

## ***American Club***

### **Program (15 sessions)**

Sessions take place twice a month, each lasting a duration of two hours.

Each session consists of:

- Interactive fascinating lectures devoted to culture, history, and tradition of the USA (35 minutes with extracts from movies, musical compositions, songs)
- Spoken English lesson (elementary level, 45-60 minutes; in the context of each lesson there are songs, games, simple dialogues)
- Tea/Coffee break, where participants are encouraged to bake, prepare some desserts, tarts or cakes using traditional American recipes. This is done on a roster basis, each participant receiving a copy of the recipe.

### **1st session.**

Topic: "What do you know about America?"

Session Objective:

1 Give the participants the chance to recall anything and everything they know about America, kindling an interest in them, drawing their attention to new information about the country. Through interactive game-quiz and discussion pay participants' attention to cultural and historical diversity aspects which are the outstanding features of the USA)

2 English language class (in the context of the session)

Session Structure:

1. Quiz: : "What do you know about America?" (Questions are tailored to cover various cultural and historical aspects of everyday and social American life)
2. Let's get acquainted , in which the presenter or teacher with the participants reveal their connection to America, their desire to be a member of the club, stipulate the procedure and their own vision of sessions
3. Discussion, where the point is to make closer acquaintance for participants with each other and the teacher, creating a warm, friendly and sympathetic atmosphere for everyone, also helping discover the participants' level of English.
  - Discuss with participants the diversity of languages spoken in America;
  - whether participants have studied English (when, how long if any?)
  - whether they can tell the difference between American and British English (which one?)

#### 4. English lesson (student book LANGUAGE TO GO, ELEMENTARY)

The teacher explains that club meetings suggest studying of spoken English at elementary level. Language sessions will take 45-60 minutes and participants, alias students, are supposed to do their homework since there is quite a long break between the sessions.

Language School LIKOOL, the deliverer of the club sessions, has selected a captivating book with the disc for home-reading for the club members to feel the beauty of the literary language, thus making their gathering even more catching and exciting. That is the great opportunity of reading in original language.

The topic of the lesson: " Meeting people"

Lesson's structure:

Greeting people

Introducing yourself

Vocabulary: Giving personal information

Grammar: verb to be (am, is, are)

Role-play the dialogues: meeting different people and introducing yourself

5. Tea/Coffee break (First time the teacher prepares some sweets according to some American recipes to fascinate and support the participants. They agree who is on duty the next session or they can be suggested setting a roster. Every participant gets the club sessions' calendar and sweets recipes).

## 2nd session

**Topic: " America is the dream-land country"**

**Session Objective: present the general information about the country, claiming diverse and equal possibilities for everyone, tell about geographical position and briefly the history of the country.**

### **Session structure:**

1. Country survey
  - Provide feedback to the first session (recall quiz)
  - The story of the Star Spangled Banner ( when it was adopted, how many stars and stripes, what they represent)
  - Brush up with the participants the states they remember (pore over the map on the wall in the American corner)
  - Furbish up with the participants the capital of the USA, check whether they know it does not belong to a state, it is a city and district, the District of Columbia
  - Refresh participants' memory of such cities as New York, San Francisco, Miami, Baltimore, Las Vegas, etc. (participants are offered to pore over the map)
  - Draw participants' attention to the portraits on the walls along the staircase (George Washington, the first American President, Benjamin Franklin , John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King), tell about the impact they have made on the country's development.
2. Discussion: Is America really the dream-land? (gold, diamonds, the country of infinite possibilities, Hollywood)

Recall together some pivotal moments in American history:

- Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, navigator, Spanish admiral, intrepid explorer of the Caribbean the Sargasso Seas, the Bahamas and the Antilles islands. On October 12, 1492, Columbus stepped ashore the New World in San Salvadore, state Wisconsin, holding the Spanish flag
- First settlers ( remind of the origin of the national holiday, Thanksgiving : the pilgrims sailed to America from Plymouth, England for religious freedom. Their ship *Mayflower* landed on December 26, 1620 at Plymouth Rock, in what is now the state of Massachusetts. Many of the pilgrims did not survive during the first winter, they faced the hardships of the cold and starvation. Indigenous people, the Indians, taught them how to hunt, fish, plant, and survive in America. The crops did well, and in the fall of 1621 the pilgrims had a great harvest. They were thankful and decided to celebrate with thanksgiving feast)
- Tell about gold mines and gold rushes: ( since 1799, the date of first authenticated discovery of gold in the USA. North Carolina had been the nation's only gold-producing state, and continued as a leading producer until 1848 when gold was discovered in California, later in Alaska and Georgia.
- Every time was accompanied with the gold rush outburst. People flocked to the place with the hope to instantly become rich. Some dreams sometimes came true. First

nugget found in North Caroline weighed 3 kilogramm, the second one, 5 kilogramm ( the story of the findings).

3. Tell about the native Americans, Indians ( about some tribes: Miami, Cherokee. Seminole, Delaware, Iroquois, Ottawa, Illinois, Dakota Sioux, Apache, Mochicans. Show on the map the then tribes' location: tell about everyday living and conditions peculiarities, about clothing, customs and traditions.

Tell how indigenuous peoples fought for their cultural and territorial preservation, suggest watching some extracts from *American Indian Leaders* (the collection of the library)

Listen to the ethic Indian music in modern adaptation

4. Distinctions between the settlers and native peoples' languages
5. English lesson

Topic: "Personal details, please"

Lesson's structure:

Asking and answering personal information

Vocabulary: everyday objects

Listening: buying by phone

Grammar: plurals. What is/ are?

Role-play the dialogues:" Buying by phone"

6. Tea/coffee break

### 3rd session ( with the 3rd session there starts a cultural series)

#### Topic: Musical America

**Session Objective: make acquaintance with the most popular musical trends, compositions, and prominent American musicians.**

1. The session starts with the song I come from Alabama ( everybody gets the printed-out copies, together with the teacher the participants practice the pronunciation).
2. Discuss the famous singers, composers, musical compositions known by the participants (remind of prominent musicians such as Gershwin, Bernstein, Ellington and their contribution to American culture).
3. Present the most popular trends and their remarkable representatives:

Jazz (Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, ect)

Rock'n' roll (Elvis Presley)

Stars-entertainers ( Michael Jackson, Frank Sinatra, etc)

4. Tell about the most popular genre, the musical (mention distinguished Broadway musicals, such as West Side Story (Leonard Bernstein, 1957), The Threepenny Opera (Weill-Brecht), Porgi and Bess (Gershwin), Chicago(John Kander, 1975) etc; suggest watching the extract from Cats (Andrew Lloyd Webber) for 15 minutes.
5. Mention hugely popular with the young people trends: hip-hop and rap, suggest dancing break with some not fanciful movements
6. English lesson

Topic: " Round the world"

Lesson structure:

Asking about nationalities

Vocabulary: Nationalities and countries

Reading and Listening: Quiz: " Are you international?"

Grammar: to be (questions and negatives)

Task:" Make your own quiz!"

7. Tea/coffee break