

Europeana Learning Scenario

Title

Let's Make Green Decisions

Author(s)

Anita Lasić

Abstract

This lesson is meant to be used with students thirteen years of age and older. It is about raising awareness of the negative environmental changes occurring in the modern world.

Thanks to the mass media, we are witnessing dramatic environmental changes happening over the world on a daily basis. What causes these changes is the big question. How to react in order to save the environment for future generations is another one. The students will try to answer these questions during this lesson.

At the end of the lesson, the students will be able to talk about the causes of negative environmental changes, their consequences and possible corrective actions. They will be able to talk about the effects as well as of the possible actions that every person can do in order to protect the environment.

The topic is in line with the Croatian National Curriculum. It deals with environmental issues that are included in the syllabi of several subjects and it is a part of the interdisciplinary topic dedicated to education for sustainable development.

When I started preparing this learning scenario, teachers and students were in their classrooms. Then the decision was taken to go online. Consequently, I had to modify this learning scenario and adapt it to the new situation. It was an interesting process requiring the implementation of more digital technologies.

As the first activity of the lesson, I collected students thoughts of the causes, effects and possible corrective actions as concerns environmental issues using Mentimeter. Then, they looked back into the past to see how people tackled this problem then. They read the Europeana blog *Green Through Time: Four Historical Figures Who Raised Awareness of the Environment*. Using breakout option, students were divided into four teams. Each team did online research about one of the four historic figures concentrating on their environment-related activities. They presented their findings to the class after they had posted them onto the Jamboard slide.

Then I encouraged students to imagine going back to the past. Their task was to interview one of the four famous people from the blog, the topic being environmental problems. Students were divided into pairs, one being the famous person and the other the interviewer. Having done that, students acted out the interviews.

After that, my students watched the National Geographic YouTube video called *Causes and Effects of Climate Change*. After that, they discussed what they had seen and heard. Then, they discussed the similar problems that occurred in their town and region.

In line with the aim of the lesson, students were instructed to create posters with slogans and illustrations that would raise awareness of the negative environmental changes. The format was not determined so the students used paper and crayons, PowerPoint slides or Canva to accomplish this task.



I prepared exit tickets for the end of the lesson. It contained three statements/questions and students were asked to answer them. They were supposed to name some causes of environmental changes, some effects and some actions they could do to preserve the environment.

Using Microsoft Forms, I created a questionnaire in order to get students' feedback about how they felt during the lesson, if they liked it, if they had fun and if they found it interesting. The result was excellent. Once more, it was proven that students like lessons that depart from daily routine.

I implemented this lesson using Microsoft Teams platform. The material was presented using PowerPoint 365. By sharing the screen, students were able to get the necessary links, watch the YouTube video and share the material they prepared in the end of the lesson.

Keywords

Environmental changes, sustainable development, climate changes

Table of summary

| <i>Table of summary</i> | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Subject | <i>Science, Biology, Geography, English</i> |
| Topic | <i>Raising awareness of environmental changes</i> |
| Age of students | <i>13+</i> |
| Preparation time | <i>10 min</i> |
| Teaching time | <i>90 minutes</i> |
| Online teaching material | <i>PowerPoint 365</i> https://carnet-my.sharepoint.com/:p/q/personal/anita_lasic1_skole_hr/EWmM3g_NDeRPqP-0k9U8YWkB7VVIFf_hbU-xwUd5C3SgoQ?e=bqtQab <i>Microsoft Teams</i> <i>LearningApps</i> , https://bit.ly/3seXvLb <i>Mentimeter</i> , https://www.menti.com/79w4b6ss77 <i>Jamboard</i> , https://jamboard.google.com/d/1_oRX8nmsngBNbG46ezV-b1H9qDtxPKf27oMx2MhNoDk/edit?usp=sharing <i>YouTube</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4H1N_yXBIA |
| Offline teaching material | <i>Paper and crayons</i> |
| Europeana resources used | Blog bit.ly/GoingGreen2021 |

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Integration into the curriculum

Croatian National Curriculum comprises seven interdisciplinary topics. One of them is sustainable development. It deals with people’s influence on nature and environment, the ways in which a person can protect environment as well as the connection between actions and their effects and results. This lesson is in line with those topics.

Aim of the lesson

The aim is to raise awareness of the causes and effects of environmental changes as well as to identify possible actions that every person can do on a daily basis in order to protect our environment.

Outcome of the lesson

After this lesson, students will be able to talk about the causes and effects of environmental changes. They will be able to name simple day-to-day actions that can help protect environment. They will also make educative posters with slogans and illustrations that will tackle the problem of negative environmental changes.

Trends

Project-based learning; Collaborative learning; Teaching material: Shift from textbooks to web resources.

21st century skills

This lesson will help students improve their critical thinking. They will use their communication strategies and skills. They will work in teams and pair thus improving their collaboration skills. They will also enhance their creativity.

Activities

| Name of activity | Procedure | Time |
|---------------------|--|------|
| Introduction | The students were encouraged to come up with thoughts concerning environmental changes. Having pooled their ideas in Mentimeter, we had a discussion in order to share ideas and thoughts. | 15 |

| Name of activity | Procedure | Time |
|--|---|------|
| The history of the issue | The students read the Europeana blog Green Through Time: Four Historical Figures Who Raised Awareness of the Environment . Teacher divided the class into four teams. Each team had to read about one of the four famous people. Research through other online sources was also allowed. Having read the blog, students wrote their notes into Jamboard slides using sticky notes. Then in turns, they presented the person to the class. Through a group discussion, students tried to come up with ideas of what were possible causes and effects of environmental changes in the past. | 25 |
| Time machine | The teacher encouraged students to imagine going back to the past. Their task was to interview one of the four famous people from the blog, the topic being environmental problems. Students were divided into pairs, one being the famous person and the other the interviewer. Having done that, students acted out the interviews. | 15 |
| Documentary | The students watched the National Geographic YouTube video called Causes and Effects of Climate Change . After that, they discussed what they have seen and heard. Then, they discussed the similar problems that occurred in their town and region. | 15 |
| Educational Posters and Slogans | In line with the aim of the lesson, students were instructed to create posters with slogans and illustrations that would raise awareness of the negative environmental changes. The format was not determined so the students used paper and crayons, PowerPoint slides or Canva to accomplish this task. | 15 |
| Assessment | Teacher prepared an exit ticket for the end of the lesson. It contained three statements/questions and students were asked to answer them. | 5 |

Assessment

I have prepared an exit ticket for the end of the lesson. It contained three statements/questions and students were asked to answer them.

1. Name some causes of environmental changes.
2. Name some effects of environmental changes.
3. What can you do to preserve environment?

***** AFTER IMPLEMENTATION *****

Student feedback

I have created a Microsoft Forms questionnaire asking students about how they felt during the lesson, if they liked it, if they had fun and if they found it interesting.

Teacher's remarks

As most of the lessons that depart from usual textbook-based procedures, this one proved to be extremely interesting and motivating to students as well as the teacher.

About the Europeana DSI-4 project

[Europeana](#) is Europe's digital platform for cultural heritage, providing free online access to over 53 million digitised items drawn from Europe's museums, archives, libraries and galleries. The Europeana DSI-4 project continues the work of the previous three Europeana Digital Service Infrastructures (DSIs). It is the fourth iteration with a proven record of accomplishment in creating access, interoperability, visibility and use of European cultural heritage in the five target markets outlined: European Citizens, Education, Research, Creative Industries and Cultural Heritage Institutions.

[European Schoolnet](#) (EUN) is the network of 34 European Ministries of Education, based in Brussels. As a not-for-profit organisation, EUN aims to bring innovation in teaching and learning to its key stakeholders: Ministries of Education, schools, teachers, researchers, and industry partners. European Schoolnet's task in the Europeana DSI-4 project is to continue and expand the Europeana Education Community.

Annex