



KÖLN AM RHEIN

- Welcome to Cologne, one of Germany's oldest cities, dating back to Roman times.
- Stroll across Cathedral square and visit the Rhine river, Germany's longest waterway.
- Take part in Cologne's Carnival Celebrations, Germany's Fifth Season.
- Explore the history of Eau de Cologne and the legend of the *Heinzelmännchen*.
- Ask people you meet about their view of the city, its attractions and the Western German region.
- Ask your conversation partners how they view the other three German regions: Southern, Eastern and Northern Germany.

You can talk to people and visit places highlighted in **red**.

A. Domplatte. Get off the train at central station (Köln Hauptbahnhof), which is conveniently located on cathedral square (Domplatte) and a one-minute walk from the banks of the Rhine river. Dominated by the iconic twin towers of Cologne Cathedral and the Roman-Germanic Museum (Römisch-Germanisches Museum), this meeting place teems with the bustle of tourists changing trains, street peddlers, and worshippers visiting Catholic Mass. Get yourself oriented and ask the first two people you meet why they are currently here and what they want to see. You will probably hear two very typical responses:

Warum seid ihr in Köln?

Was wollt ihr sehen?

B. Köln. Meet a group of students by the steps to the cathedral. Take a blitz poll on their associations with Cologne. Just type or say their names [i.e.: **Katja?**]. Write their associations in the box below.

Katja

Miroslav

Daniel

Franka

Inge

Erkan

C. Stadt, Bundesland, Region. Now head over to the next best cafe and ask **Viktor**, who is currently waiting tables there, more detailed questions about Cologne and the federal state of Nordrhein-Westfalen. Type or say **Viktor** first. Then ask away.

Wie siehst du Köln?

Wie siehst du die Kölner Mentalität?

Wie siehst du das Bundesland NRW?¹

Was kann man in der Region machen?

D. Mein Köln. Meet **Marianne**, a student at Cologne University, and ask her more questions about the city and the surrounding region. Type or say **Marianne** first.

Stadtbild² Tourismus Traditionen Menschen

¹ Cologne is located in the federal state of Northrhine-Westphalia.

² cityscape

E. Dom. Now ask people what they know about Cologne Cathedral (**Dom**). Type or say **Dom** first. Then ask away.



Wie alt ist der Dom?

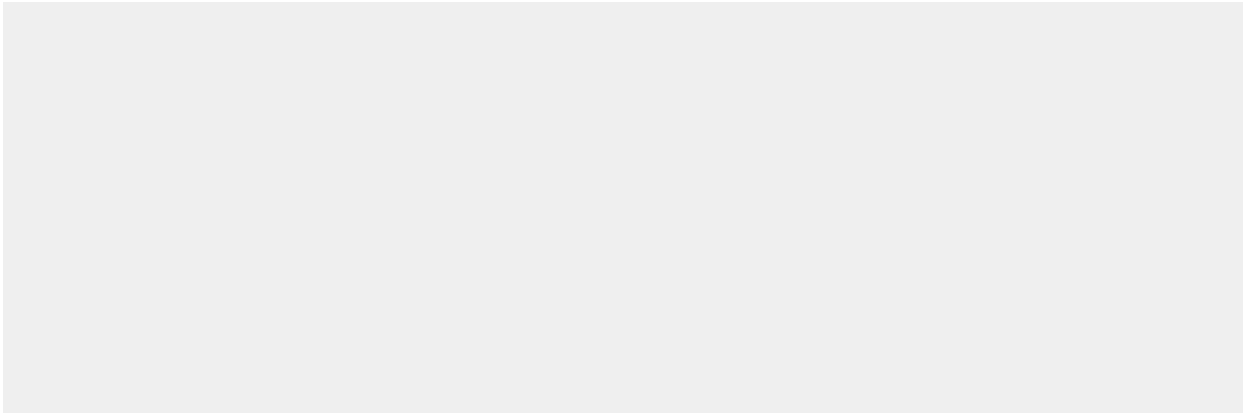
Wie hoch ist der Dom?

Wer liegt im Dom?

F. Stadtgeschichte. Cologne is known for its Ancient Roman history. Ask people what they know about Cologne's Roman origins (in German, of course). Type or say their name first. Then ask away.

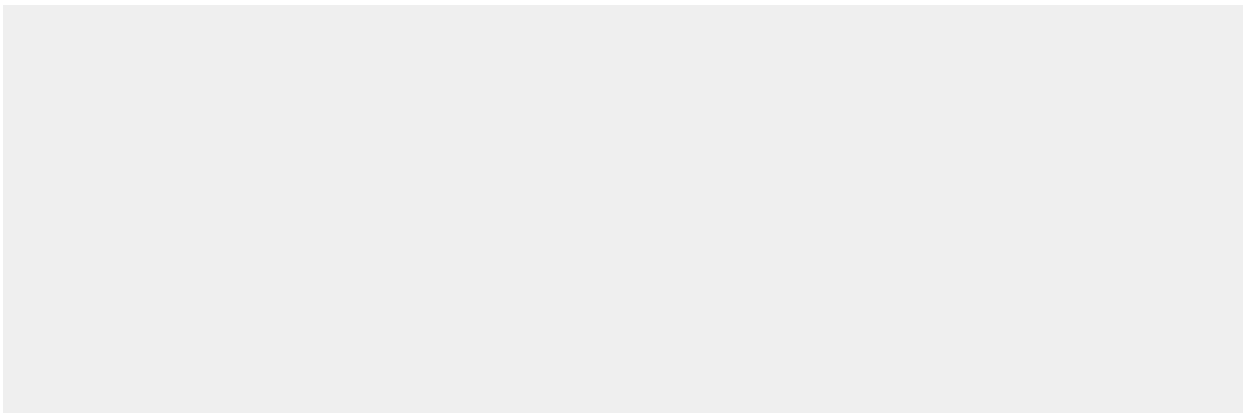
Ask **Familie Schmidt:**

- how old the city is
- why the city is called Cologne
- who Agrippina was



Ask **Marianne:**

- why the city is called Cologne
- who Agrippina was
- how important Roman history is today



G. “Vater” Rhein. Head over to Hohenzollern Bridge and ask passersby about **Vater Rhein**, Germany’s longest river that separates the city in two districts. Say or type **Vater Rhein** first. Then ask away.



Wie ist der Rhein?

Warum ist der Rhein wichtig für die Stadt?

Magst du den Rhein?

Fahren Schiffe auf dem Rhein?

Wie ist die Wasserqualität?

Kann man im Rhein schwimmen?

Bringt der Rhein auch Probleme?

H. Touristeninformation. Visit the Cologne tourist information office and talk to **Gereon** who is staffing the service desk. Even though not born here, Gereon considers himself a true-blue Cologne native (waschechter Kölner). He can tell you all there is to know about the city.. Ask him about any topic from the list.Type or say **Gereon** first. Then ask away.

Kölner Dialekt

Halve Hahn³

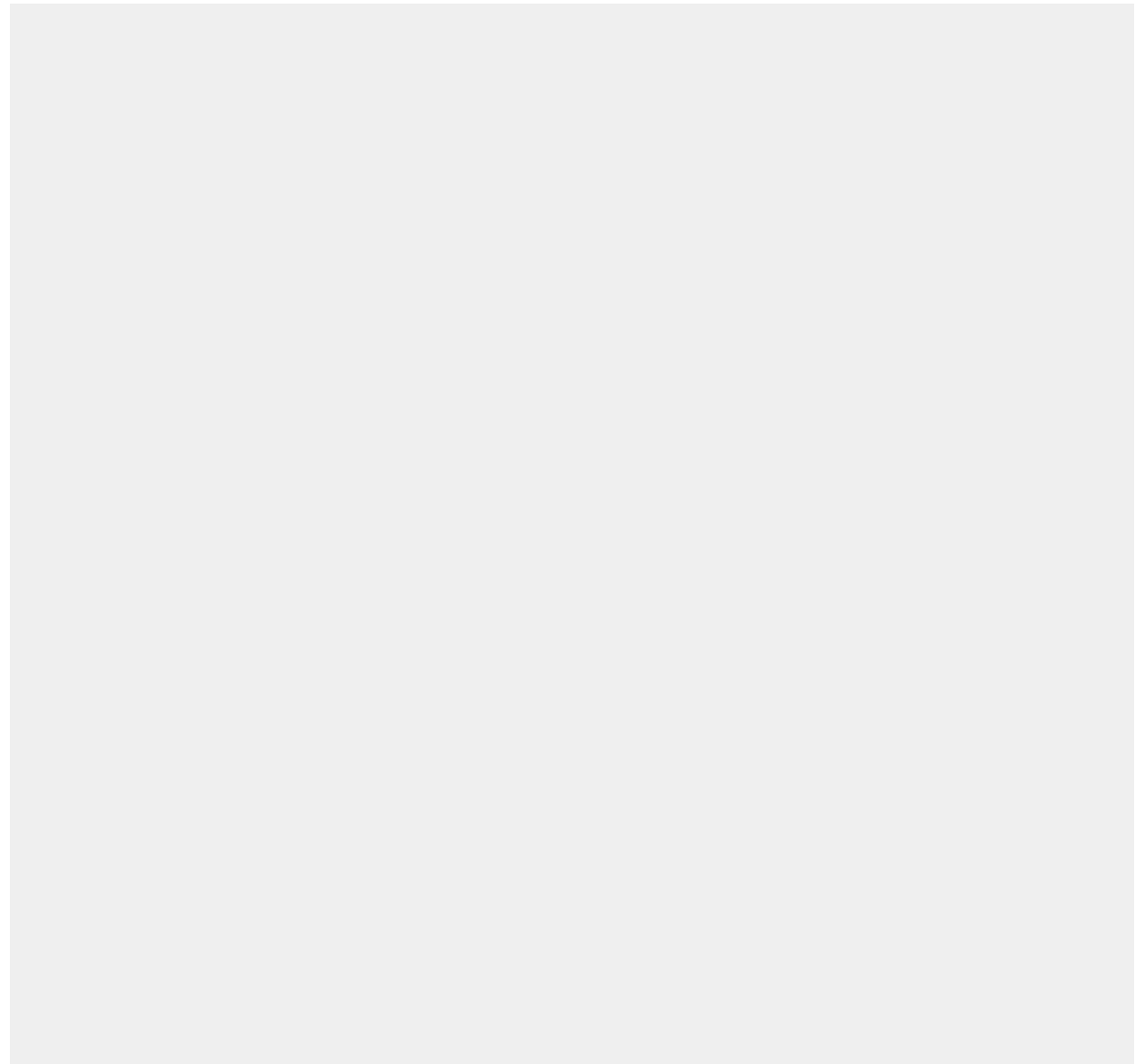
Kölner Lebensstil

Kölnisch Wasser

Kölsch⁴

römische Kolonie

Karnevalstradition

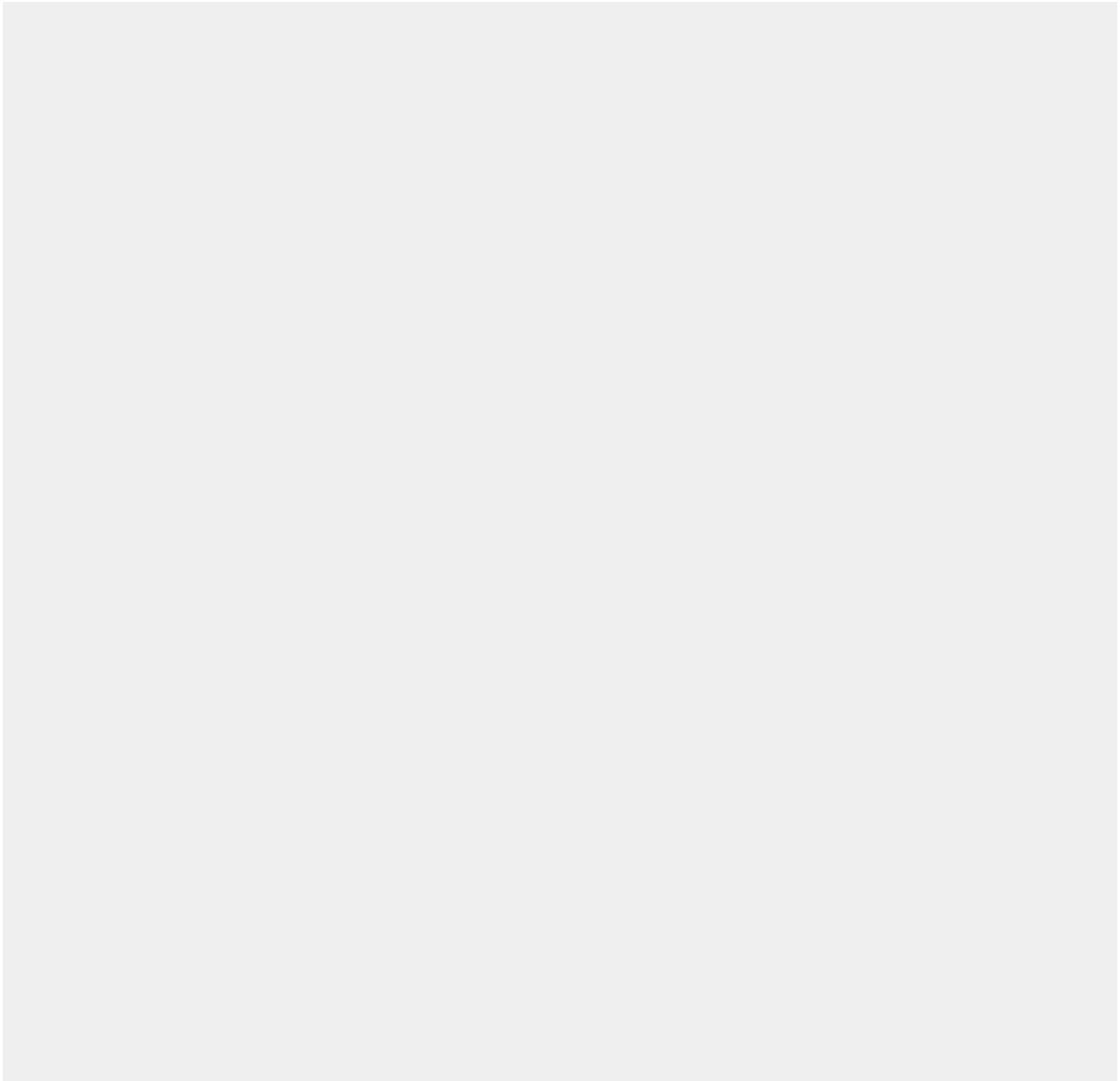


³ a traditional local dish

⁴ traditional local beer

I. Heinzelmännchen. Walking throughout the city will bring you in contact with the *Heinzelmännchen*, an old local legend that has become part of Cologne's folkloric culture. There are sculptures, a fountain and diorama connected to the legend. Ask **Gereon** about the origin and story behind the legend, in German of course, and summarize the response:

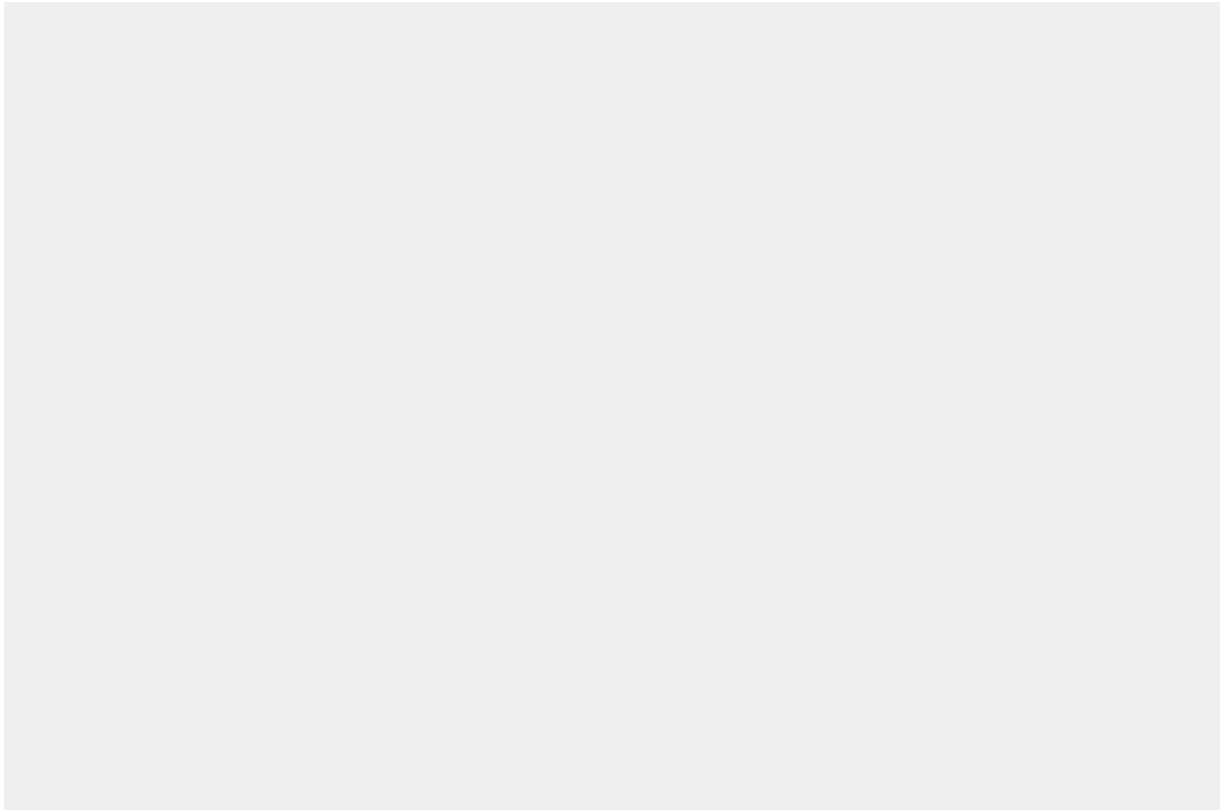
- who the Heinzelmännchen are
- what happened in the story
- where the legend comes from



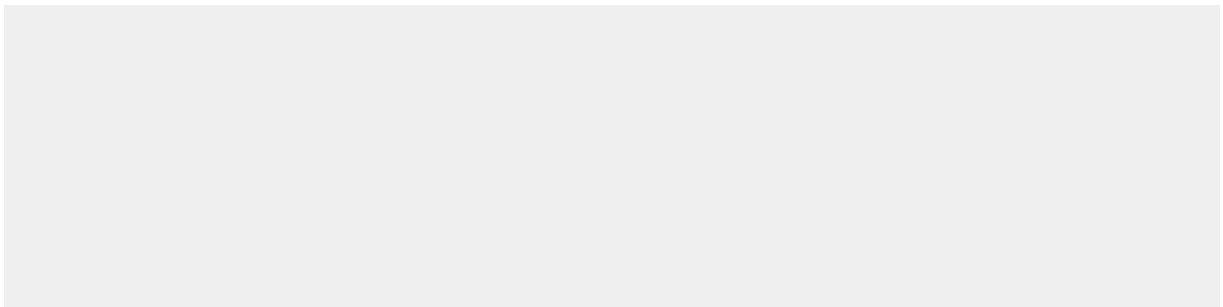
J. Karneval. Meet **Marianne** at an outdoor cafe near city hall and ask her about several aspects of Karneval, Cologne's century-old equivalent to Mardis Gras and unofficial Fifth season across Western Germany.

Kamelle Karnevalssaison Karnevalsrufe⁵ Karnevalswagen Kostüme

Kindertanz Rosenmontag Straßenkarneval Weiberfastnacht Rivalität mit Düsseldorf⁶



Was war letztes Jahr dein Karnevalskostüm?



⁵ fool's shouts

⁶ second largest city in North-Rhine-Westphalia after Cologne

K. Wir und die Anderen. Ask **Gereon** whether he prefers Cologne over cities from the three other German regions. Type or say **Gereon** first. Then ask away.

Köln oder Bremen?

Köln oder München?

Köln oder Berlin?

Now ask a group of students **Studentengruppe** whether they prefer other cities over Cologne or not. Type or say **Studentengruppe** first. Then ask away.

Köln oder München?

Köln oder Berlin?

Köln oder Bremen?

L. Hier und da. Finally, ask **Marianne** how she thinks about cities in other German regions and their Western neighbors Holland and France. Type or say **Marianne** first. Then ask away.

Norddeutschland?

Norddeutsche Mentalität?

Hamburg?

Bremen?

Berlin?

München?

Frankreich?

Holland?

Nordrhein-Westfalen

M. Bevor du gehst: More cultural explorations. Before you leave: have you done this?

- Did you enter Cologne Cathedral and look at one of its iconic colored glass windows (**Glasfenster**)?
- Did you take a tour (**Schiffstour**) on the Rhine River?