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**LESSON PLAN Teachers: Antonella Rubino, Giuliano Santella**

**Subject**: Legends

**Class/age of students:** 2nd grade in Middle school

**Topic:** The legend of Maja and the Giant (for mobility in Poland)

**Objectives:**

- Students learn a traditional legend about their region, Abruzzo

- Students become aware about a part of their cultural heritage and accept the feeling of responsibility for it.

- Students use English as a communication tool

- Students have the opportunity to raise their self-confidence by cooperating with peers from different countries

- To show our students the communication in other languages as a natural part of every life and motivate them to further studying and exploring

**Materials:** the legend’s text, a doll (Cicciobello), a wooden sword, white fabric

**Methods**: - learning by doing, - peer education, - brainstorming; - role playing

**Subjects**: History, Geography, Art

THE LEGEND OF MAJA AND THE GIANT (text)

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| characters and performers | * MAJA: Giulia Zulli * HERMES: Simone Serrapica * ORACOLO: Ilaria Scocchera * ZEUS: Gabriele Bellofatto * 2 characters holding up the wounded giant (Ilaria Marrone, Alessia Di Rico) |
| Narrators | - Harmony Aimola (introduction)  - Gabriele Innaurato (as Hermes) |
| Sound track | ***“Giant”*** by Calvin Harris e Rag’n’Bone Man |

1. A powerpoint showing the images of the Gran Sasso and the Majella is shown, while the first narrator introduces the legend.
2. The story continues to be narrated by the second voice-over and at the same time the actors dressed total black play the scenes.

**Narrator 1**: (*reads the intro while the powerpoint shows the images)*:

In our region, Abruzzo, there are two great mountains called Gran Sasso and Majella. They are situated one opposite to the other.

The Gran Sasso has the shape of a lying person who seems to sleep and whose face can be easily recognized. The face is the Great Horn Peak that is the highest peak of the Appennines.

On the contrary the Majella Mountain has always been considered by the people from Abruzzo as the "sacred mountain" that is the place where the Goddess Maja once appeared. It was not by chance that many hermitages were built there in Medieval times.

The imaginary lying person and the Goddess Maja were connected to each other by the popular fantasy giving birth to the legend of Maja and the Giant, which tries to explain how these two neighbouring mountains were born, similar but different at the same time.

**Narrator 2 (Hermes)**: “Everyone knows me as ***The Sleeping Beauty***, but today I will reveal you the true story about me: my name is Hermesbut people call me***The Giant***.”

I am a God and my name is Hermes, the son of Maja and Zeus

*(action: Maja and Zeus appear on the stage with a child in their arms the doll)*

Maja, my mother, was the eldest and the most beautiful sister of the Pleiades.

One sad day I was seriously injured during a battle.

*(action: two actors hold up Ermes and carry him in front of Maja)*

**Maja**: My son! My dear son! What happened to you?

**Hermes**: Don’t worry about me, mum. I am just knocking on Heaven’s door….

**Maja**: No! You can’t die! I will ask the Oracle *(action: Maja goes to the oracle)*

“Sacred Oracle, please tell me how I can save my dear son”

**Oracle** To save him, you have to take a flower growing in a high mountain beyond the sea

**Narrator 2 (Hermes):** So my mother sailed the sea on a raft. After a long journey, she arrived in Abruzzo, then took me up to the top of a mountain*.*

*(action: Maja first paddles and then walks with Hermes leaning on her)*

Unfortunately the mountain was still whitened by the snow so she couldn’t find the flower I needed and I died.

*(action: Maja looks for the flower around her. Then she leans on Hermes lying on the ground and she cries)*

She buried me at the bottom of the mountain and my body was soon covered by the snow.  
 *(the actor performing Hermes is covered by a white fabric)*

Destroyed by pain, she wandered for a long time on the opposite mountain from where she could see my face until she died.

Zeus felt pity of us and he transformed both of us into two mountains*. (Zeus comes on the stage)*

**Zeus**:You Maja will be the Majella Mountain and you Hermes, my son, will be the Gran Sasso which means Big Rock. In this way you could face to each other forever and ever.

**Narrator 2 (Hermes):** But if you look at my shape from the east side, you’ll see the shape of a wonderful nymph, like my mother was, instead of that of a Giant.

In fact we face and hug each other at the same time: we are Gods, everything is possible for us!

**Narrator 2 (Hermes):** THAT’S THE END OF MY TRUE STORY! ***-*** *(music)*