

Intro to Norway – Teachers' Work Sheet

The following suggestions for thought or discussion, or subjects for writing can be perused before showing the video, so as to be able to offer alluring comments or intriguing questions during the video.

1. Have you ever felt that a particular instrument or perhaps a piece of music moved you in a way that it made you feel it was magical?
What instrument? What piece of music? What happened to make you feel magical?
Have you ever felt that music is powerful? Have you experienced music that can make you laugh? Or cry? Or feel sad, or lonesome, or nostalgic? Or joyful? Or feel like dancing? Or rouse you to patriotic emotions? Or console you in grief?
What is happening here? Why does music do this to us?
2. The rose painting you see on the trunk is in the Telemark style. This kind of painting is popular all over Norway and is called rosemaling. Each place has its own style. Maybe you can find in your library a book showing different styles of patterns. If you were going to make up a style of rosin for Minot, what would it look like? Would it somehow reflect the wide-open spaces? The wind? A moose? What is special for you about Minot?
3. Look on a map of the world. Can you find Norway? What continent is it on? What countries are around it? What bodies of water? How far is it from Scotland? Did you know that the history of Scotland is mixed up with the history of Norway? What about England? France? Germany? Denmark? Russia? Find the wilderness area that is a national reserve where you can stand in three countries at the same time: Norway, Sweden, and Russia.
4. Do you have special clothes that you wear for special occasions? Do you wear different clothes to go to school? Do you change into play clothes to go out to play? What would you wear to go to a wedding? To church? To a special friend's party? To go swimming? How did your parents or grandparents dress differently in their day? Why do you think people wear different clothes at different times?
5. Every year on May 17, the Norwegian national day, folk gather by the thousands in the square in Oslo to dance and to parade and to greet their king. This is for everyone. If you were there, you, too, could dance in the square with them. When you watch the people dancing in the square, can you spot a few bunads that you might recognize? Telemark? Hallingdal? Gudbrandsdal?
6. Where is your family from? Everyone living in America today came from somewhere else sometime in the last six hundred years, except for the Native Americans, who have been here for at least 15,000 years. How many generations ago did your family come here? Do your parents or grandparents still speak that language? Do you? Do they have special dress or artifacts from the "old country"? What about special foods or songs or dances or musical instruments?
7. The dances you see the children of Setesdal doing are in fact the very dances that we sometimes offer here in Minot when we visit the schools. These dances are commonly done all over Norway. The one offered here is called Rugen. With partners, side step toward the center of the circle for seven steps. Then out for seven steps. In for three, out for three, and around with four step-lifts (or step hops, if it makes it easier to think of). The children only go around once, but when adults dance Rugen, they sometimes go around twice. Good luck, and happy dancing !