



A charter about the good use of water made by 2 classes of 13 years old pupils

Julie Bénard

France (centaurea_cyanea@yahoo.fr)

The Situation :

Two years ago, I've participated in an experiment called « enseignement intégré des sciences et technologie » (integrated teaching of sciences and technology). I've taught Biology, Geology, Chemistry, Physics and Technology for 4,5 hours per week with classes of 7th and 8th grades in which there were only 15 pupils. In usual classes, there are 25-30 pupils, they have 1,5 hour of each subject (Biology-Geology, Chemistry-Physics and Technology), so they have 3 teachers who don't know them very well. The aim of this experiment is to improve the interest of pupils for sciences and to make more pupils choose scientific careers. Indeed, more time with the children allows us to make more experiences. Also, it makes possible to work by topics and to treat their different aspects.

The study on water :

For example, about « water », we have studied the composition of mineral waters and their pH (Chemistry), the packaging (technology), the origin of minerals in waters (Geology), pollution of water... We made a partnership with the DEA (Direction de l'eau et de l'assainissement) of the department of Seine Saint Denis. They often came in the classes to explain how to clean up water, the relation between water and the different rocks. We have also made many school outings to discover training sewer...

The development of the charter :

The pupils of 8th grade had to make a charter about the good use of water to make people understand that it's important to save water. During a few hours, pupils have thought about the different means to save water. Then, according to their ideas, they have worked in groups of 4-5 pupils to make some research, to write a short text and find a presentation or an illustration to interest people.

One group wanted to make a cartoon, another one a sketch...

In fact, all of these presentations have been filmed. The charter is a short film where we can see all the groups presenting their idea to save water. The charter was given in every Middle schools of the department of Seine Saint Denis.

Conclusion :

It was interesting to have such a result with this work and the pupils were proud of this short film.

I think that it was a great experience because they had a real production. They have worked with different professionals (DEA, artists who have worked on the illustrations and have filmed...).

Thanks to this experiment, we had time to complete successfully this project.