

IOVĂNAȘ Ioana-Camelia, GAVRIȘ-PASCU Rodica, SCRIPCARIU Marinela (2013). The Human Body. Plants and Animals - Interdisciplinary Mathematics and Environmental Exploration Worksheets, First Grade. Bucharest: ART Publishing House, ISBN: 978-973-124-908-7, 80 p.



This paper is part of the collection of the Art Publishing House "Arthur to School" and appeared in 2013. The authors, working in education for over 20 years, had previously published a number of other auxiliaries for primary school children, particularly appreciated by users (teachers, students, and parents).

This auxiliary was conducted in order to cover the need of teachers and students in class because the textbooks in use could not provide appropriate content under the new curriculum. Currently, the primary grades witness a reorganization as a new curriculum, which proposes an integrated approach to mathematics with natural sciences.

These two distinct disciplines are to be taught in an interdisciplinary manner. In this context, the worksheets suggested by the authors successfully compensate the lack of information and offer a very useful tool to teachers and students.

The issues covered in the 80 pages of the first volume are: human body, plants and animals. For each topic, the authors presented the theory in a friendly manner, as a heading "Did You Know?" Then with an exceptional design they proposed a typology of varied exercises and games that helped students understand the contents and achieve new knowledge. Switching between themes contained in this paper was performed by introducing topics that promoted a healthy lifestyle: "A healthy menu"; "Fruit salad"; "The pot of vegetables." Through these themes it connected the chapters "Human body" and "Plants and animals" and offered models of integrated approaches of curricular contents for the first grade. In "Fruit salad", in terms of mathematics, students have to count each fruit from the salad bowl, to record their numbers and then to rank these numbers downward, upward and to find the smallest or the biggest number. From the perspective of environmental exploration, students learnt to distinguish fruits, vegetables, the role of each part of the body, to explain the differences between domestic and wild animals.

The annexes of the first volume contain sheets that help students reconstruct the human body, based on information gathered and on an interactive game ("I have – Who has?") that can be played individually, in pairs or with the whole class. The game contains guidance necessary for all variants designed and proposed by the authors. It is designed so that, during the game, students make a journey through all three chapters (human body, plants and animals).

"Interdisciplinary Mathematics and Environmental Exploration Worksheets" provide students with both a textbook and a workbook. It can easily be used at home as informational contents and guidelines for solving exercises and it helps parents to monitor their children's activity.

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