

Akrotiri Environmental Education Center

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ΜΟΝΑΔΑ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗΣ
ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝ ΚΑΙ
ΤΗΝ ΑΕΙΦΟΡΟ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ



**Akrotiri Environmental
Education Centre**

Κέντρο Περιβαλλοντικής Εκπαίδευσης Ακρωτηρίου



Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre

- 2004: Starts its operation
- 2007: Becomes part of the network of Environmental Education Centres of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth
- 2014: New building, one of the most environmentally-friendly buildings in Cyprus



Ministry of
Education,
Sport and
Youth

British
Sovereign
Base Areas of
Cyprus

Akrotiri
Community



Collaboration – The power of many

Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth

Network of Environmental
Education Centres
Collaboration with local
authorities and other
organizations
Specialized teaching staff

Akrotiri community

Support – local knowledge

Sovereign base areas

Infrastructure – Expertise in
scientific matters



Programs are offered to:

Pre
Primary
Education
+
1st 2nd 3rd
Grade of
Primary
Education

Primary
Education
4th 5th 6th
Grade

Secondary
Education



Thematic areas



01

Ecosystems: Flora – Fauna
in Akrotiri Peninsula

04

Sustainable
management – Built
environment – Energy

02

Wetlands – Sea- Natural
ecosystems management

05

Tourism

03

History – Culture –
Local Society



(based on the unique features of Akrotiri Peninsula)



Ecosystems: Flora – Fauna in Akrotiri Peninsula

Level	Program title	Level	Program title
Pre Primary + 1st, 2nd, 3rd Grade (3 programs) & 4th, 5th, 6th Grade (5 programs)	Exploring the flora of the Akrotiri Peninsula	Secondary Education (6 programs)	The flora of Akrotiri Peninsula and the endangered plant species
	Magic – Nature – Senses		The production of forest and aromatic plants
	Nature regeneration and plant production		The migration of birds through the Akrotiri Peninsula
	The journey of a seed		<i>Trochoidea carinatoglobosa</i> a local endemic snail species
	The botanical garden of Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre		Genetic/DNA fingerprints and the mysteries of nature
	Our feathered friends		Study of pollinator insects in the ecosystem of the Akrotiri peninsula
	Bird migration, an incredible journey		

Wetlands- Sea – Natural ecosystems management



Level	Program title	Level	Program title
Pre Primary + 1st, 2nd, 3rd Grade (4 programs) & 4th, 5th, 6th Grade (4 programs)	The wonder of wetlands	Secondary Education (3 programs)	The protected wetlands of the Akrotiri Peninsula and their importance
	Holidays in a lake		A coastal study in Akrotiri Peninsula
	Sea Treasures		The “Natura 2000” program and the protection of natural habitats
	Sea Fantasy		
	The reproduction of sea turtles on the beaches of Akrotiri		
	Sea turtles at risk		
	Longitudinal study of water in Limassol		
	The cycle of a lost drop		



History – Culture – Local Society

Level	Program title	Level	Program title
Pre Primary & Primary Education	Basket making in the Community of the Akrotiri	Secondary Education	The craft of soft basket-weaving in the Akrotiri community and its importance

Sustainable management – Built environment – Energy

Level	Program title	Level	Program title
Primary Education (4 th , 5 th , 6 th Grade)	A "green" building	Secondary Education	Reducing the ecological footprint – The operation of Akrotiri Environmental Centre as an example

Tourism

Level	Program title
Primary Education (4 th , 5 th , 6 th Grade)	Akrotiri through the eyes of an ecotourist



100,000

Students participated between 2007- 2019





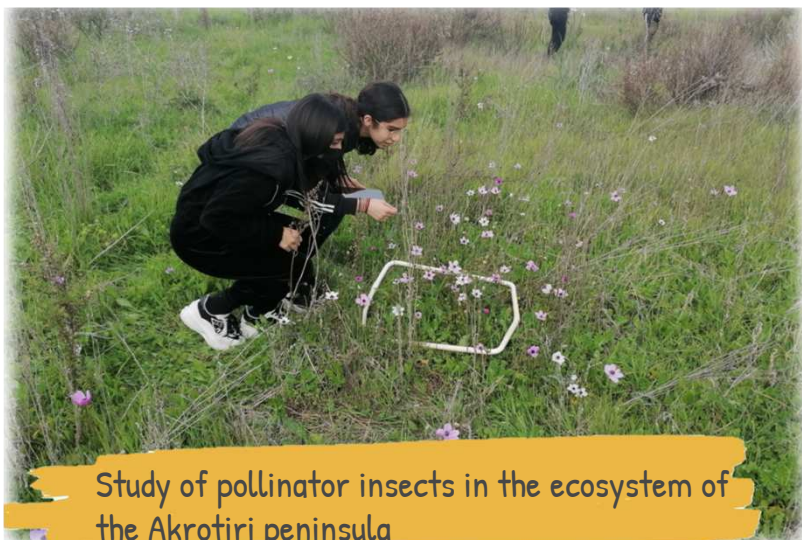
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◆ ◆
A PICTURE IS WORTH
A THOUSAND WORDS



01

Ecosystems: Flora – Fauna in Akrotiri Peninsula





Study of pollinator insects in the ecosystem of the Akrotiri peninsula



Exploring the flora of the Akrotiri Peninsula



Magic - Nature - Senses



Bird migration, an incredible journey

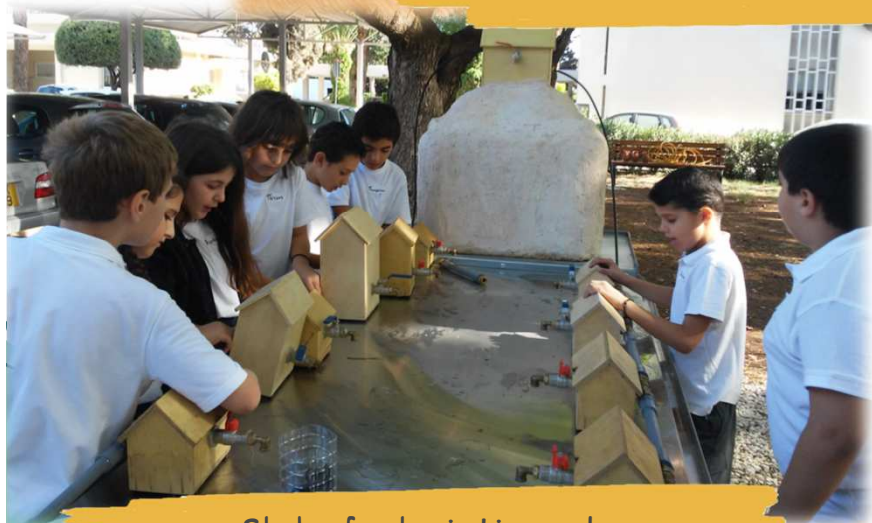
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Wetlands – Sea- Natural ecosystems management

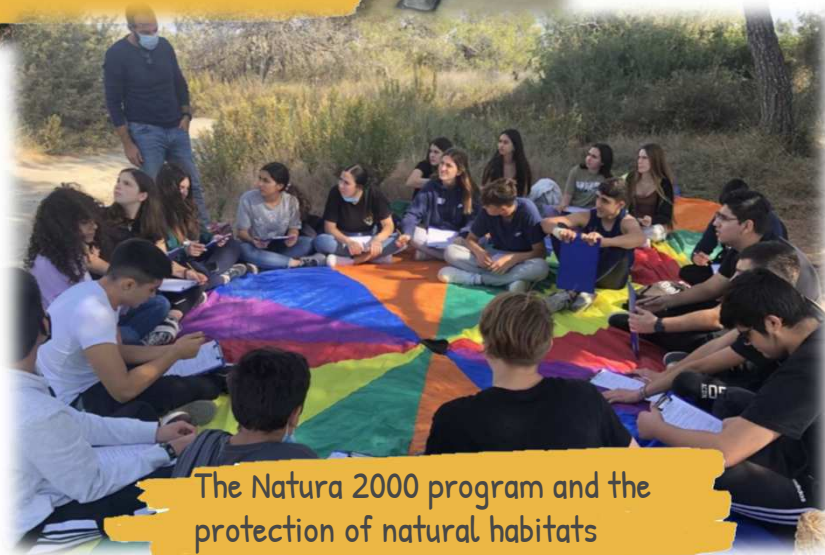




The protected wetlands of Akrotiri Peninsula and their importance



Study of water in Limassol



The Natura 2000 program and the protection of natural habitats

03

History – Culture – Local Society





Basket making in the Community of the Akrotiri

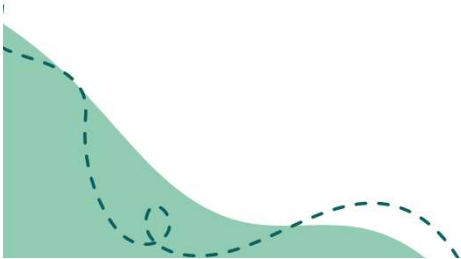
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Sustainable management – Built environment – Energy





Reducing the ecological footprint –
The operation of Akrotiri
Environmental Centre as an
example



05

Tourism





Akrotiri through the eyes of an ecotourist



Philosophy and basic pedagogical principles of our educational programs



- ❖ Learning outside the classroom
- ❖ Experiential learning
- ❖ Interacting with the place (outdoors or indoors)
- ❖ Taking advantage of the knowledge and the experience of the local community
- ❖ Using Interdisciplinary approach of the environmental issues



Participation and action for a sustainable living

"The best classroom and
the richest cupboard is
roofed only by the sky"

Margaret McMillan



OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES PROMOTE...

EXPERIMENTAL
INVESTIGATION



TEAM BUILDING AND
COOPERATION



CRITICAL THINKING



OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES PROMOTE...

DIALOGUE SKILLS



SENSORY
EXPERIENCE



CURIOSITY



OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES PROMOTE...

THE THRILL OF
DISCOVERY



PROBLEM
SOLVING/LEARNING
TO REASON



SELF CONFIDENCE



OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES PROMOTE...

THE THRILL OF
ADVENTURE



AND OF COURSE... A
LOT OF EXCITEMENT



Educational programmes regarding the sea environment

Sea fantasy (Pre-primary and 1st, 2nd, 3rd
Grades Primary education)

Sea treasures (Primary education- Grades
4th, 5th, 6th)

Sea turtles at risk (Pre-primary and
Primary education 1st, 2nd, 3rd Grades)

The reproduction of sea turtles on the
beaches of Akrotiri Peninsula (Primary
education- 4th, 5th, 6th Grades)



SEA FANTASY/SEA TREASURES

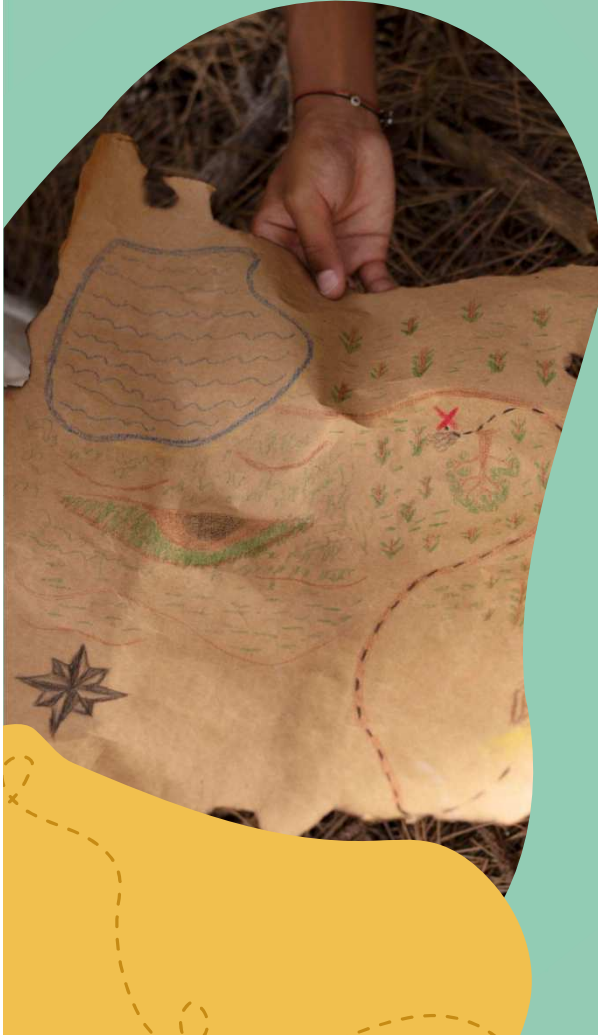
Main learning objectives

Learn about some sea creatures based on what they find at the coast,

Understand the vulnerability of the sea ecosystems,

Understand the effects of sea pollution to the whole ecosystem,

Develop critical thinking, observation skills and imagination.



SEA TURTLES AT RISK/THE REPRODUCTION OF SEA TURTLES ON THE BEACHES OF AKROTIRI PENINSULA

Main learning objectives

Get familiar with the life cycle and the procedure of reproduction of sea turtles,

Get acquainted with the special characteristics of Loggerhead turtle and Green turtle,

Examine the risks that sea turtles face,

Develop a sense of responsibility for conservation and protection of sea turtles.



EXAMPLE: Development of the educational programme: "Sea treasures"

Introduction at
the exhibition
area of AEEC

01

02

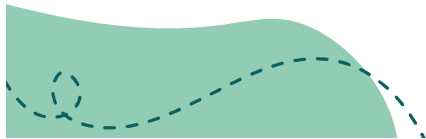
Field study at
Lady's mile
beach

Laboratory
work at AEEC

03

04

Closure at
the exhibition
area of AEEC



INTRODUCTION

- Discussion based on students' experiences
- Exhibition area (map of the area – focus on the exhibit about the sea environment)
- Exploring game in the exhibition area through tablets and QR codes.
- Documentary about the environmental and cultural importance of Akrotiri Peninsula (focus on the sea environment)



FIELD STUDY (AT LADY'S MILE BEACH)

Treasure hunt and mission assignment:



- . Collection of remains from living organisms such as poseidonia balls, sea shells etc for further examination in the laboratory
- . Search for animal traces (lizards, ghost crabs, mice, dogs etc)
- . Collection of sand and gravel for examination in the laboratory
- . Beach cleaning with garbage pickers

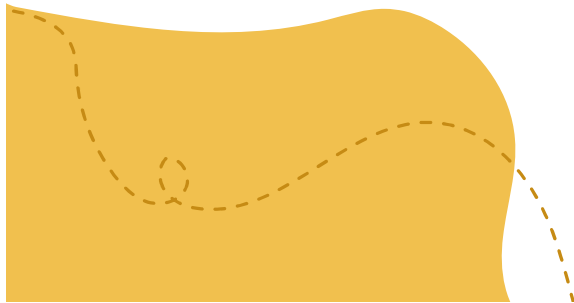


LABORATORY WORK



Study of the collected materials using stereoscopes.
Examination of the following parameters :

- Origin, composition and special features of sand using a hypothetical scenario - they solve a pearl robbery case/examine sand samples from different coastal areas (size, shape, color)
- Analysis of sea shell biology and ecology (bivalves/gastropods)
- Examination of the sea plant *Poseidonia* and discussion on its significance



CLOSURE



- . Opening of the treasure chest
- . Reflection of the programme
- . Conclusions
- . Sharing of experiences and thoughts



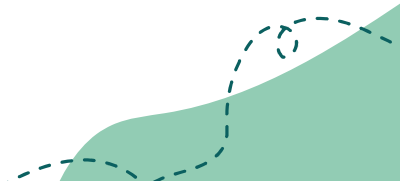


And if you find it poor, the treasure won't
have fooled you.

Wise as you will have become, so full of
experience,
you will understood by then what these
treasures mean.



Adaptation of the Poem Ithaca, K. Kavafis





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Warning. Outdoors can improve your physical and mental health.

- Your body will produce Vitamin D
- Lower rates of heart disease, osteoporosis, MS & some cancers
- Lower obesity rates
- More positive moods
- Lower anxiety, stress, and depression
- Better focus – particularly if you have ADHD

