

My pen pal was named Theodora Konstantinidou, and came from Greece. She was seventeen years old.



She spoke very good English, so we were able to talk to her a lot during the evening meals with my family. She was very nice, and i think, i couldn't have had a better pen friend.

The visit that made the biggest impression on me was the one to CERN.



You could feel that the guides were passionate about what they were talking about, which made their explanations very interesting. The way they simplified complex concepts helped me a lot

to understand them. In addition, I think this was my favourite visit, as I was already interested in CERN. In all, I think it was a very interesting visit, which was both fun and educational.

I bought myself a postcard, which is now, on the fridge.



We visited the medieval village of Yvoire in the morning.

My pen friend enjoyed this visit very much.



In the afternoon, we visited the Evian factory. We familiarised ourselves with the production of water on an international scale.

Evian is a spring water which is not modified when it is bottled. It is the same as the one that flows in the impluvium.

The food at lunchtime was delicious, which motivated us to listen to the guided tour that followed.

Evian produces about seven million bottles a day, which shows its importance in the global water market. The company Evian has about 2000 employees. It has been reported that Japan is a huge consumer of Evian water.



We visited the Hydrelec museum, and the Grand'maison hydroelectric dam. The guide explained to us how the dam was founded, shortly after the second World War II. It is the most powerful electrical installation in France.

It is a source of emergency energy, since the dam consumes more than it produces at the moment.

The reservoir formed at altitude by the Grand'Maison dam constitutes the upper reservoir, connected by pipes to the Verney reservoir, 900 metres below, which represents the lower reservoir. The power station is composed of 2 plants that provide 1800 MW available in just 3 minutes. The first plant, outside, is equipped with 4 turbine groups, while the second, underground, is located 70 metres below, with 8 so-called "reversible" groups that function both as turbines and pumps.





Visit to CERN

European Council for Nuclear Research

At the very beginning of the day, a gentleman showed us a video that presented what CERN was exactly. He then answered our questions in great detail.

We then learned how the detectors on the ISS (International Space Station) work. They identify particles passing through: their size, charge, speed

their size, their charge, their speed... taking into account the influence that a magnet installed on the detectors has on the particle in question.

Another guide then explained to us how the LHC (Large Hydron Collider) works, in which they bring protons or ions into collision to study the reactions that take place.

It is in order to understand the composition of the world, and to see antimatter or dark matter.

Visit to SILA

Syndicat intercommunal
mixte du lac d'Annecy



We visited the water treatment plant in Annecy. This showed us how the water of the Annecy urban area is filtered.

My favorite memory of the week with my exchange student

My exchange student had told me before coming that she wanted to try french specialities. Therefore, my mother ended up making a fondue with swiss cheese. We were a bit scared that she wouldn't like it, since she was a little picky with food. However, we were pleasantly surprised when she told us she really enjoyed it. She taught us some greek words during the meal, and told me I didn't have a bad accent, which made me quite happy about myself, because my father couldn't manage to pronounce anything in greek. We talked a lot about everything and everything that evening, and it's one of my favorite memories of the week.

My mother also made some gratin for us at some point, which, I think, made Theodora believe that all french people eat is cheese. We even gave her some reblochon, as a farewell gift, with a few other things.