

Chapter 1

Geography lesson: Following a hiking trail!

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Summary

The “Serra de Tramuntana” is Mallorca’s biggest mountain range. It was declared World Heritage Site by the UNESCO in 2011. This activity will not only allow our students to know better our cultural heritage and landscape, but also will help them analyse and follow the map of a hiking route from the town of Soller to the town of Deia.

This was done with our 2nd of ESO students (aged 13-14 years old) in March 2018.

Following a hiking trail!

Introduction

It's important to help our students know how to follow the map of a hiking trail, as there are many hiking trails in Mallorca that our students could do, and knowing and protecting our natural environment is encouraged by our school.

Learning objectives

To be able to analyse and follow a map with a hiking route.

To learn all about the hiking route from Soller to Deia regarding not only geographical aspects, but also concerning nature, cultural traditions and artistic representations.

To be able to work in group.

To enjoy our environment and nature.

Resources

Maps of the hiking route. Students must bring their water and food supply and dress accordingly to the activity.



Activity

Step 1 (in class): 1. Discuss with the class what they know about tracks and trails: Where would you normally find trails? How are trails formed? What purpose do they serve? 2. Give a map of the trail to each student and analyse its main features: length and height gain, time needed, etc. 3. Divide the class into four groups: each group will have to study on Internet the trail from Soller to Deia and gather information regarding its nature, cultural aspects and artistic representations. 4. Ask each group to present their findings to the rest of the class.

Step 2 (outdoor lesson): 1. Ask every group to follow the trail. They have to go together and work together to follow the indications of the map. Every group will start walking every 5-7 minutes, and there will be teachers along the route. Ask the students to observe: Is the trail well indicated? What, if any, impacts does it have on surrounding vegetation and wildlife? Is there evidence that people are straying from the trail (e.g. is it wider in some parts?)





Comments from the learners' surveys

Our students enjoyed the trip very much and realised the importance of knowing how to follow a map and a trail. Some of them said they would do it again and act as guides with their families!

Final remarks

An outdoor lesson is always welcome, and in this case the activity was particularly well-received as students enjoyed exploring their capabilities and working with the rest of students.

Supplementary material

Link to the hiking route with its map:

<https://www.wikiloc.com/hiking-trails/mallorca-pedra-en-sec-gr-221-de-soller-a-deia-474707>

An explanation of the hiking route in English:

http://www.tramuntanatours.com/walk_soller_deia.html

