

## Flora and Fauna in Lithuania

### Teaching notes

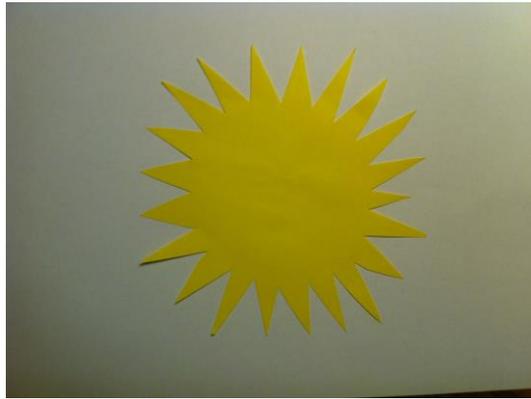
- Warm-up, introduction with children, presentation of the topic of the lesson and its goals. Teacher says her name and greets every child by shaking his/her hand and asking for his/ her name. Teachers asks if name Eglė is a Greek name. If anyone has ever heard this name, knows what it means. Teacher introduces herself by telling the meaning of her name and showing the picture of Norway spruce. Eglė - means the Norway spruce. This name comes from Lithuania.



(Figure 1: the Norway spruce)

- Children show Lithuania on Europe map. With the help of Prezi presentation teacher shows the location of Lithuania on the Globe and in the Europe map. Teachers discusses with children the colours of Lithuanian flag. By laying down the symbols of the sun (yellow), tree (green) and humans (red) teacher explains the meaning of colours:

- Yellow stands for the sun.



(Figure 2: teacher's handmade picture)

- Green stands for the fields and forests.



(Figure 3: the Norway spruce)

- Red stands for the blood (which means people and animals living there).



(Figure 4: teacher's handmade picture)

- Teacher introduces the topic of the day: Plants and animals in Lithuania.
- Out of the pictures teacher builds up the table. Starting up with the sun and four seasons of year, by laying down pictures of a tree teacher tells a little bit about the Lithuanian summer, autumn, winter and spring. Examples: When it's summer (in July) we have 25°C. In autumn the temperature goes down (10), it starts raining and the leaves of the trees start falling down. In winter we have snow. It gets sometimes down to -15, -20 degrees. In spring it's getting warmer and the trees let leaves, blossoms, there is more sun.



(Figure 5: photo taken during the actual lesson)



(Figure 6: photo taken during the actual lesson)

- Every child gets a picture of an animal or plant that grows, lives in Lithuania. Teacher shares the pictures and names of plants and animals. Gives the instruction to read the name of the plant or

animal. While talking later, they have to bring a picture of the plant or animal to teacher when it's mentioned.

- Teacher continues with the **plants** that grow in Lithuania.
  - i. *In autumn some **trees** lose their leaves. Do you know any tree, that stays green all year? (Norway spruce) In Lithuanian language eglė. My name translated to English would be Norway spruce. It's the original Christmas tree.*
  - ii. *In Lithuania, while wintertime, you can see only few species of evergreen trees: Norway spruce, pine tree and juniper. All other trees have no leaves.*
  - iii. *When spring comes, in April the trees put the leaf buds. In late springs apple trees, cherry trees start to blossom.*
  - iv. *In summer you can see all lot of different trees like oak trees, birch trees, maple trees, lime tree, chestnut trees. Birch tree is special because of its white and black trunk. It's twigs just fall down.*
  - v. *In autumn, when it gets colder birch tree is the first one, that gets the yellow leaves and start slowly to lose then. The maple tree gets amazing different colors (yellow, orange, red). In autumn you can see the chestnuts lying everywhere on the streets. Oak leaves are the last to fall, because they are harder and stronger.*
  
- Let's have a look how the **animals** live in the circle of the year.
  - i. *In autumn, when it gets cold, some birds leave Lithuania and fly to some warm countries in the South of Europe. Some even reach the south of Africa! Some birds like hooded crow or titmouse stay in Lithuanian for the Winter.*
  - ii. *Whole year through in Lithuania you can see in the fields and forests some foxes, wolves, wild boar, deer and if you have luck, you can see a king of the forest – the elk. On the sea coast you can rarely see a gray seal.*
  - iii. *In spring the birds are coming back from South Europe, Afrika. The national bird of Lithuania is stork. These birds eat other animals like frogs, fishes, mice etc. In lakes and lagoons, you can see a lot of swans. Some people can't wait for the swallows to come back. These birds live under the roof of houses.*

- iv. *In summer you can see more small animals like squirrels, hedgehogs, grass-snakes. Lithuanians say, if there is a grass – snakes living near your home you are a very lucky person.*

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Norway spruce | Hooded crow |
| Pine tree     | Titmouse    |
| Juniper       | Fox         |
| Oak tree      | Wolf        |
| Birch tree    | Wild boar   |
| Maple tree    | Elk (moose) |
| Lime tree     | Grey seal   |
| Chestnut      | Stork       |
| Apple tree    | Swan        |
| Cherry tree   | Swallow     |
| Leaf buds     | Squirrel    |
| Grass - snake | Hedgehog    |