English for Sek I, Sek II

**Cultural Phenomena**

Spitting (16)

14:30 minutes

**1. How do you react when someone spits at you?**

Individual answers

**2. What does it mean when somebody spits at somebody else, for example, in his/her face?**

This is a sign of deep contempt. Somebody wants to insult somebo- dy else.

**3. What happens at your school when somebody spits on the floor or even at somebody else? Do you agree with it?** Individual answers

**4. Do you, too, sometimes spit? Why (not)?**

Individual answers

**5. How much saliva do we produce per day? Guess!**

About two litres

**6. What is the function of the cell in the third picture?**

The cilia of the cells clean the lungs by removing dust particles. The- se cells help us to keep our lungs clean.

**7. Why were there signs «No spitting» in old trams?**

Because people were afraid of tuberculosis spreading quickly if pas- sengers spat on the floor. The small drops that are produced by spit-

ting can communicate diseases.

**8. Why did Jesus spit a blind man in his eyes?**

Because, by doing so, he wanted to heal him. Till today there has been a belief that saliva can heal wounds.

**9. Do you know other famous people who have appeared in the press because they spat publicly?**

Two Swiss, the football player Alex Frei as well as the Federal Judge

Martin Schubarth, made the headlines in the last years because they had spat publicly.

**10. What animals spit? Why?**

Llamas spit out of anger. Certain types of cobras spit in the face

(eyes) of their adversary when they feel threatened. Archerfish spit in order to get down insects from branches.

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**11. Do you know expressions which have to do with spitting? What do they mean?**

Individual answers

**12. Superstition holds the following three rituals: Finish the sentences:**

**a) When you hear the jackals howl you should immediately spit on the ground, otherwise …**

**b) Spitting in the water brings …**

**c) Theatre people wish each other good luck before the premiè- re by …**

– When you hear the jackals howl you should immediately spit on the ground, otherwise **a misfortune will strike you**.

– Spitting in the water brings **bad luck**.

– Theatre people wish each other good luck before the première **by spitting three times over each other’s shoulders**.