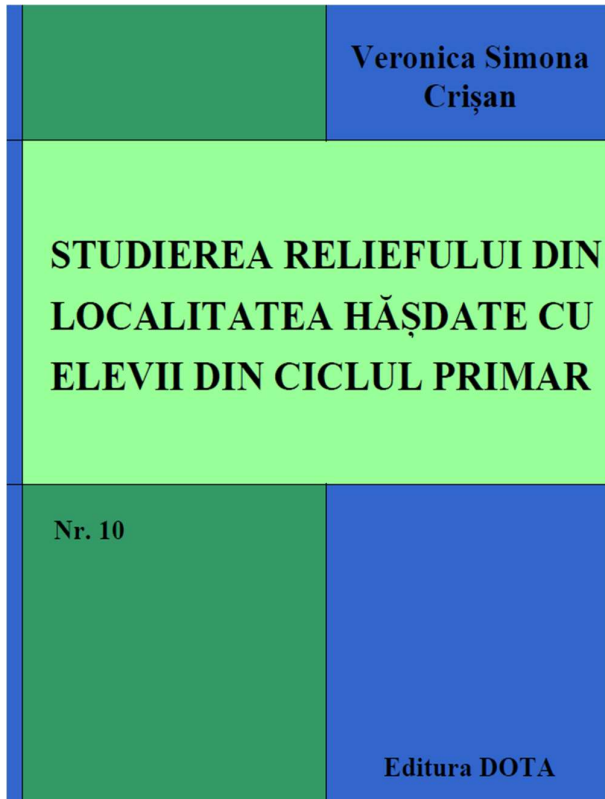


Book Review

"Studying the Relief of Hășdate with Primary School Students" by Veronica Simona Crișan



The work "Studying the Relief of Hășdate with Primary School Students" presents the psycho-pedagogical research conducted as part of a methodological and scientific project by primary school teacher Veronica Simona Crișan, under the guidance of Professor Maria Eliza Dulamă, Ph.D. This is the tenth book in the "Didactics and Research in Didactics" collection, published by DOTA Publishing House in Cluj-Napoca and coordinated by Professor Maria Eliza Dulamă, Ph.D. The book's ISBN is 978-606-94934-4-1.

The book comprises three chapters and a bibliography.

In the first chapter, "Presentation of Psycho-Pedagogical Research," the author begins by outlining the motivation and objectives of the research, the hypothesis and variables, the research location, participants, the studied content, and the research materials and methods employed.

The second chapter, "Presentation of Experimental Activities and Results,"

details the activities conducted in the three stages of the research: the initial assessment stage, the formative experiment stage, and the post-experiment stage. In the first stage, a test was administered to identify the volume and quality of second-grade students' prior knowledge about the landforms they would study during the learning activities. The results of the initial test indicated the need to engage students in exploratory activities concerning the relief of Hășdate to enhance their understanding of it.

The learning activities organized during the formative intervention stage were aligned with the contents outlined in the Mathematics and Environmental Exploration curriculum for first and second grades. During the field activities in the Hășdate locality, students observed and analyzed, alongside their teachers, the structure and appearance of hills, sedimentary and magmatic rocks visible in several outcrops, and the fluvial relief formed by the Hășdate River. Students participated in practical tasks such as measuring the depth and width of gullies and the river's minor bed, drawing a cross-section of a hill slope, observing and collecting fossils, and comparing the height of an outcrop with their own height. For students, the fieldwork served as a favorable context for gaining knowledge about their locality, understanding how relief forms, and acquiring geography-specific concepts. The most frequently used teaching methods in the field by the author included observation, exercises, explanations, and discussions. The activities were enjoyable and engaging for both teachers and students. Throughout the activities, it became evident that students actively

participated, reflecting their eagerness to learn about the relief of their locality, including both major and minor landforms.

At the end of this chapter, the post-experiment stage is presented, during which a final test was administered. The results demonstrated that the learning activities significantly impacted the students, showing substantial progress in terms of knowledge acquisition compared to the initial stage. This research confirmed the hypothesis: "Primary school students can acquire high-quality knowledge about relief by engaging in outdoor learning activities, field trips, and through the use of photographs."

The book boasts several strengths: a systematic and detailed description of each learning activity conducted, enabling an understanding and replication of the methods for observing and studying relief in other localities by primary and secondary school students; the illustration of each learning activity, allowing readers to make their own observations about the relief and draw connections between the activity and the observed reality; the organization of student-centered learning activities, where students employ learning strategies such as drawing and exercises; the inclusion of direct field observations, which provide the foundation for high-quality learning and facilitate the acquisition of concepts related to relief.

Bibliographic reference of the reviewed book

Crișan, V.S. (2020). *Studierea reliefului din localitatea Hășdate cu elevii din ciclul primar* [Studying the Relief of Hășdate with Primary School Students]. Cluj-Napoca: Dota.

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