

REPORT from Donatella Reggiori (Milano) Course LBH 2020

A comparison between the local history you created earlier and your local big history video

1st step

THE QUESTION: *"How do I see the universe from the territory I live in"*

Starting from the Local Big History I imagined a spiral that leads from the territory I live, to the great universe of time and space and, trying to understand what my land teaches me, reveals me, I prepared an introduction in ppt (and then a video) "A Wonderful Land where I live" a journey in Alto Varesotto (Northern Italy) about over 300 million years from the Palaeozoic to today, passing through Unesco sites and current problems.

2nd step

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS and GROUP WORKS, in particular with Jūlija (Latvia) and Clara (Denmark)

From the interaction with this group, prompted by the question of Esther Quaedackers: "What can you ask yourself about your territory to which you have not yet given an answer or which you had not thought of before, in the three forms: inorganic-inanimate, Living, Human", I proposed my theme, starting from the consideration that I live between Mountains and Lakes. In the introduction I had in particular "listened and told" the rocks of the area, but here I wanted to go deeper into the theme of water as it is also of interest to the other components of the Group:

"Two lakes so close, interconnected and so different: Lake Varese and Lake Maggiore (Upper Varesotto Northern Italy): how much their different geological formation has influenced their different physical characteristics, the mesoclimate, the vegetation, the fauna, the human settlements from prehistoric times, the historical events in continuity from the Neolithic to our days, the use of the resources, the current problems, different impact on the fragility of the ecological system.... which the affinities and the diversities.

It was necessary to remember, collect data, compare them and organize three distinct moments that highlighted the geological, animated and anthropogenic aspects, also finding points of contact with the territories of election of the other members of the international working group. A definitely enriching challenge!

With the international working group we worked not only in the moments specifically dedicated in the virtual classroom, also via Whatsapp and via e-mail with the guidance of Esther Quaedackers

With the difficulties linked above all to my lack of technological means, but in the working groups I found understanding and good support.

QUESTION:

IF and HOW MUCH the different origin of the lakes may have affected meso-climate, life (aquatic and terrestrial vegetation and fauna), presence of man from prehistoric times to today, differences in the development of economic activities throughout human history, different impact on the fragility of the ecological system

METHOD:

Comparison between two nearby lakes, but different in origin / formation and characteristics. What these different environments hide or reveal: in the associations of living beings, animals and vegetation, sustainability of the different ecosystems.

CONNECTIONS

- The different origin affects the natural characteristics of their environments.
- Lakes and forms of life (animal, plant, etc.), possible differences in the two cases: indigenous and alien forms, changes due to natural and anthropogenic causes, declines in species (extinctions?), biodiversity ...
- Differences in types and settlements of prehistoric humans
- Lakes as a resource: use of water, environment, withdrawal from lakes e.g. fish, water, birds, etc., economic, industrial activities, etc.
- Differences or affinities in the use of the resources in different historical times
- Lakes and different environmental impact as a result of human activities, climate change, pollutants (substances, microplastics, etc.) etc.
- Finding suitable, engaging and innovative disclosure and teaching tools, and motivation to “educate ourselves towards the territory and good practices”....

A reflection on what your local big history has added to your understanding of your local history.

- The awareness of living in a portion of a territory that is **extremely interconnected** with other areas of Europe and the Planet, **rich** in geodiversity, biodiversity but also extremely fragile, an extremely delicate ecological corridor.
- The **risks** in a territory too fragmented, intensively exploited, degraded by the impact of the human footprint, pollution, hydrogeological instability, climate change, land consumption, overbuilding, soil destruction, land fragmentation.
- **In conclusion: a PEDAGOGY OF THE LAND AND LAKES.....** the environment instructs us about our living and inhabiting, our big questions, our small and big history, but equally urgently asks us for understanding and care.
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A summary of the sources - Bibliography

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SUBMITTED PAPERS:

Introduction – a Wonderful Land Alto Varesotto (Northern Italy) ppt/pdf and video 4...min

Two Lakes Varese & Maggiore:

Part 1 - an aspect of the history of the inanimate world pdf/

Part 2 - an aspect of the history of life

Part 3 - an aspect of universal processes in human history

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