



Water from Romania's heart!

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As viewed on a map, the borders of Alba County, which lies in the centre of Transylvania, resembles the shape of a heart. The landscape is of great diversity: the plain of the river Mureş and the Apuseni Mountains. These surroundings are bestowed with three types of gold: yellow gold-Au, green gold – the forests and blue gold – water, joined with the red and brown nuances of specific flora and fauna.

Every spring the Forestry Service of Alba Iulia and the association "Silvic Progress" initiate and promote events designed to raise community awareness with regard to protection of the environment. For this purpose, they have created partnerships with different types of institutions, including educational partners. The campaign, "Forest month" is one such action for preserving the treasures of our little universe, such as the area of the city of Teiuş, a town located 19 km North-East of the city of Alba Iulia. It is bordered by the valley of the Mureş River on the East, which gently flows from the Trascău Mountains, situated Northwest of the aforementioned area. It is a place of sweet waters, flora and fauna protected by tree species such as poplar trees, willow trees, species of elderberry, oak trees, fir trees, etc.

One day I decided together with the students I teach to engage in an activity for the afforestation of the area. We proceeded using the following steps:

Information and curiosity

We began with a viewing of a short film produced by the "Silvic Progress" association regarding the mutual relationships between water and the forest, flora and fauna. We identified the benefits of water, which is rich in minerals for the trees and plants of the Apuseni Mountains. Keeping water in the vicinity of the roots requires removing weeds, without increasing evaporation or triggering soil erosion. Each species of trees have a different way of absorbing water from the environment. Annual evaporation depends on the species as well, with the spruce having the greatest value, followed by the beech and oak tree.

Learning

We engaged in conversations between students and the association representative on the topic of actions that benefit the environment. These talks have lead to the realization of drawings, posters and debates. The main steps in the process of tree planting were presented.

Work and play

We planted fir, linden, oak and beech sprigs in the schoolyard, using clean water for the plantation and growth of the trees. The results were noted in observation sheets, daily updated with the progress of each tree.

With the purpose of extending the activity, I have initiated a campaign called "The relationship between water and the fir tree and the edelweiss flower", aiming to extend the area populated by the fir and the edelweiss depending on the chemical properties of water, as well as to establish a protected area.