

Adventures in the Land of Geography

Kyriaki Intzeidou

Thessaloniki, Greece (kyr.intzeidou@yahoo.gr) 12th Primary School of Evosmos, Thessaloniki, Greece

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Making Geography Teaching more attractive

Kyriaki Intzeidou

12th Primary School of Evosmos, Thessaloniki, Greece

(kyr.intzeidou@yahoo.gr)

Almost all educators all over planet Earth share the same wishes: to improve the quality of their own teaching and of course to make, to help their students to love school, learning, reading, lessons, to increase their interest in what takes place in the classroom! This explains exactly why we – education professionals of all levels- have not actually the chance to get bored; We are all the time dedicated to the search of new ideas, new stuff, new materials! Innovation, Enthusiasm, Imagination, Motivation are key words for us! “Γη σκω δ’ αιεί πλλά διδασκέ μενς”: “I’m getting older while being taught all the time” according to the famous ancient Greek quote!

This has been always my guideline every time I organize my lessons. The results are much better through the cross-thematic integration of Language- Literature-Theatre, Visual Arts, Music, Mathematics, ICT (Information and Communications Technology), Physical Education and History.

In primary school syllabus generally Geography is introduced as “The awareness of local environment”.

In order to “conquer” a field, such as Geography we need to be fully acquainted with its specific language (e.g. geographic concepts). Only then we can become insiders in this. Moreover, participation through experiments leads exactly to the realization of the identities required, i.e. to respond to every communication aspect, playing the required role. Integration and incorporation of experiential activities and practical training are at my TopTen! In order to engage students dynamically and successfully in this educational aim, (my) teaching has been enhanced by the use of many different supervisory tools and resources, like the following:

Books: The Little Prince (Antoine de Saint-Exupéry), Cache-Lune (Eric Puybaret) From the Earth to the Moon/ Journey to the Center of the Earth / Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea (Novels by Jules Verne) Planet Earth (Disney’s Children Encyclopedia) , Paxi Fun Book-

Explore the Universe (European Space Agency)

Films ,videos and documentary series :

National Geographic’s Most Amazing Moments, 30 Years of National Geographic Specials, Around the World in 80 Days (PG 2004), Galileo: On the Shoulders of Giants, Volcano (PG-13 1997)

Educational excursions:

Noesis, Thessaloniki Education Center & Technology Museum

Educational sites:

<http://www.esa.int/ESA> and <http://www.esa.int/Education>

<http://photodentro.edu.gr/aggregator/>

<https://phet.colorado.edu/el/>

<http://www.noa.gr/index.php?lang=el>

<http://www.noesis.edu.gr/>

Last but not least, nowadays there so many apps and software with very helpful educational content such as :Google Earth, Sky View, Sky Map e.t.c.

Of course this list is so huge and rich, I can hardly decide which ones to name and which ones to “ignore”!