

## Podcast: THE BIG PONDER

**This transatlantic podcast explores abstract concepts and phenomena through personal radio essays – think topics like “friendship,” “happiness,” and “gardening.” Every other week, one of our producers takes a deep dive into an aspect of German-American life that often goes unexplored, inviting listeners to reflect on our interconnected cultures from a new standpoint.**

### Online Now

In cooperation with radio stations and independent producers in the U.S. and Germany, the Goethe-Institut launched the transatlantic podcast THE BIG PONDER in December 2020. Every other Thursday, a 30-minute episode is released, inviting listeners to reflect on a new topic from a U.S.-German perspective. Do these two countries share the same values? What divides us? What unites us? The entire series was developed from a transatlantic perspective with an American audience in mind, so all episodes are available in English.

In each episode, a producer meditates on the central theme of the story, adding depth by bringing in German and American voices that are rarely featured in conventional media stories. We hear from a vegetarian-turned-huntsman from Berlin on the tradition of hunting, a server at the Courtesy Diner in Missouri on diner culture, and a producer’s 11-year-old nephew on the meaning of true friendship. Alongside each episode, we provide accompanying materials on our website, including transcripts and producer biographies.

### You can listen to THE BIG PONDER in German too!

This summer, THE BIG PONDER is broadening its horizons – in collaboration with RBB Kultur in Berlin, the Goethe-Institut has produced a series of eight German-language episodes, which will be available beginning June 2021. German speakers and German learners alike can look forward to episodes about pen pals, friendship, flags, U.S. military life in Germany, diner culture, the relationship between home and place, personal diary entries, and silence.

This new production from THE BIG PONDER makes the German language and culture accessible, even from an American classroom. While these eight episodes were not designed to be educational, they make a perfect addition to any German teacher’s curriculum and are guaranteed to provide great fodder for classroom discussion. The series will help German teachers engage their students by introducing them to the intricacies of life in Germany that are often overlooked in textbooks. For Germans, these episodes offer the rare chance to consume U.S. radio stories in their native language.

### Links

THE BIG PONDER: [www.goethe.de/bigponder](http://www.goethe.de/bigponder)

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