge for 1 hour.

Make meatballs with a tablespoon, and place in boiling water with the beef stock.

Boil for 10-15 minutes, depending on the size of the meatballs.

Take meatballs out of the water, but keep the water. You will need it for the Curry Sauce.

### Curry Sauce

Melt butter in a pot. Add curry and brown it

for a couple of minutes. Add onions and leek and brown it for a couple of minutes.

Add flour and mix well.

Add water from meatballs a little bit at the time, until the sauce thickens.

Add cream and meatballs.

Let it simmer for 10 min. Serve with boiled rice, and sprinkled with parsley on top.

### Enjoy





This is not a recipe as you know it. This is something special. We in Bavaria have a very special meal, and you have not to be an excellent cook to prepare it. It is called "white sausage". You can buy them in every butchery in Bavaria. These sausages have a white colour, that is where the name comes from. You only have to put them in hot water, but be careful not to cook it because the skin would burst then! To the

sausages we always eat a sweet mustard and pretzels. Pretzels are baked and made of a kind of salty pastry.

There is one more special thing about the white sausages. In Bavaria we say that the sausages "are not allowed to hear the 12 o'clock ringing of the church bells". Why do you think this is so? You will find the answer below the picture!



The answer to the question is:

The white sausages are not allowed to hear the 12 o'clock ringing because they have to be made very fresh every day and after 12 o'clock they are not fresh and tasty anymore!

*The white sausages are not allowed to hear the 12 o'clock ringing*



*A Family, A Oak*



FAMILY, AS THE OAK, IS STRENGTH AND WISDOM. TO GROW IT NEEDS LOVE AND RESPECT.



LA FAMIGLIA, COME LA QUERCIA, È FORZA E SAPIENZA. PER CRESCERE SANA HA BISOGNO DI AMORE E RISPETTO.

ALESSIA PESCO IM  
ITALY

## New Models



The **la** **o** **ha** **ing** **babies** **la** **er**, **a** **er** **gaining** **high** **ro** **essional** **ro** **otion** **and** **sui** **able**, **in** **an** **cial** **osi** **ion** **auses** **ha** **a** **lo** **o** **ou** **les** **are** **childless**

**□□E M□□E□**  
**□F**  
**A □□ □□□□**  
**FAM□□□**

□y *Patrycja Dąbek*,  
 15 years

**A traditional,  
 multigeneratio  
 nal pattern  
 of family home  
 living  
 under one roof  
 hasn't been  
 existing  
 anymore**

**A** present model of a Polish family is different than the traditional one. The contemporary type of Polish family is becoming more and more similar to a western one. A traditional, multigenerational pattern of family home living under one roof hasn't been existing anymore. □f course, even today it is possible to find such examples, but they are rather rare. □owadays the □oles very often put their education and careers on the first place as the most important condition of their lives. □oung Polish women decide to start their family and have children after completing their studies and buying flats or houses. The fact of having babies later, after gaining high professional pro-

motion and suitable, financial position causes that a lot of couples are childless. This situation may be a result of either their selfish attitude or troubles connected with the disability of becoming pregnant in an older age. The □oles stay at their homes less and less because they work very hard and longer and longer hours. It should be noted that in the past usually only the father worked. To assure the high living standard for their families they are absent and usually work overtime. Some of them are becoming workaholics and lose the close contact with their partners and children, but it's not a rule. Their rela-

tionships are becoming weaker. □abysitters take care of little children till their parents come back home after work. □owever, a lot of Polish families try to live in a normal way: stay together as much as possible, support and help each other, celebrate holidays together, have family meetings, protect Polish traditions, respect and visit older family members in the free times. The present model of a Polish family is different than the older one for sure. There are □or □, maximum □children but their parents care more about their education and do their best to improve their children's future.



Warsaw,  
 The Capital of Poland





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## Spanish Students

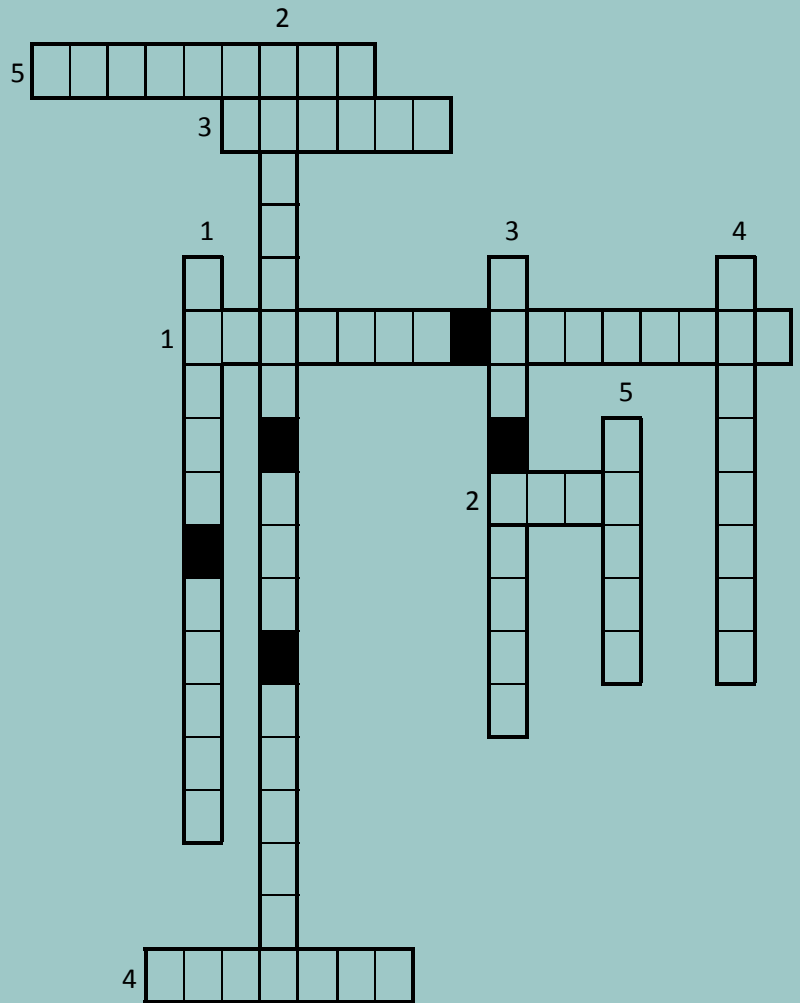
### SPANISH FAMOUS

#### VERTICAL

1. Main actor or "El Barco"
2. The Spanish coacher selection.
3. The most famous Spanish basketball who plays in the NBA.
4. The best goalkeeper in the world.
5. The most important tennis player in Spain.

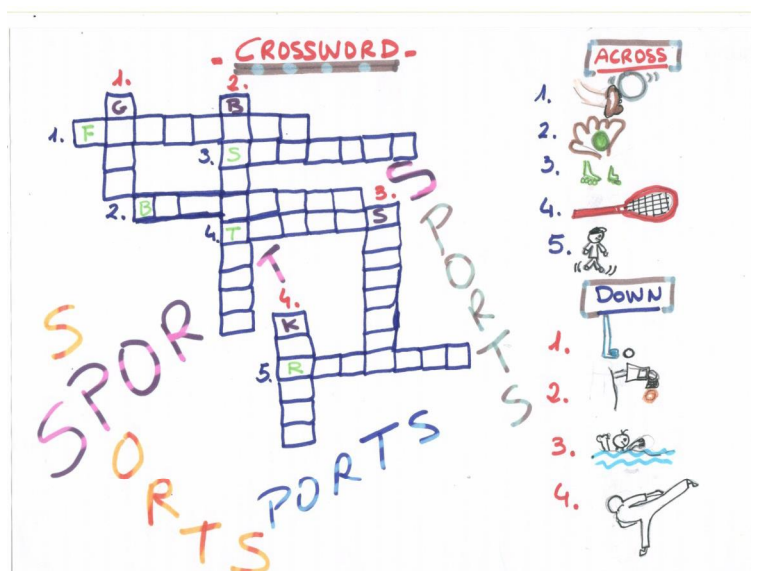
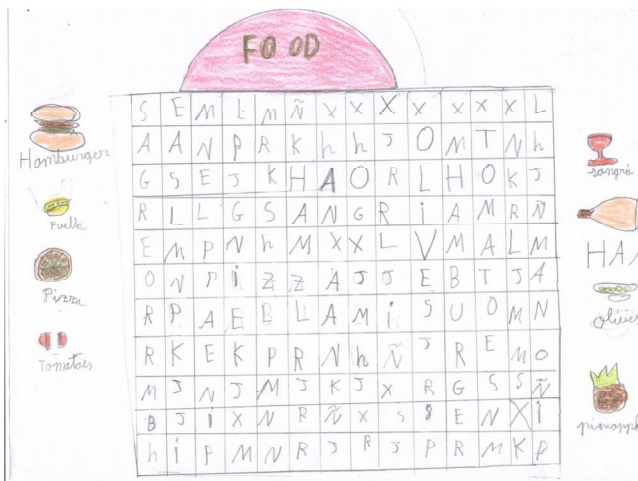
#### HORIZONTAL

1. Spanish actor married with Melanie Griphin
2. A famous painter who painted "Los fusilamientos del mes de Mayo".
3. A famous Singer who sings "Bulería".
4. The footballer who made the famous goal for Spain in the World Cup (2010).
5. The famous film director from La Mancha.

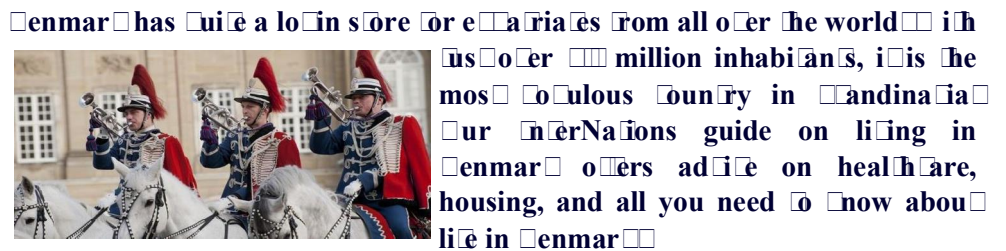


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A bronze sculpture of a mermaid, known as 'The Little Mermaid' by Edvard Eger, is shown sitting on a large, reddish-brown rock. The mermaid is depicted in a contemplative pose, looking down at her tail. The background is a calm body of water under a clear sky.

### The famous mermaid

Life in Denmark is characterized by people who do not only embrace personal freedom but are also incredibly proud of their cultural heritage. As small a country as it may be, Denmark is looking back on a long history which is often celebrated. For this purpose, Denmark has not one but two national anthems: *Der er et yndigt land* (There is a beautiful land) is the civil national anthem and was first published in 1819. *Kong Christian stod ved højen mast* (King Christian stood by the lofty mast) on the other hand, is mainly used for royal or military occasions.

## The Planes

While living in Denmark, you may encounter some difficulties in communicating with the Danes. These difficulties will not be exclusively language-related, mind you. Even if you speak Danish fluently, you may find that you have a hard time understanding people. As a matter of fact, the Danes




have a tendency to take life with a lot of irony, and often self-irony.

Still, the communication between them is quite relaxed. They usually address each other with the informal “du” and only use the formal “De” in a business context or when speaking to an older person. Aside from the laidback style of communication, life in Denmark is dominated by the freedom of worship, and the freedom of speech, as well as other inalienable rights.

**Spanish Marriage**

Although Denmark is a relatively small country, its citizens are proud of their culture and heritage. The Royal Family, for instance, is an essential aspect of life in Denmark, considering that the country's monarchy is one of the oldest in the world. The queen signs all Acts of Parliament and functions as the head of state in this constitutional monarchy.

But it is not just the monarchy which has a long history in this country. While spending time in Denmark, you will often

encounter the Danish Flag (*Dannebrog*), a white cross on red ground. The *Dannebrog*  oldest flag in the world and is said to have been the banner of the Danish Crusaders. The Danes are quite proud of their *Dannebrog* and celebrate the Day of the Flag every year on June <sup>th</sup> 

## Why Housing

Most people living in Denmark have settled in terraced or detached houses. In fact, 80% of the population, and particularly couples with children, live in single-family houses. They often own the house they live in, including the adjacent land. In larger cities, however, buying a house can be a very expensive endeavor and detached houses are harder to find.

Apartment blocks are quite common in the larger cities, and most of the apartments in these blocks are rented as opposed to owned accommodation. As life in Denmark can be rather costly, young, single people, and students often opt for an apartment share.

## Great Danes

Denmark doesn't look very big on a world map, and the country has only 5.5 million inhabitants. Yet what it might lack in square kilometres, Denmark makes up for in the number of Danes that have made a name for themselves on the global stage.

These 'Great Danes' include writers, physicists, philosophers, athletes, designers, architects, film directors, politicians and even kings.

### The old and great...

Probably everyone at some point has been told the fairy tale of the ugly duckling who grew into a beautiful swan. Undoubtedly, Hans Christian Andersen is the most famous Dane of all time, thanks to his magical fairy tales, which are loved

by children and adults around the world. His poetry and stories have been translated into more than 100 languages worldwide.

Other truly great Danes include physicist Niels Bohr, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1922, and the philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, who has become known as the godfather of existentialism. Danish design, as exemplified by for instance Arne Jacobsen, has also gained considerable international respect and approval. Danish architects are internationally acclaimed, the most famous probably being Jørn Utzon – the man who designed the Sydney Opera House.

### ...and the new and great

Denmark also has some strong and noteworthy film traditions. From the 1940s

onwards, directors like Lars von Trier and Gabriel Axel have been synonymous with cutting-edge filmmaking. They have won a number of international prizes for films that challenge and explore the traditional boundaries of film production and genre classifications. And as late as 2005, Danish director Susanne Bier received an Oscar for "In a Better World".

In recent years, a new generation of Great Danes has made headlines around the world. In particular, Bjarke Ingels, the acclaimed architect, and Rene Redzepi, the head chef at the world's best restaurant, Noma, often draw attention to their new and unique ways of rethinking architecture and gastronomy.



*In which drama of William Shakespeare it is said "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark"?*

## Quiz about Denmark

- Which city is the capital of Denmark?
- a) Berne  
b) Berlin  
c) Copenhagen  
d) London
- In which drama of William Shakespeare is said "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark."?
- a) Macbeth  
b) Othello  
c) Julius Caesar  
d) Hamlet
- How many goals were scored by Denmark against Uruguay in 1994 Football World Cup?
- a) Six  
b) Eight  
c) Four  
d) Nine
- Which city in Denmark was a Danish colony?
- a) Chandranagore  
b) Serampore  
c) Calcutta  
d) Darjeeling
- Which country conquered Denmark during World War II?
- a) Russia  
b) Japan  
c) Italy  
d) Germany
- Which king of England was king of Denmark?
- a) Canute  
b) Henry I  
c) Edward I  
d) James II
- What is the colour of cross in the flag of Denmark?

- a) Blue  
b) Green  
c) White  
d) Yellow
- Who became the queen of Denmark in 1966?
- a) Elizabeth II  
b) Beatrix  
c) Alexandra  
d) Margrethe II
- Den is constitution day in Denmark?
- a) May  
b) June  
c) July  
d) August
- Which is the national tree of Denmark?
- a) Beech  
b) Cedar  
c) Oak  
d) Mango



???



by student's own grade, Middle school or high school

**F**amily in Germany  
Germany is getting older and older and older...

In Germany we actually have the problem that we have a demographic change. During the last about 40 years the births got less and less, so that the number of young people got smaller and smaller. At the same time the older people always got more.

This is a big problem for our social insurance. The younger people have to

pay more every year to finance the old people. In many families both parents have to work now because they need the money. And also the medicine has changed and got always better. This means that the life expectancy got up, too. Many old people have to go to a institution that cares about them because the family doesn't have the time to care about them at home. The government tries to make home care attractive and

pays the families money if they care for their old people at home, but it is not enough for the families to have a good life. Nobody knows how this problem will be solved in future, but we hope there will be better possibilities in future to care about the old people because they have worked their life time and also cared for the younger ones their whole life. So please take care about your older family members.

**Germany, a country that is getting older and older...**

## EMAN AND MEN IN GERMANY

by student's own grade, Middle school or high school

At the end of the First World War many women didn't have much money and starved. The reason why this happened is that many men died in this war. Because of that, many women had to look for themselves and their children by their own. Another problem was that they weren't allowed to work at this time. The same problem appeared after the Second World War. Even more men died only in Germany, the houses were destroyed and there were dead bodies everywhere. The female part had to help to put away the stuff from the houses. The ones who were too old for this had to help the wounded people. Many women died because they had no money for food or water or heating their poor

homes.

When Germany was split up to East- and West-Germany there was a big difference. In the east-side women had nearly the same rights as men. The equality of them was a big point in the eastern politics, because they needed good working women for the industry. They tried to get closer to the successful economic system of West-Germany. Therefore they tried to build as many kindergartens as possible.

In West-Germany the picture was completely different. At the 1950s the traditional picture of a wife, who is only at home and takes care of the children and her husband, was a big problem. The women had to stay at home at the children, while the men were

working. Because of that, most of the women didn't have a job in this time. In the 1960s there were many protest marches against the unfair political system of this time. Women demonstrated for a country, where women were as important as men and had the same rights. Since then, women got more and more rights.

Today, the women in Germany are nearly equal to the men. Our head of state, Angela Merkel, is a woman and many politicians, too. But women still have to fight against unfairness. In the politics there are still more men as women, men often get better-paid jobs than women and at some places the traditional picture of a housewife is still the same like 50 years ago.







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by students of 5th grade, Middle School children

In Germany, the best teams of Europe

Football is the most important and most famous sport in Germany and also in Bavaria. And we have some of the best teams of Europe in Germany. We will introduce you to the best team in Germany and in Europe 2010 FC Bayern München. They have just won the European Champions League against another German team in the final. The team was founded on 27<sup>th</sup> of February 1900. Its colours are red and white and they play their matches in the "Allianz

Arena" in Munich. They have won the German championship 20 times and now the Champions League 10 times.

On the right, the logo of the team. Below the team winning the European Champions League 2010.



by Emma

The teacher says to Peter: "You have made exactly the same six mistakes in your dictation as your neighbor. How do you explain this?" Peter answers: "That's easy: We have the same teacher!"



## Danish jokes

Why do Danish people never play hide and seek? Nobody wants to look for them...

A Danish space-scientist came running into the office of his Norwegian colleague.

"The Danes will be the first to send a manned spaceship to the sun," he said. The Norwegian colleague responded, "But the temperature will be millions of degrees there!"

The Dane stood there for a few seconds thinking, then he said, "Oh, don't worry, we will be landing during the winter."

A Danish airplane was getting ready to land in Stockholm's airport. The control tower contacted the pilot and asked for his position. The Danish pilot was surprised and didn't do anything. Again the control tower contacted the pilot. "Please tell us your position." Then the pilot understood and answered: "Here I am in the front seat, as always..."

by Maria

In Naples, on the bus: a thief gets on and shouts: "Don't anybody move, this is a robbery!" And a traveller: "Oh my God, I was so scared! I thought he was the ticket-inspector!"



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## PROVERBS from Italy

### Chinese Proverbs

Man is head of the family, woman the neck that  
turns the head.

It is easy to govern a kingdom but difficult to  
rule one family.

### Spanish Proverb

There was already in the family so my  
grandmother had a baby.

### French Proverb

In a good family the husband is deaf and  
the wife blind.

### Russian Proverb

If the family is together the soul is in the  
right place.

### American Proverbs

Every family has at least one black sheep.  
In a united family, happiness springs up of  
itself.

First a daughter, then a son, and the family is  
well begun.

Friends and family are worth more than  
money.

The family that prays together stays to-  
gether.

A united family eats from the same plate.



**This magazine is a product of EFamily4U  
Project**

**Edited by Scuola Media Statale Don  
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## Colophon

**EFamily4U News,  
Italy 2013**

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