

THE NATURAL FACTORS AND THE ANTHROPIC IMPACT CAN WE CONSERVE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT?



Caputo G.

Istituto Comprensivo "Filippo Palizzi" - Casoria (NA), Italy - caputo.geo@gmail.com , caputorome3@gmail.com

THE PURPOSE OF WORK

The purpose of this work is to evaluate the effectiveness of a "situated learning" teaching activity in the perception of the anthropogenic impact on natural factors in our students. Some aspects related to the study of the natural landscape, deriving from the geomorphological processes, have been examined, in constant evolution with the passing of time, in contrast with the rapid changes produced by man. This work takes its cue from the idea that landscape is the most valuable collective good we own, a strategic source for tourism, one of the main economic engines for Italy and therefore highly deserving of protection. Starting from the knowledge of the components of the environments and natural landscapes, we have come to illustrate the good practices in the relationship between man and environment. The study carried out, in fact, has fostered the prevention culture in learners as a necessary priority for a sustainable future. The "situated learning" paths proposed to the students have the aim to bring these concepts to a level of reality perceived and understood by them on their school desks. All this has been made possible by visualizing and comparing historical and current photos. Furthermore, the use of Google Earth has greatly helped the analysis of the "before and after" sites of natural events and anthropic interventions. The main objective is to make students, "future citizens of tomorrow", more aware of the role they can play in slowing down and preventing the loss of ecosystems, through knowledge, involvement and responsibility.

STAGES OF WORK

PRE-SURVEY



Students were pre-surveyed in order to have basic information and a preliminary understanding of their knowledge of the problem of natural man-landscape interaction and its transformations.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY



Students, divided into groups of 4/5 people each, were involved in a guided activity that led them to explore landscapes with Google Earth, comparing the "before and after" photos.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT



The formative assessment was based 1) on the answers provided by the groups in the students' worksheet and 2) on the teacher's observation during the activity.

POST-SURVEY

Students were post-surveyed in order to assess differences in beliefs and knowledge after the activity and also their appreciation of different aspects like using Google Earth and working in group.

WHAT DOES OUR STUDENTS KNOW?

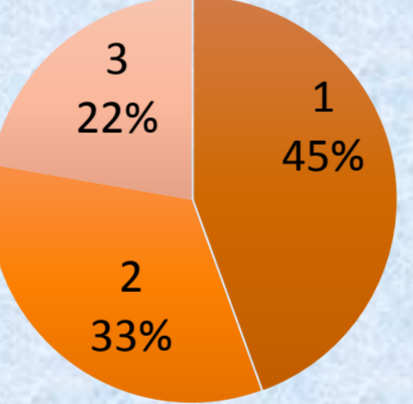
WHAT: To test the knowledge or even the misunderstandings of our students we gave a survey on the transformation of the natural landscape by man using some questions taken from a questionnaire.

WHO: The survey was carried out by a lower secondary school class.

Below is a selection of the results obtained.

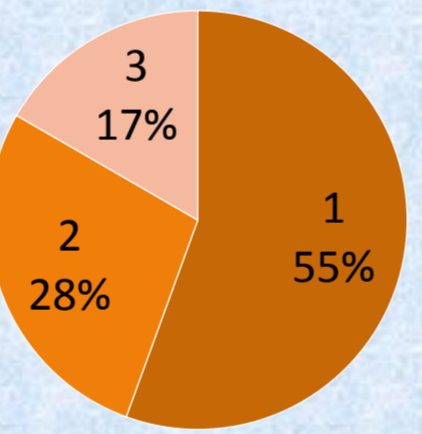
In your opinion, landscape management is

- 1 A possible source of income for the state
- 2 A cost borne by the state and citizens
- 3 I do not know



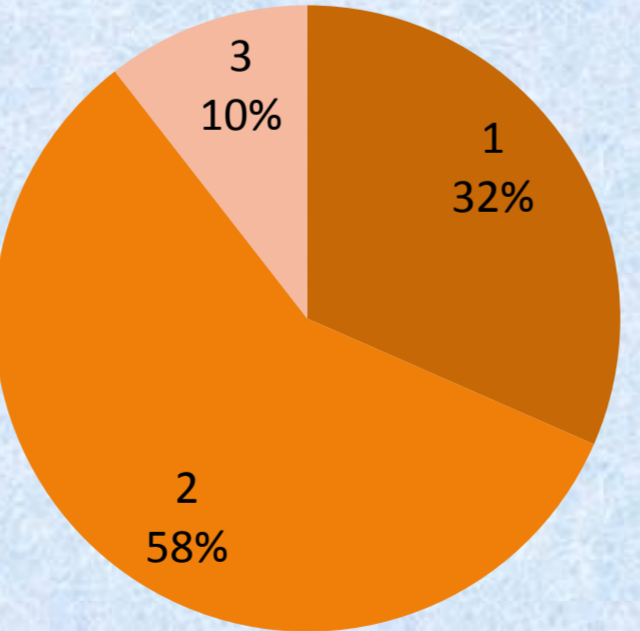
Do you have the feeling that Italian landscape is danger?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 I do not know



What are the biggest risks that undermine the beauty of the landscape?

- 1 "Wild" building
- 2 Pollution
- 3 Carelessness of public administration



COMPARISON EXERCISES



Area with prevailing agricultural production invaded by a site of waste.



Area with a prevailing urbanized and degraded agricultural production.



Area surrounding the Vesuvio with a strong index of urbanization.

CONCLUSIONS

The interest shown and the knowledge acquired during the learning process represent a starting point for the students educational and social growth, in relation to the study of the transformation of the natural landscape produced by man. Creating more educational opportunities and new food for thought on these issues, in particular the removal of portions of land due to pollution of environmental matrices, could constitute the cultural basis for future "ecological-literate citizens", able to change positively the fate of our planet.

