

USAG Wiesbaden – Wackernheim, Wiesbaden

Wiesbaden rediscovers Mongolia



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Sitting in the women's corner in a traditional Yurt tent, Oyunchimeg Moortz explains a traditional game to a young visitor. Moortz shared her knowledge about Mongolia during a National Library Week event at the Wiesbaden Library April 16.

Moortz, who grew up in a yurt in rural Mongolia, studied languages in Mainz and is married to a German Army officer, gave visitors a taste of her home country, which once comprised the largest land empire of the world under Genghis Khan.

Mongolia, surrounded by Russia in the north and China in the south, became the second communist country of the world in 1924. After the Eastern bloc fell apart, Mongolia had free elections in 1990 and is one of the more stable nations among its formerly socialist contemporaries.

Mongolia claims several superlatives. Over four times the size of Germany, it has only three million inhabitants, with one third living in the capital, Ulan



Oyunchimeg Moortz explains a traditional game to a young visitor at a National Library Week event featuring Mongolia at the Wiesbaden Library April 16. Photo left: Books and other media featuring Mongolia are available for perusal and check out at the Wiesbaden Library.

Bator. It is the least populated nation on earth. Also, with its extremely continental climate, the country experiences an extraordinarily high span of temperatures, ranging from -20 to about 80 F, making Ulan Bator the coldest capital of the world.

Visitors are typically fascinated by the ancient traditions of rural family life supported by livestock

farming, and by the sheer vastness of nature.

For those interested in learning more, the Wiesbaden Library offers a special display and selection of books on Mongolia.

Visit the library Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.