



LESSON CONTENT TEMPLATE



Erasmus+

Project funded by: Erasmus+ / Key Action 2 -
Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of
good practices, Knowledge Alliances.

Topic 1 Lesson 1

Definition of Cultural and Natural Heritage

We might not have agreed in one definition of culture, but we cannot deny that feeling when we are away of the place that saw us grow and we see or even smell something that reminds us of that place. It is something hard to explain yet easy so to feel. Those values and traditions that became memories and experience make us who we are and constantly remind us where we come from and the people we left behind.

Objectives

Taking into consideration the relevance of Cultural Heritage for our identity and the preservation of traditions and meaningful sites, our aim is to help teachers and students to familiarize themselves with the definition of Cultural Heritage and the importance of preserving it to secure the existence of the different communities around the world.

What are cultural and natural heritage?

UNESCO “established that certain places on Earth have ‘exceptional universal value,’ belong to the shared heritage of humanity and are an irreplaceable source of life and inspiration.” (“Cultural Heritage | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,” n.d.) those places categorized by UNESCO also mean the oral traditions, folklore, manners and even handcrafts of those inhabiting such places.

“Cultural heritage has social and political value, as well as intrinsic worth. It stands for the ideas and achievements which have shaped human development;

throughout history, it has been celebrated as a manifestation of creativity, but it has also been targeted in times of conflict as a symbol of identity to be attacked in order to demoralise, defeat and eradicate populations.” (“PACE - Resolution 2234 (2018)—Deliberate destruction and illegal trafficking of cultural heritage,” n.d.) Increasing war, terrorism, climate change, economic development along with not so effective physical planning mechanism, poor funding, ineffective policies and illicit trafficking are constantly threatening the preservation of cultural heritage sites.

Natural heritage, on the other hand, are those natural sites with cultural aspects such as cultural landscapes, physical, biological or geological formations.

Conclusions

Even though natural heritage is defined by UNESCO as “Natural features, geological and physiographical formations and delineated areas that constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants and natural sites of value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty. It includes nature parks and reserves, zoos, aquaria and botanical gardens” (“Natural heritage,” 2017) and cultural heritage is directly related to humans, “There is an increasing recognition of strong interconnections between natural and cultural assets and of the need for their integrated management” (“Links between Natural and Cultural heritage,” n.d.) since it is a resource of social cohesion and economic development.