

FIELDWORK

“SEE THE WORLD THROUGH AN ECOLOGIST’S EYE”

Ecology is the branch of biology which studies the interactions among organisms and their environment. Objects of study include interactions of organisms with each other and with abiotic components of their environment.



Four of us, Adela Fărcața, Teodora Morar, Oana Musteață and Miruna Petrila, have been to ”Nicolae Bălcesu” Park, near our school with our biology teacher, Mrs. Victoria Pop, and we have studied the plants and insects living there. The teacher gave us some hand outs which we filled in to fix our knowledge. The topics of interest include the biodiversity.



We went to the park to be enlightened about the beauties and the dangers that threaten our environment. Our biology teacher explained us lots of things related to biodiversity and answered our question about different plants or environmental issues. We were given the opportunity for first-hand experience of the living world. Our outing in the park was transformed into an educational and funny activity. It was a nice experience.

”The big gain of field activities is that we stay away from phones or computers. We were outdoors and started to love nature more. After all, it’s much better and healthier to spend our time outdoors than sitting all day on the computer. We were not stressed to write or learn, but we learnt everything freely. It was amazing to realize we learned because we liked it.



And that’s because it was a relaxing activity. This type of activities is very useful to make us learn about our environment, get used to it and protect it as much as possible.

Learning that occurs in a field setting is a powerful experience. Fieldwork is an engaging and important aspect of learning, giving it real-world value and developing teamwork skills. An

outing provides the opportunity to learn and apply a range of fieldwork techniques and methodologies in a field environment.



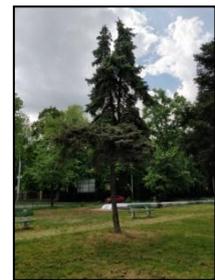
Field activities give us a chance to see the world for ourselves. As we work as a group, we share what we are experiencing with the others. Instead of simply watching an image on the screen or listening to the experiences of others, we are personally experiencing the environment, interacting with it directly, engaged in the activities at the site.

Seeing life and the world first-hand promotes a clearer understanding of world, its workings and relationships. It reinforces previous classroom lessons and brings a higher level of “realism” and “believing”. How would one understand or be expected to understand without being exposed directly to the manifestations of concepts and ideas. Only by being immersed within an environment or practical activity can we “feel” its importance, its impacts, and its dynamics with our senses. As a living and thinking organism, we use our senses to make comparisons, discover similarities and differences and to observe the specific relationships in the world.



THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

“Teaching class under the trees”



Field work provides us with more time to focus, think, study and learn about new ideas as they present themselves and to witness specific examples in the context of our interdisciplinary realities. Often more than the four walls of a classroom, the outdoor classroom was more enjoyable, beautiful, inspiring, stimulating and relaxing (all at the same time), creating an optimal learning environment. We learn, retaining the concepts, examples, principles, and processes involved and coming away with a more in-depth understanding of what they have seen and experienced.

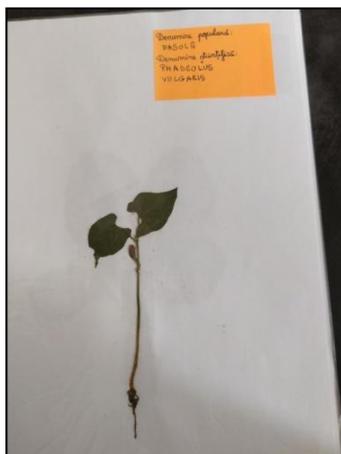
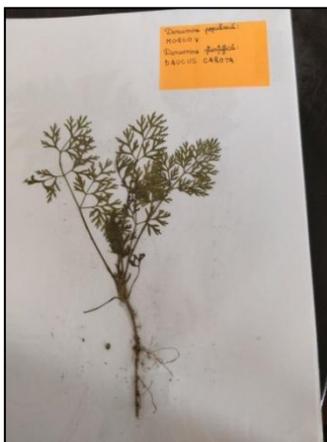
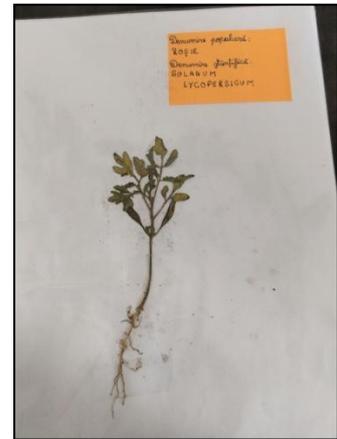
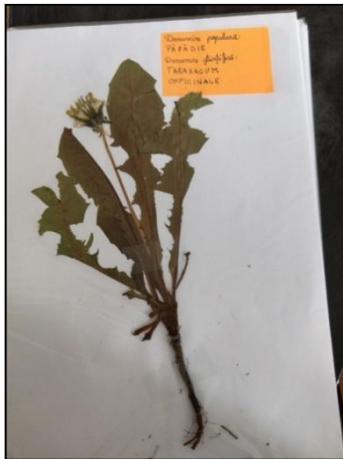
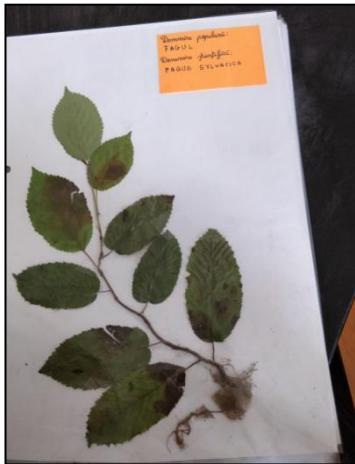
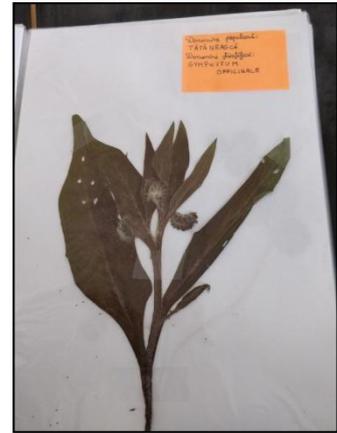
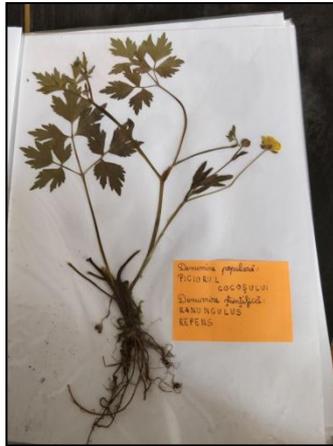
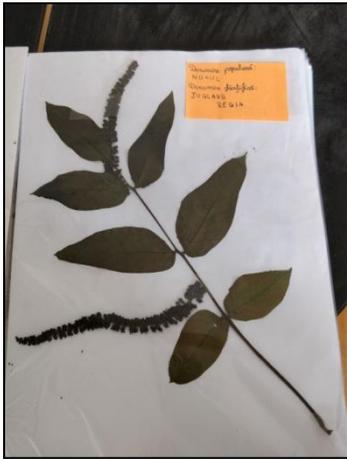
The unique sharing environment created by working together in the field facilitates increased learning and awareness beyond what we would attain if we were in the classroom. The

participation in a structured field class provides us with much more because of special information resources, planned activities, guided learning, increased sharing of observations. Field classes demonstrate and utilize the benefits of teamwork combined with individualized learning.

Field study classes provide:

- Practical experiences – real world knowledge about life;
- Real examples of information discussed in the classroom;
- Opportunities for sharing different perspectives and views on important topics;
- Locations to gather real ecological field data;
- Interactions from which you can discover your strengths, limitations, abilities and skills;
- Integration of concepts and information from various disciplines;
- Increased knowledge and broadened understanding of the world and its workings;
- First-hand observations of human interactions with the environment;
- Places to learn and practice field collecting techniques;
- Application of theoretical or classroom knowledge to real situations;
- Critical thinking problems involving complex and current issues waiting to be solved;
- A chance to put one's life into a realistic perspective;
- Explorations in to the natural elements involved in change and stability within the environment;
- Opportunities for personalized learning;
- Appreciation for the natural world and its resources;
- Real subjects to study and to improve observational skills;
- Learn to live and work with others, supporting each other during group learning activities;
- Teamwork activities that result in enhanced learning outcomes for all;
- Opportunities for personal growth, maturing of a person's perceptions and perspectives;
- Enjoyable learning experiences, and
- Time to appreciate the beauty of the world in which we are involved.

HERBARIUM



INSECTARIUM

