



LESSON PLAN - ITALY

Teachers: Diego Bocchini, Anna De Medio

Topic: Discovering Early Medieval Abruzzo using Virtual Reality

Age: 11-13

Number of students: 20

Time: 120 minutes

Materials: virtual tour made with Google Virtual Tour Creator, Wi-Fi connection, teacher's tablet with Google Expeditions App installed, students' smartphone with Wi-Fi connection and Google Expeditions App installed, VR Cardboard; Google Expeditions Students' Sheet built on introductive presentations written according to principles of simplification (to be read and discussed before the activity), scaffolding data sheet (used to take note of most relevant informations on Abruzzo monuments), quiz platform (e.g. Kahoot), Google Forms.

Objectives: presenting knowledge and understanding regional history; building connections with General History; promoting knowledge of cultural and artistic heritage; comprehending historical sources.

Description of the activity: the activity is built around the exploration of four 360 degree scenes in immersive mode provided by Google Street View; the scenes are about four Early Middle Age monuments located in the surroundings of our school: the Abbey of S. Giovanni in Venere (Fossacesia), Septe's Castle (Mozzagrogn), Montanare Towers (Lanciano), Roccascalegna Castle (Roccascalegna). This activity has the advantage to allow students to make tangible concepts otherwise abstract. Besides, this allows students to put monuments that surround them in the correct time and space offering an historical vision of their cultural heritage. In a pandemic age, this activity helps to promote active learning activities in substitution of real educational trips.

Preliminary activities

1 - The teacher checks each students' smartphone (connection, Expeditions App installed and working). (10 minutes)

2 - The teacher explains the correct use of the mobile phone and the risks connected to the extreme utilization of Virtual Reality (Cyber sickness). (5 minutes)

Exploration

3 - Before the immersion, each student receives a worksheet, each scene is presented to the classroom with a short written essay to be read and discussed together with the students. This is necessary to spark interest, to recover notions of General History, reveal in advance the subjects of the activity (Advance organizer). (20 minutes)

4 - Immersion 1. Students are left alone in the virtual space to get familiar with it, and to start a free exploration of the scene. Students can look around and can make suppositions on the meaning of the landscape elements. (5-10 minutes according to personal interests and personal autonomy).

5 - Immersion 2. The teacher guides the exploration of the scenes pointing out some peculiar features such as the monastery, architectural elements, the location of buildings, the landscape. The teacher invites the students to make suppositions using questions. (e.g. Why is this building on a hill? What are the decorations?...). The students can fill the worksheet as soon as they get the answers. (15 minutes per scene - Total 60 minutes)

Final activities

6 - Quiz test. The lesson ends with a gamification moment: an online quiz using Kahoot platform. The students can take part in it in an interactive way each with their personal smartphone. This quiz is composed of a recognition of the information and at the same time gives the teacher feedback on the assimilation of the subjects. (20 minutes).

7 - Google Forms. When the students get home, they receive a form with tests and short answers on the experience. This is a very important metacognition moment to think on the information received and to meditate on the virtual guided tour experience.

Link to Kahoot quiz

https://kahoot.it/challenge/352fb690-8dd9-4db6-ab66-7e29c75394cc_1623399725713

Link to Google Form

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8rIHZ9ySMt8yImH6k6OZhzZO-bNU2npVPoQ4JLCQ7IEhx8A/viewform>



Fig. 1 - View of the Abbey of St. Giovanni in Venere (Source: Google Street view)



Fig. 2 - The portal of the Abbey of St. Giovanni in Venere (Source: Google Street View)

Example of a worksheet

San Giovanni in Venere Abbey is a monastery complex situated in the city of Fossacesia on the Trabocchi Coast. As you can see, the building is located on a hill, very close to our school.

During the Early centuries of the Middle Age period, monasteries, fortifications and castles were built on hills, mostly for defense purposes. Hills were difficult to reach and they allowed people to see enemies approaching. From St. Giovanni in Venere hill is possible to see the coast, crop fields and woodlands.

ST. GIOVANNI IN VENERE ABBEY	
WHAT IS IT?	Draw a picture
WHEN WAS IT BUILT?	
WHERE IS IT?	
WHO BUILT IT?	
OBSERVATIONS	