

Water world

This program is designed to give young children an opportunity to explore water as a substance and to learn about its importance in our world. We will provide opportunities for participants to experience some aquatic habitats and meet a few of their inhabitants up-close face to face! Kids will also learn about the water's solvent properties and how it can exist in three physical forms by conducting some simple and fun experiments.

They will also engage in various activities where they experiment with volumes and fine-tune their spatial perceptions and coordination skills. This outing in nature promises to be lots of fun and a positive learning experience for early students that will appreciate and remember this hands-on exciting day.

At home in the natural world

This program provides an opportunity for very young children to discover the wonders of the natural world in a safe and stimulating environment. We will introduce the concept of natural habitats and explore a natural woodland and learn how wild plants and animals make their homes in this habitat. Children will be encouraged to use their senses and engage their curiosity in order to interact with the nature and learn to recognize its fundamental characteristics. The day's games and educational activities will help children to increase their awareness of habitats and feel comfortable and at home in the natural world.

This program is a gentle and fun way for young children to get in contact with nature and gain confidence while discovering the wonders of nature through quality environmental education.

Seasons in nature

This program aims to help children to recognize the amazing seasonal changes that occur in natural habitats and to appreciate some of the ways that organisms respond to the challenges posed by these regular changes. We will discover why seasonal changes occur and explore the effect they have in shaping our natural environment. Various games and educational activities will enable children to explore an area of natural habitat and become familiar with a range of plant and animals and discover the ways that they adapt to the four seasons.

The day will be full of fun and adventures, and children will learn in an interdisciplinary manner while experiencing the beauty and biodiversity of nature in a spectacular location.

Farm trip

The main objective of this field trip is to gently introduce nursery age children to the agricultural rural environment.

They will be encouraged to see the connections between the natural world, food production and material goods, as well as how natural processes provide us with most of our daily sustenance. The children will meet some real farm animals up-close and see some agricultural crops in the field. They will also play some simple educational games that encourage them to experience and learn about nature for themselves, in a safe and nurturing environment. The farm we are going to visit is run with high environmental standards and specialises in organic produce as well as being one of the 'Fattorie Didattiche' recognised by the Regione Piemonte.

This promises to be a fun and formative trip that aims to provide early students with a positive and exciting educational experience out of the classroom. Location: Cascina Penseglio, Albugnano (At)

Senses

This program aims to encourage young children to engage with the natural world using the full range of their sensory perceptions. Various environmental education activities and exercises will encourage youngsters to open themselves to their surroundings and explore the beauty and richness of nature in a safe and supportive setting.

We will discover how it feels to be a bat, what it's like to have sensitive whiskers and just how many textures and forms tree trunks have. There will be a focus on nocturnal woodland animals and how they live, hunt, hide and communicate. Children will learn to use the full array of their sensory perceptions in order to explore the natural environment. By the end of the day, participants will have experienced a dazzling array of natural colours, sounds, smells and tactile sensations and they will have learnt that wild creatures rely on an amazing diversity of sensory skills in order to exist in the natural world.

Wild melodies and natural rhythms

During this trip young children will learn about sound in nature and will experience the deep range of sounds in the auditory environment present in a natural ecosystem. They will use natural objects to make their own wild melodies and natural rhythms and will take part in various exercises that help them to focus their concentration and follow simple instructions individually and in small groups. We will also explore some of the ways that sound perception is used by wild animals in their day to day existence and how sounds are used as means of communication in many situations. Students will be encouraged to interact with the natural world through participating in a range of innovative games and activities that engage their innate creativity and musicality.

This trip will engage young students and help them to explore their sense of creativity and begin discovering the rich and sometimes musical world of nature.

Can you jump like a frog and sway like a tree?

This program aims to provide small children with an opportunity to explore nature in a fun and safe natural environment. The day's emphasis will be on physical movement and creative expression and the activities will help participants to engage with nature and interact with a selection of plants and animals in an exciting and dynamic way. Young students will gain self confidence and make personal connections with the natural world, as well as learning to focus and pay attention to themselves, their school mates and their environment.

This introductory environmental education program aims to enthral youngsters and to inspire and encourage them to revere nature as a place of wonder and change that can be a source of beauty, inspiration and creative energy.

The coast

During this trip we are going to visit a coastal area and explore its nature. The children will be introduced to the some basic marine environmental science in an interdisciplinary manner. They will learn some simple concepts underlying marine biology, geochemistry and geography. We will ask such questions as: how big is the sea? How does seawater vary from fresh? What makes the sea move? What lives in the sea? How do sea creatures live? What is a beach? Where does sand come from? What kind of plants live along the shore line?

Children will begin discovering the answers to such questions by conducting a series of experiments and playing some specially devised environmental educational games. They will be encouraged to use their intellects, senses, and innate curiosity to explore the sea and discover its nature during an unforgettable and fun-filled field trip.

Stream adventure

In this program we will discover the incredible aquatic life that inhabit our streams. Children will learn about the physical and chemical characteristics of streams and how they relate to river systems and the water cycle.

We will explore a stream and search for stream life, identifying the commonest aquatic organisms and learning about their exciting lifestyles. Students will have an opportunity to get their feet wet and hunt for real stream organisms for themselves. We will also find out why freshwater ecosystems are amongst the most threatened and degraded habitats and ways we can study and protect them.

River trip; tributaries and upper reaches

During this field trip we will explore the upper reaches and a pristine tributary of the Stura di Lanzo in the Alps to learn about river geography, stream ecology and range of topics related to the water cycle and geological processes.

Participants will have an opportunity to get their feet wet while searching for and learning to identify some macroinvertebrates, fish and other river organisms. We will learn about the lifecycles and ecology of these aquatic organisms and discover why they rely on, and are indicators for, clean and unpolluted water. We will then hike to the upper reaches of a tributary to discover where the water comes from and how it shapes the mountain environment.

Children will also have an opportunity to search for gold and other minerals and beautiful rocks that can be found in the stream environment. They will also use natural materials to create sculptures and artistic representations of the place and their experiences of it. This adventurous trip provides a exciting and memorable learning experience for children and introduces them to some important environmental concepts in an interdisciplinary and fun way.

Location: Area protetta della Stura di Lanzo, Valle di Lanzo (TO)

River trip; confluences & mid reaches

During this trip we will visit either the confluence of the Po and Dora Baltea, or the confluence of the Orco and Malone and the Po, which are both special natural reserves. We will learn about the river in this stage of its development and explore its wealth of wildlife, ecology and riparian environment.

We will do some birdwatching exercises, water quality monitoring tests as well as other environmental educational activities that help students to experience and comprehend this beautiful and wild river landscape.

This field trip is a valuable experience for students to studying rivers in geography.

Location: Parco del Po: confluence of Po and Dora, Crescentino (VC) or confluence of Orco, Malone and Po, Chivasso (TO)

Water resources

This field trip aims to introduce students to some fundamental concepts behind water resources in terms of their definition, geography, social utilisation, ecological function and global importance.

Students will be involved in various practical activities and conceptual exercises that will enable them to discover for themselves why water resources are essential for human and environmental health and how complex it is to fairly distribute and conserve the limited fresh water that we have on the planet.

We will use dance and movement to discover how a water molecule moves through the water cycle and do some simple and fun experiments to learn about some of water's fundamental physical and chemical characteristics. Students will also play some environmental education games to help them comprehend how little of the planet's water is clean, potable and available.

We will introduce some of the principles of aquatic ecology and learn about why fresh water ecosystems are so special and becoming increasingly threatened, and explore some of the ways that water moves in natural world. Students will also act out some role playing games to discover for ourselves why sharing limited aquatic resources can be complex in a crowded world.

This trip will be educational and fun for the students, and aims to encourage them to learn about the subject through hands-on activities in an exciting, interdisciplinary learning environment that should challenge and stimulate their intellects and creative faculties.

Energy production, fossil fuels and renewable resources

During this trip we will examine conventional energy production technologies and their environmental costs, and compare and contrast them with alternative renewable sources of energy.

We will learn about hydroelectric power production and visit a dam to see how it works and the effect it has on the area's hydroecology and mountain landscape. We will consider a range of alternative energy production techniques, discuss their merits and drawbacks and begin to analyse some social and political factors that determine energy policies, power production and its control. We will also look at social demands and expectations for energy in people's everyday lives and ways that it can be conserved and used more sparingly.

This trip will be interdisciplinary in nature, presenting issues from a range of perspectives and drawing from a selection of schools of thought.

The day will involve the students in a number of environmental education activities and hands-on experiments that take full advantage of the spectacular mountain setting for this program.

Location: Parco del Gran Paradiso, Ceresole Reale, Valle Orco (To).

Waste and recycling

During this trip we'll introduce the concepts of resources and waste and illustrate how the manufacture of everyday objects and normal human activities effect the natural world. We will play an environmental educational game where we analyse some objects in terms of their constituent materials and consider where these materials have come from, and where they land up when discarded.

We will introduce the concept of pollution and see some real examples of aquatic and air pollution in the field.

We will consider the causes and consequences of pollution and try to find the connections between human actions and environmental degradation by acting out a role playing game.

We will also see some examples of waste recycling systems and consider how natural materials are recycled in nature through biogeochemical cycles. This interdisciplinary field trip will provide students with a memorable and exciting educational experience and help them to understand some important environmental issues in relation to social patterns and scientific principles.

Woodland habitat romp

This program focuses on our native woodland and its dynamic ecological processes.

We will examine and describe woodland seasonal changes, ecological structure, habitat types, and biodiversity while exploring aspects of material cycling, soil communities and decomposers.

We will identify the major factors that determine woodland characteristics and explain the complex relation people have with these environments. We will also learn to recognize animal tracks and signs and help children to identify common woodland trees, plants and wildlife.

The program will take place in a spectacular woodland environment that is exciting and fun to visit in any season.

During the course of the day students will play a number environmental education games and activities that allow them to explore a woodland and learning about its ecology.

They will have opportunities to search for wildlife and become aware of how complex and rich woodland ecosystems are. They will experience the beauty and mystery of native woodland, and will learn how both natural and human factors have shaped the woods we see today.

Plants

During this trip we will introduce the children to the life of plants. They will get to see, touch, and smell a wide diversity of botanical species and become aware of how diverse and fascinating the plant world is.

We will play some environmental education games that help students learn some simple botanical concepts and realize how the ecological basis of life on earth depends on our green friends.

The children will take part in some role playing exercises, collect botanical samples from a pristine woodland ecosystem, and learn how to identify a range of common tree and shrub species. We will examine some aspects of plants' life cycles and ways they are adapted to a to live in a great range of environmental conditions.

We will also discover how plants are the characteristic elements of most terrestrial habitats and how they serve an essential role for human society. This trip is designed to be stimulating and fun and will introduce students to a range of scientific and environmental concepts in a hands-on manner.

Birds

This program explores the natural history and ecology of birds, which are probably the most familiar and commonly observed wild animals. We will reveal some of the secrets of birds' lives and behaviours, as well as explaining their biology, diversity of forms, habitats and lifestyles.

In this program we aim to increase participants awareness, knowledge and curiosity about birds, and to make them understand how birds are often indicator organisms of an ecosystem's health and habitat richness.

We also will provide an educational opportunity for them to connect with the natural world through the senses, emotions and intellect by focusing on ornithology, as birds are wild 'ambassadors' for nature. Activities and games will include making bird music, leaning to build a nest, trying to fly like a bird, collecting and identifying feathers and learning to observe wild birds in their natural habitat using binoculars and other techniques. This is a fun and educational field trip that promises to fascinate and engage students as they explore nature and learn some principles of ecology and environmental science.

Insects

This fun day trip will get children outdoors to learn some basic entomological facts and learn about the ecological dynamics that relate insects to natural ecosystems and human society. We will focus on the honey bee, apiary practice and honey production, and also observe some of the insects that frequent local natural environments as well as meeting some live ones face to face.

We aim to increase participants awareness and appreciation of insects and to understand their important role in nature and our lives. This day trip will provide fun opportunities for children to learn about insect life, and help them to overcome any prejudices and fears that they may have about insects by engaging children's' natural curiosity and encouraging them to examine some small and often overlooked miracles of the natural world.

We will visit a bee hive and see how bees live and the processes of honey production and make some insects from natural materials. As well as learning about insect life, biology and ecology, students will also play environmental education games and activities that allow them to explore and experience insects in nature first hand.

Night life

In this program we will explore the nightlife of nocturnal animals and discover the reasons they wake up when we go to sleep. Through a series of environmental education games and exercises we will find out how these organisms feed, hunt and hide under the cover of darkness.

We will discover some facts about the secret lives of bats, badgers, and foxes and look for their tracks and signs. Students will find out for themselves first hand how important it is to have a well developed sense of touch, hearing and smell in order to live as a successful nocturnal animal.

We will also discuss why humans see so poorly in the dark and explore some of the biological theories about why we are afraid of the dark. This program is an exciting day out that provides an interdisciplinary learning experience about nature in a beautiful natural setting.

Voyages of dispersal & discovery

In this program we will explore some principals of biogeography including the natural distribution of species and their means of dispersal and migration. We will compare and contrast these natural processes to those of human migration, historical voyages of discovery, and processes and patterns of colonization.

We will explore some effects of these processes and discuss some of the cultural and environmental consequences of these historical events.

We will pay particular attention to the ways that people have historically collected and transported certain species and introduced others, which have often become problematic invasive species effecting planetary biodiversity and ecology. The participants will engage in a range exciting interdisciplinary activities and do a selection of environmental educational exercises that help them to explore these topics and further their ability to think critically and comprehend issues holistically.

We will also engage in some role playing and drama games that help the children to uncover some of the motivations that drive humans to expand their populations and explore new lands as well as to resist the forces of colonization, cultural suppression and globalisation.

Light in nature

In this program we will focus on light and energy and will learn how the sun is the fundamental source of all life on Earth. We will simply introduce the concepts of photosynthesis and trophic energy transfer which are fundamental ideas in the sciences of botany and ecology.

We will explore a number of ways that organisms utilize different wavelengths of light, including various visual physical and behavioural adaptations, bioluminescence, mimicry and camouflage techniques, and we will investigate ways that colour is used as a means of communication in the natural world.

We will also learn about seasonality, photoperiodism and the effect of ozone depletion on the quality of sunlight. Students will participate in a range of games and activities where they explore the visual world and learn about the dynamic manifestations of light and colour in the environment.

The day will be a deep educational experience full of activities, challenges, drama and personal exploration, set in a beautiful and wild landscape.

Birdsong and music

During this program we explore the natural history of birds, paying particular attention to their calls, songs and vocalisations. Students will play various environmental education games that help them to become more sensitive to the auditory elements in the natural world and to notice how important sound is as a means of communication and as a medium for sensory perception. They will use a selection of musical instruments to create their own forms of birdsong and nature inspired musical compositions in a wild ecosystem.

We will also learn to identify some common birds from their songs and try calling wild birds into our midst by imitating their calls and using decoys. We will also consider the ways that birdsong has influenced a range of forms of artistic expression, including traditional folksong, rhythm, and contemporary composition.

This stimulating and fun trip promises to widen students musical horizons and help them to appreciate the wonders of the natural world and its artistic interpretation.

Storytelling

During this fun trip students will learn about the cultural importance of storytelling and its role in oral traditions and contemporary society. We will examine some common themes found in many traditional tales and myths, and look for connections between the origins of human imagination, indigenous cosmologies and the natural world.

Students will be set various exercises where they have to create and tell stories as a means of interpreting natural landscapes, mysterious places and strange plants and animals.

They will also engage in environmental education games that help them to connect more deeply to the natural world and each other through the power of words, fables and stories. This trip promises to stimulate students' imaginations and enhance their creative facilities and ability to work together in groups. We will also examine some methods of storytelling and ways that proficient storytelling can be successfully incorporated into the performance arts, speech writing, marketing, leadership and politics.

Witch and wizard workshop

During this adventurous day outing, we will explore a world of magic and witchcraft in a wildwood setting. Children will learn about the history of witchcraft and find out about the roles witchcraft and magic have in traditional societies and folklore. They will also learn about the kind of skills and knowledge that witches had, and why they were experts in herbal medicine, healing and other systems of knowledge. Students will engage in a range of storytelling games, environmental education activities and other fun and dramatic exercises. They will even have the opportunity to dress-up and transform themselves into real witches. We will discover some of the traditional sacred herbs associated with magic, and try to make magic potions and concoct spells in a beautiful woodland. Students will learn about a range of topics (from ethnobotany to sociology) and engage in various drama and creative expression activities, as well as collaborating together in constructive group exercises and exploring the limits of natural space and social taboos. This promises to be an exciting and memorable field trip that truly lets children discover the magic of nature for themselves!

Stories, monsters and myths

During this field trip we will explore the ways that people around the world relate to their landscape through the creation of stories, myths and fairy tales. We will discover how the imaginative process of story-telling helps us define our relationship to the natural world and how myths and legends provide us with a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to help us understand nature and act appropriately towards it. We will visit a wild wood and explore some of its mysterious hidden places and hear a selection of traditional stories and local legends about the area. We will create our own stories about the magical woods and discover why the natural world is historically so often associated with mythological monsters, fairies and other supernatural beings. The participants will engage in a range of creative educational games and environmental activities that get them to explore nature and develop their individual relationships with wild plants and animals, while focusing on the ways that our imagination and stories link us to the landscape, history and society.

Climate change

During this trip we will learn about the environmental crisis that threatens the natural world and human society. We will examine the science, politics and history of global warming and consider the ways that it is predicted to effect the planet. We will put these issues into an interdisciplinary context and explore some of the roots causes that drive these phenomena.

Students will role play and do environmental education activities that give them a deeper understanding of global warming while learning and exchanging ideas.

The trip's aim is to inform students about this environmental issue in a clear and simple manner, and to get them to think about how we make choices and behave, in the light of ethics, value systems, and social responsibilities.

Rarity, extinction and loss of biodiversity

During this program we will examine one of the major environmental issues of our time; the extinction crisis.

Students will learn about rarity and the process of extinction and why some species are more prone to becoming rare and extinct. We will look at the ways that modern industrial society threatens global biodiversity, and explore the reasons why human modification of the natural world often leads to habitat destruction and fragmentation as well as to species overexploitation and extinctions.

A series of educational activities and games will help students to understand some of the consequences and effects of the loss of biodiversity on nature and society and some of the main strategies to help prevent further extinctions and to conserve biodiversity at all levels.

We will also play role games and create dramatic scenarios to explore our responsibilities and ethical relationship towards the natural world and future generations. This promises to be an enlightening and exciting day for students, that takes place in a wild and spectacular location.

Stream adventure

In this program we will discover the incredible aquatic life that inhabit our streams.

Children will learn about the physical and chemical characteristics of streams and how they relate to river systems and the water cycle.

We will explore a stream and search for stream life, identifying the commonest aquatic organisms and learning about their exciting lifestyles. Students will have an opportunity to get their feet wet and hunt for real stream organisms for themselves.

We will also find out why freshwater ecosystems are amongst the most threatened and degraded habitats and ways we can study and protect them.

River trip; tributaries and upper reaches

During this field trip we will explore the upper reaches and a pristine tributary of the Stura di Lanzo in the Alps to learn about river geography, stream ecology and range of topics related to the water cycle and geological processes. Participants will have an opportunity to get their feet wet while searching for and learning to identify some macroinvertebrates, fish and other river organisms.

We will learn about the lifecycles and ecology of these aquatic organisms and discover why they rely on, and are indicators for, clean and unpolluted water.

We will then hike to the upper reaches of a tributary to discover where the water comes from and how it shapes the mountain environment. Children will also have an opportunity to search for gold and other minerals and beautiful rocks that can be found in the stream environment. They will also use natural materials to create sculptures and artistic representations of the place and their experiences of it.

This adventurous trip provides a exciting and memorable learning experience for children and introduces them to some important environmental concepts in an interdisciplinary and fun way.

Location: Area protetta della Stura di Lanzo, Valle di Lanzo (TO)

River trip; confluences & mid reaches

During this trip we will visit either the confluence of the Po and Dora Baltea, or the confluence of the Orco and Malone and the Po, which are both special natural reserves. We will learn about the river in this stage of its development and explore its wealth of wildlife, ecology and riparian environment.

We will do some birdwatching exercises, water quality monitoring tests as well as other environmental educational activities that help students to experience and comprehend this beautiful and wild river landscape.

This field trip is a valuable experience for students to studying rivers in geography.

Location: Parco del Po: confluence of Po and Dora, Crescentino (VC) or confluence of Orco, Malone and Po, Chivasso (TO)

Water resources

This field trip aims to introduce students to some fundamental concepts behind water resources in terms of their definition, geography, social utilisation, ecological function and global importance.

Students will be involved in various practical activities and conceptual exercises that will enable them to discover for themselves why water resources are essential for human and environmental health and how complex it is to fairly distribute and conserve the limited fresh water that we have on the planet.

We will use dance and movement to discover how a water molecule moves through the water cycle and do some simple and fun experiments to learn about some of water's fundamental physical and chemical characteristics. Students will also play some environmental education games to help them comprehend how little of the planet's water is clean, potable and available.

We will introduce some of the principles of aquatic ecology and learn about why fresh water ecosystems are so special and becoming increasingly threatened, and explore some of the ways that water moves in natural world. Students will also act out some role playing games to discover for ourselves why sharing limited aquatic resources can be complex in a crowded world.

This trip will be educational and fun for the students, and aims to encourage them to learn about the subject through hands-on activities in an exciting, interdisciplinary learning environment that should challenge and stimulate their intellects and creative faculties.

Energy production, fossil fuels and renewable resources

During this trip we will examine conventional energy production technologies and their environmental costs, and compare and contrast them with alternative renewable sources of energy.

We will learn about hydroelectric power production and visit a dam to see how it works and the effect it has on the area's hydroecology and mountain landscape. We will consider a range of alternative energy production techniques, discuss their merits and drawbacks and begin to analyse some social and political factors that determine energy policies, power production and its control. We will also look at social demands and expectations for energy in people's everyday lives and ways that it can be conserved and used more sparingly.

This trip will be interdisciplinary in nature, presenting issues from a range of perspectives and drawing from a selection of schools of thought. The day will involve the students in a number of environmental education activities and hands-on experiments that take full advantage of the spectacular mountain setting for this program.

Location: Parco del Gran Paradiso, Ceresole Reale, Valle Orco (To).

Waste and recycling

During this trip we'll introduce the concepts of resources and waste and illustrate how the manufacture of everyday objects and normal human activities effect the natural world. We will play an environmental educational game where we analyse some objects in terms of their constituent materials and consider where these materials have come from, and where they land up when discarded.

We will introduce the concept of pollution and see some real examples of aquatic and air pollution in the field.

We will consider the causes and consequences of pollution and try to find the connections between human actions and environmental degradation by acting out a role playing game.

We will also see some examples of waste recycling systems and consider how natural materials are recycled in nature through biogeochemical cycles.

This interdisciplinary field trip will provide students with a memorable and exciting educational experience and help them to understand some important environmental issues in relation to social patterns and scientific principles.

An introduction to environmental pollution

This program will give students an interdisciplinary conceptual overview of what pollution is, why it occurs, what effects it has and what can be done about it.

We will explore some basic aspects of aquatic, air and soil pollution, and see for ourselves some examples of how these forms of pollution manifest themselves in the everyday environment and consider ways that they effect the health and quality of the environment.

Students will have the opportunity to role play and carry out a series of other activities that help them to understand how pollution issues need to be viewed in the context of social as well as scientific factors.

We will also examine some major global environmental pollution issues and try to place them in the context of human welfare, social justice and ecological integrity. We will visit some polluted sites to study their biota, and will also see some examples of ecological restoration and successful pollution amelioration.

This trip will be fun and thought provoking. Students to experience some real life examples of pollution and will learn to think in an interdisciplinary manner when considering complex environmental issues.

Woodland habitat romp

This program focuses on our native woodland and its dynamic ecological processes.

We will examine and describe woodland seasonal changes, ecological structure, habitat types, and biodiversity while exploring aspects of material cycling, soil communities and decomposers.

We will identify the major factors that determine woodland characteristics and explain the complex relation people have with these environments. We will also learn to recognize animal tracks and signs and help children to identify common woodland trees, plants and wildlife.

The program will take place in a spectacular woodland environment that is exciting and fun to visit in any season. During the course of the day students will play a number environmental education games and activities that allow them to explore a woodland and learning about its ecology. They will have opportunities to search for wildlife and become aware of how complex and rich woodland ecosystems are.

They will experience the beauty and mystery of native woodland, and will learn how both natural and human factors have shaped the woods we see today.

Practical ecology

This program provides a basic introduction to the fundamentals of ecology and introduces students to the most common natural ecosystems they encounter in their local landscape.

We will discover the characteristic plants and animals that inhabit these ecosystems by exploring a wood, digging in the soil and hunting for insects and spiders in a meadow. Children will play role games and do various environmental activities in order to learn about predator prey relationships, food chains, trophic energy transfer and primary production.

The program will help students to comprehend the basic principles of ecology, increase their awareness of and appreciation for the natural environment and learn to identify some common flora and fauna.

Amazing biodiversity

In this program we will discover what biodiversity means, why it's important and why it's being lost in the natural world. Students will learn about what makes species distinct from each other, why organisms have evolved into so many forms and how difficult it is to accurately define and quantify biodiversity in the real world.

We will also introduce the concepts of rarity, extinction and conservation, and begin to explore the reasons that biodiversity is being effected by human society.

Although we will learn about biodiversity in theory, students will have a very hands-on day, exploring a woodland and meadow ecosystems trying to record and quantify their biodiversity, try to conduct a simple census for a selection of the area's vertebrate species, and conduct a sample of the area's floral diversity.

They will also play a number of environmental education games that relate to the theme and create some amazing creatures of their own that would be theoretically adapted to inhabit these ecosystems.

During the day students will discover for themselves how a rich natural biodiversity is essential for the planet's ecological integrity as well as for our social well-being.

The European wolf; its past present and future

During this field trip we will learn about the wolf in terms of its biology, ecology and its historical relationship to humans. We will examine attitudes to wolves around the world and learn about their history of persecution and extermination. We will visit a mountain habitat that is one of this large predators last refuges and hike into the wilderness to search for clues to its lifestyle and to try to find tracks and signs of this illusive animal.

We will also discover why wolf conservation is practically so complex and so controversial to many people.

We will also study the kind of conservation policies and methodologies that are available to scientists who wish to reintroduce and protect this flagship species.

Students will have an action packed day, in a very special wilderness area. They will engage in role playing games, learn tracking and field biology techniques and explore the topic using a range of learning tools and environmental education activities.

This field trip focuses on the wolf, but is relevant to many aspects of conservation biology in theory and practice.

Location: Parco delle Alpi Marittime (Cn).

Plants

During this trip we will introduce the children to the life of plants. They will get to see, touch, and smell a wide diversity of botanical species and become aware of how diverse and fascinating the plant world is.

We will play some environmental education games that help students learn some simple botanical concepts and

realize how the ecological basis of life on earth depends on our green friends.

The children will take part in some role playing exercises, collect botanical samples from a pristine woodland ecosystem, and learn how to identify a range of common tree and shrub species.

We will examine some aspects of plants' life cycles and ways they are adapted to a to live in a great range of environmental conditions. We will also discover how plants are the characteristic elements of most terrestrial habitats and how they serve an essential role for human society.

This trip is designed to be stimulating and fun and will introduce students to a range of scientific and environmental concepts in a hands-on manner.

Birds

This program explores the natural history and ecology of birds, which are probably the most familiar and commonly observed wild animals. We will reveal some of the secrets of birds' lives and behaviours, as well as explaining their biology, diversity of forms, habitats and lifestyles.

In this program we aim to increase participants awareness, knowledge and curiosity about birds, and to make them understand how birds are often indicator organisms of an ecosystem's health and habitat richness.

We also will provide an educational opportunity for them to connect with the natural world through the senses, emotions and intellect by focusing on ornithology, as birds are wild 'ambassadors' for nature.

Activities and games will include making bird music, leaning to build a nest, trying to fly like a bird, collecting and identifying feathers and learning to observe wild birds in their natural habitat using binoculars and other techniques. This is a fun and educational field trip that promises to fascinate and engage students as they explore nature and learn some principles of ecology and environmental science.

Insects

This fun day trip will get children outdoors to learn some basic entomological facts and learn about the ecological dynamics that relate insects to natural ecosystems and human society.

We will focus on the honey bee, apiary practice and honey production, and also observe some of the insects that frequent local natural environments as well as meeting some live ones face to face.

We aim to increase participants awareness and appreciation of insects and to understand their important role in nature and our lives.

This day trip will provide fun opportunities for children to learn about insect life, and help them to overcome any prejudices and fears that they may have about insects by engaging children's' natural curiosity and encouraging them to examine some small and often overlooked miracles of the natural world.

We will visit a bee hive and see how bees live and the processes of honey production. We will and make some insects from natural materials.

As well as learning about insect life, biology and ecology, students will also play environmental education games and activities that allow them to explore and experience insects in nature first hand.

Night life

In this program we will explore the nightlife of nocturnal animals and discover the reasons they wake up when we go to sleep. Through a series of environmental education games and exercises we will find out how these organisms feed, hunt and hide under the cover of darkness.

We will discover some facts about the secret lives of bats, badgers, and foxes and look for their tracks and signs. Students will find out for themselves first hand how important it is to have a well developed sense of touch, hearing and smell in order to live as a successful nocturnal animal.

We will also discuss why humans see so poorly in the dark and explore some of the biological theories about why we are afraid of the dark.

This program is an exciting day out that provides an interdisciplinary learning experience about nature in a beautiful natural setting.

An introduction to ethnobotany

This program is designed to introduce students to the study of ethnobotany, which is the study of the relationship between traditional peoples and plants.

Students will explore ways that plants are used in selected cultures and the reciprocal relationships between human society and the plants on which they depend. We will look at the traditional use of plants as foods, medicines and natural resources, and how wild plants are managed, perceived, and sometimes selectively bred and cultivated.

This interdisciplinary program will draw from elements of botany, anthropology and cultural geography and is a

great opportunity for students to begin to see the environment in holistic terms.

During the day students will take part in a range of exciting hands-on activities focused on applied ethnobotany, such as gathering medicinal herbs, using dye plants, plants for cordage fibres to make rope and knowing how to find magical plants for use during ritual and witchcraft.

We will learn about traditional uses of wild plants and modern uses of plant resources through storytelling, drama role playing and other creative activities.

By the end of the day, students will appreciate how dependent we are on the world of plants and how they have helped to shape our cultural evolution while we've influenced their global distribution, abundance and ecology.

Voyages of dispersal & discovery

In this program we will explore some principals of biogeography including the natural distribution of species a their means of dispersal and migration.

We will compare and contrast these natural processes to those of human migration, historical voyages of discovery, and processes and patterns of colonization. We will explore some effects of these processes and discuss some of the cultural and environmental consequences of these historical events.

We will pay particular attention to the ways that people have historically collected and transported certain species and introduced others, which have often become problematic invasive species effecting planetary biodiversity and ecology. The participants will engage in a range exciting interdisciplinary activities and do a selection of environmental educational exercises that help them to explore these topics and further their ability to think critically and comprehend issues holistically.

We will also engage in some role playing and drama games that help the children to uncover some of the motivations that drive humans to expand their populations and explore new lands as well as to resist the forces of colonization, cultural suppression and globalisation.

The landscape detective; understanding the present landscape in terms of its past

During this field trip students will be introduced to the idea that the landscape's present features are often the result of its past. We will examine some of the natural and anthropogenic forces and processes that have helped to shape our present landscape. We will find out how can we know what the landscape was like in the past by searching for evidence of the area's geological past as well as analysing signs of past human activities, management regimes and historical objects. We will carry out a number of educational activities that help students to learn to 'read the landscape' and to connect the contemporary landscape to the past by noticing indicative landscape features and other factors.

They will also do various experiments and other groups activities where they will try to piece together evidence and form their own hypothesis explaining the past histories of the natural and cultural landscape.

We will focus on woodland ecosystems as a case study and students will examine some important indicators of woodland habitat and learn about past woodland management, ecology and the coppicing properties of trees.

During this field trip students will develop an idea of some of the methodologies and approaches involved in historical landscape analysis and will gain a sense of how the past is embedded in the contemporary landscape.

Time & change in nature

This program focuses on geological, biological and human timescales and the forces that drive changes in nature. We will explore geological and ecological changes as well as human induced changes in the natural world.

Outdoor activities are focused on the physical and biological landscape dynamics, as well as environmental history. There will be a focus on contemporary human induced changes in nature such global warming, the extinction crisis, pollution and habitat loss. We will examine some of the reasons for these anthropogenic changes and explain why they tend to be rapid and detrimental to natural landscapes and organisms.

Students will play a 'time machine' game where they will explore a range of past landscapes and discover historical and cultural elements in the landscape through story-telling, as well as searching for evidence to form their own hypothesis about how a particular landscape has changed over time.

Other activities will introduce elements of landscape analysis and help them to understand how the past has helped to shape the contemporary landscape.

This is an interdisciplinary program that helps students to comprehend natural and anthropogenic forces of change and the dynamics of environmental stability and flux.

Human evolution

This program will focus on scientific theories of human evolution and what evidence has been found that support these ideas. During the program participants will make primitive shelters, try making simple tools from natural materials and experiment with primitive methods of fire making. We will also play a series of educational games focused tracking, hunting and gathering, as well as exploring various approaches towards non verbal communication and social organization in small groups.

This program aims to help students grasp the fundamental ideas of human evolutionary theory in a practical and fun educational setting, where they actually experience some of the exciting environmental challenges that our human ancestors would have had to deal with in order to survive.

Students will be encouraged to think critically and to realize that scientific theories are often based on the interpretation of limited evidence. We will also explore some other cultural and religious beliefs and mythologies that explain how human beings came into being.

What makes us human?

This program gets children thinking about those characteristics that differentiate humans from other organisms and other biological features that identify us as being inseparable from the other animals.

We emphasise that although humans are unique, they are also intrinsically part of nature and ecologically interdependent on the natural world. We will introduce a range of cultural cosmologies of nature and encourage children to deepen their understanding of human society's dynamic relationship with nature.

Children will be encouraged to think critically and problem solve individually and in groups. A range of fun and stimulating environmental education activities will take place in a beautiful natural woodland environment that offers many opportunities for children to experience wild plants and animals.

Through role games, physical play and dynamic group activities this program will enable participants to explore their personal relationships to the natural world and deepen their understanding of what makes us human.

Light in nature

In this program we will focus on light and energy and will learn how the sun is the fundamental source of all life on Earth. We will simply introduce the concepts of photosynthesis and trophic energy transfer which are fundamental ideas in the sciences of botany and ecology.

We will explore a number of ways that organisms utilize different wavelengths of light, including various visual physical and behavioural adaptations, bioluminescence, mimicry and camouflage techniques, and we will investigate ways that colour is used as a means of communication in the natural world.

We will also learn about seasonality, photoperiodism and the effect of ozone depletion on the quality of sunlight.

Students will participate in a range of games and activities where they explore the visual world and learn about the dynamic manifestations of light and colour in the environment.

The day will be a deep educational experience full of activities, challenges, drama and personal exploration, set in a beautiful and wild landscape.

Storytelling

During this fun trip students will learn about the cultural importance of storytelling and its role in oral traditions and contemporary society. We will examine some common themes found in many traditional tales and myths, and look for connections between the origins of human imagination, indigenous cosmologies and the natural world.

Students will be set various exercises where they have to create and tell stories as a means of interpreting natural landscapes, mysterious places and strange plants and animals.

They will also engage in environmental education games that help them to connect more deeply to the natural world and each other through the power of words, fables and stories. This trip promises to stimulate students' imaginations and enhance their creative facilities and ability to work together in groups.

We will also examine some methods of storytelling and ways that proficient storytelling can be successfully incorporated into the performance arts, speech writing, marketing, leadership and politics.

Witch and wizard workshop

During this adventurous day outing, we will explore a world of magic and witchcraft in a wildwood setting.

Children will learn about the history of witchcraft and find out about the roles witchcraft and magic have in traditional societies and folklore. They will also learn about the kind of skills and knowledge that witches had, and why they were experts in herbal medicine, healing and other systems of knowledge.

Students will engage in a range of storytelling games, environmental education activities and other fun and dramatic

exercises. They will even have the opportunity to dress-up and transform themselves into real witches. We will discover some of the traditional sacred herbs associated with magic, and try to make magic potions and concoct spells in a beautiful woodland. Students will learn about a range of topics (from ethnobotany to sociology) and engage in various drama and creative expression activities, as well as collaborating together in constructive group exercises and exploring the limits of natural space and social taboos. This promises to be an exciting and memorable field trip that truly lets children discover the magic of nature for themselves!

Stories, monsters and myths

During this field trip we will explore the ways that people around the world relate to their landscape through the creation of stories, myths and fairy tales.

We will discover how the imaginative process of story-telling helps us define our relationship to the natural world and how myths and legends provide us with a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to help us understand nature and act appropriately towards it.

We will visit a wild wood and explore some of its mysterious hidden places and hear a selection of traditional stories and local legends about the area.

We will create our own stories about the magical woods and discover why the natural world is historically so often associated with mythological monsters, fairies and other supernatural beings. The participants will engage in a range of creative educational games and environmental activities that get them to explore nature and develop their individual relationships with wild plants and animals, while focusing on the ways that our imagination and stories link us to the landscape, history and society.

Climate change

During this trip we will learn about the environmental crisis that threatens the natural world and human society. We will examine the science, politics and history of global warming and consider the ways that it is predicted to effect the planet. We will put these issues into an interdisciplinary context and explore some of the roots causes that drive these phenomena.

Students will role play and do environmental education activities that give them a deeper understanding of global warming while learning and exchanging ideas.

The trip's aim is to inform students about this environmental issue in a clear and simple manner, and to get them to think about how we make choices and behave, in the light of ethics, value systems, and social responsibilities.

Rarity, extinction and loss of biodiversity

During this program we will examine one of the major environmental issues of our time; the extinction crisis.

Students will learn about rarity and the process of extinction and why some species are more prone to becoming rare and extinct. We will look at the ways that modern industrial society threatens global biodiversity, and explore the reasons why human modification of the natural world often leads to habitat destruction and fragmentation as well as to species overexploitation and extinctions.

A series of educational activities and games will help students to understand some of the consequences and effects of the loss of biodiversity on nature and society and some of the main strategies to help prevent further extinctions and to conserve biodiversity at all levels.

We will also play role games and create dramatic scenarios to explore our responsibilities and ethical relationship towards the natural world and future generations. This promises to be an enlightening and exciting day for students, that takes place in a wild and spectacular location.

River trip; confluences & mid reaches

Description: During this trip we will visit either the confluence of the Po and Dora Baltea, or the confluence of the Orco and Malone and the Po, which are both special natural reserves. We will learn about the river in this stage of its development and explore its wealth of wildlife, ecology and riparian environment.

We will do some birdwatching exercises, water quality monitoring tests as well as other environmental educational activities that help students to experience and comprehend this beautiful and wild river landscape.

This field trip is a valuable experience for students to studying rivers in geography.

Location: Parco del Po: confluence of Po and Dora, Crescentino (VC) or confluence of Orco, Malone and Po, Chivasso (TO)

Energy production, fossil fuels and renewable resources

During this trip we will examine conventional energy production technologies and their environmental costs, and compare and contrast them with alternative renewable sources of energy.

We will learn about hydroelectric power production and visit a dam to see how it works and the effect it has on the area's hydroecology and mountain landscape. We will consider a range of alternative energy production techniques, discuss their merits and drawbacks and begin to analyse some social and political factors that determine energy policies, power production and its control.

We will also look at social demands and expectations for energy in people's everyday lives and ways that it can be conserved and used more sparingly. This trip will be interdisciplinary in nature, presenting issues from a range of perspectives and drawing from a selection of schools of thought.

The day will involve the students in a number of environmental education activities and hands-on experiments that take full advantage of the spectacular mountain setting for this program.

Location: Parco del Gran Paradiso, Ceresole Reale, Valle Orco (To).

An introduction to environmental pollution

This program will give students an interdisciplinary conceptual overview of what pollution is, why it occurs, what effects it has and what can be done about it. We will explore some basic aspects of aquatic, air and soil pollution, and see for ourselves some examples of how these forms of pollution manifest themselves in the everyday environment and consider ways that they effect the health and quality of the environment.

Students will have the opportunity to role play and carry out a series of other activities that help them to understand how pollution issues need to be viewed in the context of social as well as scientific factors.

We will also examine some major global environmental pollution issues and try to place them in the context of human welfare, social justice and ecological integrity. We will visit some polluted sites to study their biota, and will also see some examples of ecological restoration and successful pollution amelioration.

This trip will be fun and thought provoking. Students to experience some real life examples of pollution and will lean to think in an interdisciplinary manner when considering complex environmental issues.

Practical ecology

This program provides a basic introduction to the fundamentals of ecology and introduces students to the most common natural ecosystems they encounter in their local landscape.

We will discover the characteristic plants and animals that inhabit these ecosystems by exploring a wood, digging in the soil and hunting for insects and spiders in a meadow.

Children will play role games and do various environmental activities in order to learn about predator prey relationships, food chains, trophic energy transfer and primary production.

The program will help students to comprehend the basic principles of ecology, increase their awareness of and appreciation for the natural environment and learn to identify some common flora and fauna .

Lake ecology and limnology

During this field trip we will visit Lago di Candia which is a protected area, to learn about lakes and to experience their tranquillity, beauty and rich biodiversity. Students will be introduced to lakes in an interdisciplinary manner by being exposed to ideas from a wide range of disciplines that relate to lakes, such as for example, ecology, biochemistry, geology, and also anthropology, environmental history and cultural geography.

We will also examine the lake in geographical terms as a tourist resource and examine some of the policies and environmental management plans that have helped develop and protect the site.

Students will do a series of experiments on the lake water, birdwatch from a hide in the rushes and discover how the lake's rushes have been traditionally used as materials for thatch and basket weaving.

They will also visit the wetland wildlife sanctuary and play various environmental educational games related to the theme and lake habitat.

For groups who wish, we can also hire rowing-boats and explore the lake in style!

Amazing biodiversity

In this program we will discover what biodiversity means, why it's important and why it's being lost in the natural world. Students will learn about what makes species distinct from each other, why organisms have evolved into so many forms and how difficult it is to accurately define and quantify biodiversity in the real world.

We will also introduce the concepts of rarity, extinction and conservation, and begin to explore the reasons that biodiversity is being effected by human society.

Although we will learn about biodiversity in theory, students will have a very hands-on day, exploring a woodland and meadow ecosystems trying to record and quantify their biodiversity, try to conduct a simple census for a selection of the area's vertebrate species, and conduct a sample of the area's floral diversity.

They will also play a number of environmental education games that relate to the theme and create some amazing creatures of their own that would be theoretically adapted to inhabit these ecosystems.

During the day students will discover for themselves how a rich natural biodiversity is essential for the planet's ecological integrity as well as for our social well-being.

The European wolf; its past present and future

During this field trip we will learn about the wolf in terms of its biology, ecology and its historical relationship to humans. We will examine attitudes to wolves around the world and learn about their history of persecution and extermination. We will visit a mountain habitat that is one of this large predators last refuges and hike into the wilderness to search for clues to its lifestyle and to try to find tracks and signs of this illusive animal.

We will also discover why wolf conservation is practically so complex and so controversial to many people.

We will also study the kind of conservation policies and methodologies that are available to scientists who wish to reintroduce and protect this flagship species. Students will have an action packed day, in a very special wilderness area. They will engage in role playing games, learn tracking and field biology techniques and explore the topic using a range of learning tools and environmental education activities.

This field trip focuses on the wolf, but is relevant to many aspects of conservation biology in theory and practice.

Location: Parco delle Alpi Marittime (Cn).

Approaches to nature conservation

This program aims to explain what nature conservation is, why nature needs to be conserved, what the main tools for its conservation are, as well as what the advantages and disadvantages are in regards to the various methodologies for practical conservation biology. We will examine some specific case studies and visit a protected area to see how such reserves work in practice.

The day will involve various role playing games, problem solving exercises and practical investigations that stimulate and inform students about the real issues and challenges involved in conservation locally and globally.

We will also consider various sociological aspects of nature conservation and some of its wider environmental and political implications. Although this program is focused on the field of conservation biology, its interdisciplinary nature will inform students about larger political and economic issues that effect practical nature conservation in the real world.

An introduction to ethnobotany

This program is designed to introduce students to the study of ethnobotany, which is the study of the relationship between traditional peoples and plants. Students will explore ways that plants are used in selected cultures and the reciprocal relationships between human society and the plants on which they depend.

We will look at the traditional use of plants as foods, medicines and natural resources, and how wild plants are managed, perceived, and sometimes selectively bred and cultivated.

This interdisciplinary program will draw from elements of botany, anthropology and cultural geography and is a great opportunity for students to begin to see the environment in holistic terms. During the day students will take part in a range of exciting hands-on activities focused on applied ethnobotany, such as gathering medicinal herbs, using dye plants, plants for cordage fibres to make rope and knowing how to find magical plants for use during ritual and witchcraft.

We will learn about traditional uses of wild plants and modern uses of plant resources through storytelling, drama role playing and other creative activities. By the end of the day, students will appreciate how dependent we are on the world of plants and how they have helped to shape our cultural evolution while we've influenced their global distribution, abundance and ecology.

Voyages of dispersal & discovery

In this program we will explore some principals of biogeography including the natural distribution of species and their means of dispersal and migration. We will compare and contrast these natural processes to those of human migration, historical voyages of discovery, and processes and patterns of colonization.

We will explore some effects of these processes and discuss some of the cultural and environmental consequences of these historical events. We will pay particular attention to the ways that people have historically collected and transported certain species and introduced others, which have often become problematic invasive species effecting planetary biodiversity and ecology.

The participants will engage in a range exciting interdisciplinary activities and do a selection of environmental educational exercises that help them to explore these topics and further their ability to think critically and comprehend issues holistically. We will also engage in some role playing and drama games that help the children to uncover some of the motivations that drive humans to expand their populations and explore new lands as well as to resist the forces of colonization, cultural suppression and globalisation.

The landscape detective; understanding the present landscape in terms of its past

During this field trip students will be introduced to the idea that the landscape's present features are often the result of its past. We will examine some of the natural and anthropogenic forces and processes that have helped to shape our present landscape. We will find out how can we know what the landscape was like in the past by searching for evidence of the area's geological past as well as analysing signs of past human activities, management regimes and historical objects.

We will carry out a number of educational activities that help students to learn to 'read the landscape' and to connect the contemporary landscape to the past by noticing indicative landscape features and other factors.

They will also do various experiments and other groups activities where they will try to piece together evidence and form their own hypothesis explaining the past histories of the natural and cultural landscape.

We will focus on woodland ecosystems as a case study and students will examine some important indicators of woodland habitat and learn about past woodland management, ecology and the coppicing properties of trees.

During this field trip students will develop an idea of some of the methodologies and approaches involved in historical landscape analysis and will gain a sense of how the past is embedded in the contemporary landscape.

Time & change in nature

This program focuses on geological, biological and human timescales and the forces that drive changes in nature. We will explore geological and ecological changes as well as human induced changes in the natural world. Outdoor activities are focused on the physical and biological landscape dynamics, as well as environmental history. There will be a focus on contemporary human induced changes in nature such global warming, the extinction crisis, pollution and habitat loss.

We will examine some of the reasons for these anthropogenic changes and explain why they tend to be rapid and detrimental to natural landscapes and organisms.

Students will play a 'time machine' game where they will explore a range of past landscapes and discover historical and cultural elements in the landscape through story-telling, as well as searching for evidence to form their own hypothesis about how a particular landscape has changed over time.

Other activities will introduce elements of landscape analysis and help them to understand how the past has helped to shape the contemporary landscape.

This is an interdisciplinary program that helps students to comprehend natural and anthropogenic forces of change and the dynamics of environmental stability and flux.

Human evolution

This program will focus on scientific theories of human evolution and what evidence has been found that support these ideas. During the program participants will make primitive shelters, try making simple tools from natural materials and experiment with primitive methods of fire making. We will also play a series of educational games focused tracking, hunting and gathering, as well as exploring various approaches towards non verbal communication and social organization in small groups.

This program aims to help students grasp the fundamental ideas of human evolutionary theory in a practical and fun educational setting, where they actually experience some of the exciting environmental challenges that our human ancestors would have had to deal with in order to survive.

Students will be encouraged to think critically and to realize that scientific theories are often based on the interpretation of limited evidence. We will also explore some other cultural and religious beliefs and mythologies that explain how human beings came into being.

What makes us human?

This program gets children thinking about those characteristics that differentiate humans from other organisms and other biological features that identify us as being inseparable from the other animals.

We emphasise that although humans are unique, they are also intrinsically part of nature and ecologically interdependent on the natural world. We will introduce a range of cultural cosmologies of nature and encourage children to deepen their understanding of human society's dynamic relationship with nature.

Children will be encouraged to think critically and problem solve individually and in groups.

A range of fun and stimulating environmental education activities will take place in a beautiful natural woodland environment that offers many opportunities for children to experience wild plants and animals.

Through role games, physical play and dynamic group activities this program will enable participants to explore their personal relationships to the natural world and deepen their understanding of what makes us human.

Storytelling

During this fun trip students will learn about the cultural importance of storytelling and its role in oral traditions and contemporary society. We will examine some common themes found in many traditional tales and myths, and look for connections between the origins of human imagination, indigenous cosmologies and the natural world.

Students will be set various exercises where they have to create and tell stories as a means of interpreting natural landscapes, mysterious places and strange plants and animals.

They will also engage in environmental education games that help them to connect more deeply to the natural world and each other through the power of words, fables and stories. This trip promises to stimulate students' imaginations and enhance their creative facilities and ability to work together in groups.

We will also examine some methods of storytelling and ways that proficient storytelling can be successfully incorporated into the performance arts, speech writing, marketing, leadership and politics.

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We will create our own stories about the magical woods and discover why the natural world is historically so often associated with mythological monsters, fairies and other supernatural beings. The participants will engage in a range of creative educational games and environmental activities that get them to explore nature and develop their individual relationships with wild plants and animals, while focusing on the ways that our imagination and stories link us to the landscape, history and society.

Climate change

During this trip we will learn about the environmental crisis that threatens the natural world and human society. We will examine the science, politics and history of global warming and consider the ways that it is predicted to effect the planet. We will put these issues into an interdisciplinary context and explore some of the roots causes that drive these phenomena.

Students will role play and do environmental education activities that give them a deeper understanding of global warming while learning and exchanging ideas.

The trip's aim is to inform students about this environmental issue in a clear and simple manner, and to get them to think about how we make choices and behave, in the light of ethics, value systems, and social responsibilities.

Rarity, extinction and loss of biodiversity

During this program we will examine one of the major environmental issues of our time; the extinction crisis.

Students will learn about rarity and the process of extinction and why some species are more prone to becoming rare and extinct.

We will look at the ways that modern industrial society threatens global biodiversity, and explore the reasons why human modification of the natural world often leads to habitat destruction and fragmentation as well as to species overexploitation and extinctions.

A series of educational activities and games will help students to understand some of the consequences and effects of the loss of biodiversity on nature and society and some of the main strategies to help prevent further extinctions and to conserve biodiversity at all levels. We will also play role games and create dramatic scenarios to explore our responsibilities and ethical relationship towards the natural world and future generations.

This promises to be an enlightening and exciting day for students, that takes place in a wild and spectacular location.

An introduction to environmental pollution

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Students will have the opportunity to role play and carry out a series of other activities that help them to understand how pollution issues need to be viewed in the context of social as well as scientific factors.

We will also examine some major global environmental pollution issues and try to place them in the context of human welfare, social justice and ecological integrity. We will visit some polluted sites to study there biota, and will also see some examples of ecological restoration and successful pollution amelioration.

This trip will be fun and thought provoking. Students to experience some real life examples of pollution and will lean to think in an interdisciplinary manner when considering complex environmental issues.

Lake ecology and limnology

During this field trip we will visit Lago di Candia which is a protected area, to learn about lakes and to experience their tranquillity, beauty and rich biodiversity.

Students will be introduced to lakes in an interdisciplinary manner by being exposed to ideas from a wide range of disciplines that relate to lakes, such as for example, ecology, biochemistry, geology, and also anthropology, environmental history and cultural geography.

We will also examine the lake in geographical terms as a tourist resource and examine some of the policies and environmental management plans that have helped develop and protect the site.

Students will do a series of experiments on the lake water, birdwatch from a hide in the rushes and discover how the lake's rushes have been traditionally used as materials for thatch and basket weaving.

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and meadow ecosystems trying to record and quantify their biodiversity, try to conduct a simple census for a selection of the area's vertebrate species, and conduct a sample of the area's floral diversity.

They will also play a number of environmental education games that relate to the theme and create some amazing creatures of their own that would be theoretically adapted to inhabit these ecosystems. During the day students will discover for themselves how a rich natural biodiversity is essential for the planet's ecological integrity as well as for our social well-being.

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During this field trip we will learn about the wolf in terms of its biology, ecology and its historical relationship to humans. We will examine attitudes to wolves around the world and learn about their history of persecution and extermination. We will visit a mountain habitat that is one of this large predators last refuges and hike into the wilderness to search for clues to its lifestyle and to try to find tracks and signs of this illusive animal.

We will also discover why wolf conservation is practically so complex and so controversial to many people.

We will also study the kind of conservation policies and methodologies that are available to scientists who wish to reintroduce and protect this flagship species.

Students will have an action packed day, in a very special wilderness area. They will engage in role playing games, learn tracking and field biology techniques and explore the topic using a range of learning tools and environmental education activities.

This field trip focuses on the wolf, but is relevant to many aspects of conservation biology in theory and practice.

Location: Parco delle Alpi Marittime (Cn).

Approaches to nature conservation

This program aims to explain what nature conservation is, why nature needs to be conserved, what the main tools for its conservation are, as well as what the advantages and disadvantages are in regards to the various methodologies for practical conservation biology.

We will examine some specific case studies and visit a protected area to see how such reserves work in practice.

The day will involve various role playing games, problem solving exercises and practical investigations that stimulate and inform students about the real issues and challenges involved in conservation locally and globally.

We will also consider various sociological aspects of nature conservation and some of its wider environmental and political implications.

Although this program is focused on the field of conservation biology, its interdisciplinary nature will inform students about larger political and economic issues that effect practical nature conservation in the real world.

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We will look at the traditional use of plants as foods, medicines and natural resources, and how wild plants are managed, perceived, and sometimes selectively bred and cultivated.

This interdisciplinary program will draw from elements of botany, anthropology and cultural geography and is a great opportunity for students to begin to see the environment in holistic terms.

During the day students will take part in a range of exciting hands-on activities focused on applied ethnobotany, such as gathering medicinal herbs, using dye plants, plants for cordage fibres to make rope and knowing how to find magical plants for use during ritual and witchcraft. We will learn about traditional uses of wild plants and modern uses of plant resources through storytelling, drama role playing and other creative activities.

By the end of the day, students will appreciate how dependent we are on the world of plants and how they have helped to shape our cultural evolution while we've influenced their global distribution, abundance and ecology.

The landscape detective; understanding the present landscape in terms of its past

During this field trip students will be introduced to the idea that the landscape's present features are often the result of its past. We will examine some of the natural and anthropogenic forces and processes that have helped to shape our present landscape. We will find out how can we know what the landscape was like in the past by searching for evidence of the area's geological past as well as analysing signs of past human activities, management regimes and historical objects.

We will carry out a number of educational activities that help students to learn to 'read the landscape' and to connect the contemporary landscape to the past by noticing indicative landscape features and other factors.

They will also do various experiments and other groups activities where they will try to piece together evidence and form their own hypothesis explaining the past histories of the natural and cultural landscape.

We will focus on woodland ecosystems as a case study and students will examine some important indicators of woodland habitat and learn about past woodland management, ecology and the coppicing properties of trees. During this field trip students will develop an idea of some of the methodologies and approaches involved in historical landscape analysis and will gain a sense of how the past is embedded in the contemporary landscape.

What makes us human?

This program gets children thinking about those characteristics that differentiate humans from other organisms and other biological features that identify us as being inseparable from the other animals.

We emphasise that although humans are unique, they are also intrinsically part of nature and ecologically interdependent on the natural world. We will introduce a range of cultural cosmologies of nature and encourage children to deepen their understanding of human society's dynamic relationship with nature.

Children will be encouraged to think critically and problem solve individually and in groups.

A range of fun and stimulating environmental education activities will take place in a beautiful natural woodland environment that offers many opportunities for children to experience wild plants and animals.

Through role games, physical play and dynamic group activities this program will enable participants to explore their personal relationships to the natural world and deepen their understanding of what makes us human.

Society & nature

This program introduces students to some of the most important ethical debates and fundamental ideas that underlie our 'ecological crisis' and postmodern attitudes towards environmentalism.

We explore some elements of environmental philosophy and cultural geography while getting participants to begin to think about some essential questions about the relationship between humans and nature.

Are we a part of nature, or separate from it? Is nature a culturally constructed space, or a reality that is independent from our projections? Are humans superior to other organisms and do we have the ethical right to 'dominate' nature? Are scientific definitions of the natural world the only legitimate ways to evaluate nature? Can we learn anything from alternative cosmological interpretations of nature and our relationship to it?

This program deals with conceptual themes and also involves students in hands-on activities and challenges.

Students will explore their own ideas and preconceptions about nature through role playing games, story-telling, drama, discussion as well spatial analysis, surveying and recording observations of nature.

This trip will be a fun day where participants begin to address some profound and critical issues concerning the environment and ourselves.

Storytelling

During this fun trip students will learn about the cultural importance of storytelling and its role in oral traditions and contemporary society. We will examine some common themes found in many traditional tales and myths, and look for connections between the origins of human imagination, indigenous cosmologies and the natural world.

Students will be set various exercises where they have to create and tell stories as a means of interpreting natural landscapes, mysterious places and strange plants and animals.

They will also engage in environmental education games that help them to connect more deeply to the natural world and each other through the power of words, fables and stories.

This trip promises to stimulate students' imaginations and enhance their creative facilities and ability to work together in groups. We will also examine some methods of storytelling and ways that proficient storytelling can be successfully incorporated into the performance arts, speech writing, marketing, leadership and politics.

Poetry and creative writing inspired by the natural world

This trip will introduce some selected forms of nature writing and poetry and will analyse some ways that they are inspired by the natural world and ecological awareness. We will also examine why nature is such a common theme for writers to engage with, and the range of meanings it represents in literature.

We will explore ways that various forms of nature writing have historically influenced various social movements, ideologies and schools of thought and consider how the written word has helped represent and given voice to aspects of the natural world.

Students will engage in some exercises in natural setting that help them to focus their attention, channel their creativity and express their emotions through words.

We will also play some environmental education games that help to connect participants to the natural world and

use words as a medium to communicate ideas and emotions about our relationship to nature and each other. Through a series of hands-on activities students will become aware of their ability to represent nature and express themselves and their ideas through words.

This day outing is designed to stimulate and challenge students and will leave them feeling more empowered and in touch with their creativity and the natural world.

Stories, monsters and myths

During this field trip we will explore the ways that people around the world relate to their landscape through the creation of stories, myths and fairy tales.

We will discover how the imaginative process of story-telling helps us define our relationship to the natural world and how myths and legends provide us with a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to help us understand nature and act appropriately towards it. We will visit a wild wood and explore some of its mysterious hidden places and hear a selection of traditional stories and local legends about the area.

We will create our own stories about the magical woods and discover why the natural world is historically so often associated with mythological monsters, fairies and other supernatural beings.

The participants will engage in a range of creative educational games and environmental activities that get them to explore nature and develop their individual relationships with wild plants and animals, while focusing on the ways that our imagination and stories link us to the landscape, history and society.