

Progetto di una Unità di Apprendimento *flipped*

Dati dell'Unità di Apprendimento

Titolo: The UK: land, history, people.

Scuola: ISTITUTO TECNICO COMMERCIALE INDIRIZZO "SISTEMI INFORMATICI AZIENDALI"

Materia: LINGUA E CIVILTÀ INGLESE

Classe: 5^a

Argomento curricolare:

Presentazione del Regno Unito dal punto di vista geografico, con riferimento ad alcuni eventi storici alla base dell'attuale suddivisione amministrativa. Panorama delle principali città e dei personaggi famosi dei diversi paesi che compongono il Regno.

La Sfida. Cosa ci si propone di raggiungere tramite questa UdA

(indicare sinteticamente qual è l'obiettivo o gli obiettivi che ci si propone di raggiungere tramite quest'Unità di Apprendimento. Potrebbe per esempio trattarsi di fare in modo che gli studenti attivamente costruiscano determinate conoscenze e/o acquisiscano determinate competenze e/o sviluppino determinate abilità, ecc..)

COMPETENZE

- Saper presentare un proprio lavoro di ricerca, attraverso strumenti multimediali
- Utilizzare adeguate strategie per relazionare il proprio argomento
- Esercitarsi per la presentazione dell'elaborato pluridisciplinare per l'esame di Stato
- Parlare ad un pubblico in lingua
- Apprendere in modo cooperativo attraverso il lavoro in piccoli gruppi
- Utilizzare nuovi strumenti multimediali quali Prezi
- Lavorare e comunicare con il docente, attraverso un Learning Management System: Edmodo
- Comunicare attraverso una piattaforma Internet in lingua inglese.

CONTENUTI

- conoscere la conformazione geografica di England, Scotland, Wales e Northern Ireland
- conoscere le principali città di queste grandi regioni e le loro attrazioni
- conoscere alcuni eventi storici che hanno caratterizzato la vita di Scozia, Galles e Irlanda del Nord
- conoscere alcuni personaggi famosi sia del passato sia del presente

Lancio della Sfida.

Quali attività si svolgono prima (e/o in apertura) della lezione e come si attiva l'interesse e la motivazione degli allievi:

(1. Indicare se l'azione didattica proposta prevede attività preparatorie da svolgere prima della lezione d'aula. Per esempio: fruizione di risorse didattiche che costituiscano un quadro di riferimento, richiamino preconoscenze, attivino la curiosità oppure attività di verifica delle conoscenze già affrontate per mettere meglio a punto l'azione in classe. Indicare anche le risorse digitali eventualmente utilizzate quali LMS, video, presentazioni multimediali, testi, ecc. 2. Indicare come s'intende stimolare l'interesse, la curiosità e coinvolgere gli allievi in modo da renderli parte attiva nella costruzione delle conoscenze indicate. Tipicamente ciò avviene lanciando una sfida che può consistere nel porre una domanda a cui rispondere, un problema da risolvere, una ricerca da effettuare, un caso da analizzare in modo coinvolgente e motivante. 3. Indicare inoltre quali metodologie e strumenti di valutazione formativa si ritiene di dover attuare per verificare la partecipazione dello studente in questa fase.)

La Sfida di questa UDA è nella volontà di cambiare l'approccio didattico, dopo aver fatto lezione per l'intero anno precedente con una metodologia più tradizionale, abituando quindi gli studenti a modalità di apprendimento/insegnamento diverse.

Il via è stato dato con questa frase:

" Ragazzi, ho fatto un corso di metodologia didattica,
mi è piaciuto e vorrei sperimentare quello che ho imparato, con voi.

Vi va?"

Loro mi hanno risposto: "Proviamo".

I ragazzi sono stati informati sulla nuova strategia didattica che sarebbe stata utilizzata, per affrontare questa tematica. Non avendo mai lavorato con questa metodologia e trattandosi di allievi all'ultimo anno di scuola superiore, ho ritenuto opportuno illustrare e mediare con loro le diverse fasi attraverso cui si sarebbe svolto il lavoro. Sono stati illustrati i contenuti di questa parte del programma, ovvero gli aspetti geografici e storici del Regno Unito, le città principali ed i personaggi famosi dei quattro paesi che lo compongono. Si sono quindi discusse le tipologie di fonti da utilizzare, stabilendo di servirsi della rete, di immagini da archivi personali e del libro di testo. Il libro di testo non è stato escluso in quanto si tratta di una fonte comune a tutti, attendibile e fruibile da tutti. Si è così proceduto ad assegnare un paese ad ogni gruppo. Poiché la classe è composta da sette allievi, mi sono riservata di occuparmi dell'Inghilterra entrando quindi a far parte del lavoro finale. Avere una parte da trattare mi ha consentito di fornire agli allievi una traccia o un esempio da seguire, nel caso ne avessero avuto bisogno. Ritengo infatti che, a volte, la difficoltà maggiore per gli studenti sia quella di mettere a fuoco quali siano i contenuti fondamentali e quali quelli marginali. E' stato infine concordato che il prodotto di ogni gruppo sarebbe stato presentato a tutti, attraverso programmi multimediali decisi dal gruppo stesso. Le presentazioni avrebbero sostituito la spiegazione da parte dell'insegnante. Dopo la presentazione ogni gruppo avrebbe messo a disposizione di tutti, i propri contenuti, attraverso un documento Word condiviso sulla piattaforma Edmodo.

Condurre la sfida. Quali attività si prevedono per rispondere alla sfida:

(indicare le metodologie didattiche che s'intendono utilizzare in classe per consentire agli allievi di rispondere alla sfida proposta e costruire attivamente le conoscenze richieste, indicando anche diverse metodologie e più fasi successive. Esempi: lezione dialogata, lavoro di gruppo, apprendimento fra pari, studio individuale, ecc. Indicare inoltre quali metodologie e strumenti di valutazione formativa si ritiene di dover attuare per verificare questa fase di lavoro in aula.)

LEZIONE 1

(in classe)

DURATA: 60 min.

STRUMENTI: video proiettore e computer personale del docente

METODOLOGIA: lezione dialogata

Ho presentato con Prezi il mio argomento ENGLAND.

Questa presentazione ha illustrato solo lo scheletro del lavoro finale, ovvero i seguenti punti:

Popolazione

Capitale

Aree: North West, North East, Midlands, South

Nella presentazione ho utilizzato cartine, titoli e immagini limitando al massimo la scrittura.

Questa scelta è stata fatta per focalizzare l'attenzione sul problema più diffuso quando i ragazzi presentano un argomento utilizzando delle slides: nella maggior parte dei casi scrivono molto e finiscono col leggere anziché parlare.

Sono stati creati i gruppi ed è stato avviato il lavoro al loro interno:

- attribuzione del paese ad ogni gruppo da parte della docente
- suddivisione degli argomenti di ricerca
- scelta della forma grafica
- consegne per la lezione successiva (quali materiali portare, quali parti sviluppare, come strutturare la presentazione)

Consegne per la lezione successiva:

- ☐ portare una selezione di materiali da usare

LEZIONE 2

(in classe)

STRUMENTI: video proiettore e computer personale del docente

DURATA: 60 min.

METODOLOGIA: lezione dialogata

Presentazione della piattaforma EDMODO.

Ho presentato questo LMS, che gli allievi non conoscevano. Ho spiegato loro come registrarsi fornendo il codice della classe che avevo precedentemente creato, ed ho illustrato le diverse funzionalità della piattaforma.

Ogni gruppo ha spiegato a tutti, come intendesse procedere portando una selezione di fonti da utilizzare. E' stato necessario orientare gli allievi nella selezione delle informazioni importanti soprattutto su aspetti:

- storici: scelta dei momenti salienti nella storia di ogni nazione
Scotland - l'unione sotto il regno di James Stuart, Act of Union (1707), referendum 1997 e successiva riapertura del Parlamento
Northern Ireland – eventi legati al Bloody Sunday (1972)
Wales – influenza celtica, attribuzione del titolo Prince of Wales (1284), Act of Union (1536)
- personaggi famosi: la scelta dei personaggi storici è stata mediata con l'insegnante in quanto gli allievi non avevano conoscenze in merito, neppure attraverso film biografici. E' stata lasciata libera la scelta dei personaggi moderni, in base ai loro interessi
Scotland: Rob Roy, William Wallace, Mary Stuart, Richard Madden
Northern Ireland: George Best
Wales: Dylan Thomas, Catherine Zeta Jones

VALUTAZIONE: monitoraggio delle interazioni all'interno del gruppo attraverso una Checklist.

Consegne per la lezione successiva:

- ☐ registrarsi su Edmodo a casa
- ☐ riassunto delle parti selezionate da presentare con documento word da caricare sulla piattaforma Edmodo.
- ☐ Consigliato visione dei film: Braveheart o In the name of the Father.

Ho proceduto a correggere gli elaborati caricati dagli allievi in piattaforma restituendoli corretti.

LEZIONE 3

(in laboratorio linguistico-informatico)

STRUMENTI: computer per ogni allievo

DURATA: 60 min.

METODOLOGIA: lezione dialogata, lavoro di gruppo

Sono stati analizzati i testi prodotti dagli allievi con riflessioni sugli errori di tipo linguistico, sulla riduzione di alcune parti, sulla modulazione del registro linguistico affinché la presentazione potesse essere scorrevole e comprensibile a tutti.

Ho presentato il mio Prezi su England completo in tutte le sue parti, sempre allo scopo di aiutarli a dar vita ad una presentazione efficace.

http://prezi.com/mubqxeyqn-u/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=ex0share

I gruppi hanno proceduto alla creazione della loro presentazione sulla quale hanno lavorato anche da casa, restando in contatto tra loro attraverso Google Drive.

VALUTAZIONE: monitoraggio delle interazioni all'interno del gruppo attraverso una Checklist.

Consegne per la lezione successiva:

- ☐ completamento della presentazione,
- ☐ studio delle rispettive sezioni da relazionare
- ☐ upload delle parti corrette su Edmodo.

La docente ha proceduto a compattare i testi caricati su Edmodo e renderli fruibili per tutti. (Vedi allegati)

LEZIONE 4

(in laboratorio linguistico-informatico)

STRUMENTI: computer per ogni allievo

DURATA: 60 min.

METODOLOGIA: lavoro di gruppo

Si è proceduto ad analizzare le presentazioni da parte del docente e sono state effettuate correzioni degli aspetti linguistici. Ogni gruppo ha messo a punto la propria presentazione ed ha effettuato una simulazione.

VALUTAZIONE: monitoraggio delle interazioni all'interno del gruppo attraverso una Checklist.

Consegne per la lezione successiva:

- ☐ prepararsi a relazionare.

LEZIONE 5

(in classe)

STRUMENTI: videoproiettore e computer del docente

DURATA: 60 min.

REPORT: ogni gruppo ha presentato ai compagni il proprio argomento secondo quanto concordato al suo interno. Il resto della classe ha potuto fare domande, fermare la presentazione quando non riteneva chiaro quello che veniva detto, chiedere chiarimenti ai relatori o alla docente.

Ho solo controllato che fosse chiara la comprensione da parte di tutti, poiché si trattava della presentazione di un argomento nuovo.

VALUTAZIONE: ogni gruppo è stato valutato in base a due criteri sostanziali

1. Lavoro cooperativo a scuola, distribuzione equilibrata dei compiti, puntualità di realizzazione delle diverse fasi (valutazione con punteggio numerico da 1-10)
2. Competenza linguistica ovvero correttezza e chiarezza espositiva, uso di un lessico appropriato, pronuncia, capacità di interazione con gli ascoltatori. (valutazione con punteggio numerico da 1-10)

La valutazione è stata il frutto della media tra i due indicatori ed è parte del voto orale.

Consegne per la lezione successiva:

- ☐ studio dei testi completi di tutti i gruppi
- ☐ quiz e questionario a risposta aperte su LMS Edmodo

QUIZ DA EDMODO

Question 1

What is the mountain range that is considered the backbone of the country?

The Pennines

The Grampians

The Black Mountains

Question 2

Which of the countries opened the new Parliament in 1997?

Wales

Northern Ireland

Scotland

Question 3

Which of the following capital cities is built on a volcanic rock

Edinburgh

Cardiff

Belfast

Question 4

Which of the following countries has the strongest Celtic background?

Northern Ireland

Scotland

Wales

Question 5

East, West, Midlands and South are the main areas of?

Scotland

England

Wales

Question 6

The Giant's causeway is a series of rocks situated

In Scotland

In England
In Northern Ireland

Question 7
Which city is divided into two parts
Londoderry
Cardiff
Belfast

Question 8
Liverpool lost its preeminence as trading center because
most of trade is now directed to Europe and Liverpool is on the other side of the island
The UK is not trading anymore
The city became a tourist attraction

Question 9
Shakespeare was
a poet
a writer
a playwright

Question 10
Mary Stuart
was the Queen of England
succeeded Elizabeth I
was the Queen of Scotland

OPEN QUESTIONS DA EDMODO

Question 1
How is population distributed in The United Kingdom?

Question 2
Most of the English cities mentioned in the text, were very active ports in the past and were important commercial hubs. How have they been transformed after the economic crises of the last part of 20th century?

Question 3
Why is Stratford Upon Avon famous?

Question 4
What happened to the Scottish Crown when Elizabeth I died?

Question 5
What happened in 1536 in Wales?

Question 6
Who was Dylan Thomas?

Question 7
What is The Irish Question?

Question 8
Who was William Wallace?

Question 9
What is the Irish Republican Army?

Question 10
What was Bloody Sunday?

LEZIONE 6

(In laboratorio linguistico-informatico)

STRUMENTI: videoproiettore e computer del docente

DURATA: 60 min.

METODOLOGIA: lezione dialogata, lavoro individuale

Verifica e correzione del questionario. Revisione delle risposte errate, chiarimenti, puntualizzazioni.

Ogni allievo ha potuto verificare il proprio livello di conoscenza degli argomenti in base ai risultati ottenuti nel quiz e nel questionario.

Consegne per la lezione successiva:

☐ studio per verifica scritta .

LEZIONE 7

In classe

Durata: 60 min.

Questionario a risposta aperta su tutti i contenuti dei testi prodotti da tutti i gruppi.
30 domande a risposta aperta.

CULTURAL QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What form of government is the U.K.?
2. How is the British population distributed in the country?
3. Most of biggest English cities were very active ports in the past and were important hubs for exportation. How have they been transformed after the economic crises of the last part of 20th century?
4. What is "Albert Docks" and where is it?
5. Why is the "Cavern Club" an important tourist attraction nowadays?
6. Which British city has The National Football Museum, among its attractions?
7. Where is the famous shopping area called "Bullring" located?
8. Which city has the dock area protected by locks and called "Floating Harbor"?
9. What is Stratford Upon Avon famous for?
10. Drumlins are a particular type of whale-shaped hills. Where are they located?
11. What is the Giant's Causeway?
12. What is Carrick-a-Rede?
13. What was the most important industry in Belfast?
14. What is The Irish Question?
15. What is the Irish Republican Army?
16. How did the difficult political situation affected Belfast?
17. What was Bloody Sunday?
18. What happened to Scotland when Queen Elizabeth I died?
19. Who was Mary Stuart and why is she famous?
20. What happened in 1997 in Scotland?
21. Where is Edinburgh historical centre built on?
22. What is Ben Nevis?
23. What are the two most famous buildings in the historical centre of Edinburgh?
24. What is Edinburgh Tattoo?
25. Who was William Wallace?
26. Who was Rob Roy?
27. Why is the first son of the Royal Family given the Title of Prince of Wales?
28. Black Mountains, Brecon Beacons and Snowdon: what are they?
29. What happened in 1536 in Wales?
30. What was Dylan Thomas?

VALUTAZIONE: 2 punti per ogni risposta corretta nei contenuti

10 punti complessivi per la correttezza della forma

10 punti complessivi per la capacità di rielaborazione personale dei contenuti

10 punti complessivi per l'uso del lessico

Chiusura della sfida. Quali attività di verifica degli apprendimenti concludono l'attività didattica: (indicare quali attività di sistematizzazione degli apprendimenti concludono l'attività e quali metodologie e strumenti di valutazione formativa e sommativa si ritiene di dover attuare per verificare e consolidare gli apprendimenti e promuovere lo sviluppo di competenze. Tipicamente ciò avviene tramite metodi di valutazione autentica. Esplicitare le tipologie di prova.)

Le attività di verifica sono state specificate al termine di ogni lezione. Volendo sintetizzare ritengo di aver valutato secondo questi indicatori:

VALUTAZIONE LAVORO COOPERATIVO:

- ☐ monitoraggio attraverso una check-list (valutazione formativa)
- ☐ Valutazione della presentazione del gruppo (valutazione sommativa)

VALUTAZIONE DEI CONTENUTI E DELLE CAPACITA' COMUNICATIVE IN LINGUA STRANIERA:

- ☐ controllo dei testi prodotti dai gruppi (valutazione formativa)
- ☐ quiz e questionario su Edmodo (valutazione formativa)
- ☐ competenze comunicative orali in lingua durante la presentazione del gruppo (valutazione sommativa)
- ☐ competenze comunicative scritte attraverso il questionario finale (valutazione sommativa)

In che modo l'approccio proposto differisce da quello tradizionale?

(indicare i vantaggi dell'approccio scelto rispetto all'approccio tradizionale e mettere in luce le differenze con particolare riferimento all'argomento curricolare scelto.)

L'argomento trattato in questa UDA avrebbe potuto essere proposto con una modalità tradizionale, attraverso una lezione frontale, la lettura del libro di testo, la traduzione delle parti non chiare ed una serie di esercizi per l'acquisizione dei contenuti, proposti dal libro in adozione. Questa procedura sarebbe stata completata con una verifica orale sotto forma di interrogazione ed un questionario per la valutazione scritta.

Dal punto di vista dell'acquisizione dei contenuti disciplinari specifici, penso che non ci sarebbero state sostanziali differenze, in quanto gli studenti avrebbero sicuramente raggiunto lo stesso livello di conoscenza dell'approccio Flipped.

Esiste invece, un valore aggiunto che questa nuova modalità riesce ad apportare agli apprendimenti, e tale apporto può essere sintetizzato come segue:

- capacità di adattarsi al cambiamento, che in questo caso è stato la nuova modalità di presentazione dell'argomento di studio
- conoscenza di programmi di presentazione nuovi, quali Prezi
- utilizzo di un LMS, che costituisce un primo approccio ad una modalità di comunicazione che incontreranno a livello universitario, se proseguiranno gli studi (questo sistema ha anche stimolato i colleghi di consiglio di classe a pensare di adottarlo)
- apprendimento di soft skills (capacità relazionali, cooperative, di mediazione)
- capacità di presentare una tematica ad un pubblico in lingua straniera
- interdipendenza positiva tra i gruppi (ogni gruppo ha apportato informazioni da condividere con gli altri)
- capacità di ricerca e selezione di informazioni
- utilizzo della lingua straniera nelle comunicazioni su Edmodo (spesso gli allievi non comunicano in inglese in rete, poiché chattano tra loro e pochissimi hanno amici di altre nazionalità)
- miglioramento delle capacità di selezione dei nuclei importanti in una presentazione

Questi apporti arricchiscono in modo considerevole il processo di insegnamento/apprendimento, allargandolo ad abilità trasversali che gli allievi possono spendere in contesti diversi da quelli prettamente scolastici.

La ricerca, la sintesi, la necessità di essere chiari per spiegare nuovi contenuti agli altri, fanno sì che si consolidi il senso di responsabilità nei confronti di se stessi e del gruppo. L'apprendimento non è più solo finalizzato ad avere una buona valutazione finale, ma anche a permettere agli altri di comprendere argomenti nuovi su cui tutti dovranno poi misurarsi.

La progettazione Flipped implica certamente, un certo dispendio di energie e molto lavoro preparatorio da parte del docente, nonché la disponibilità di strumentazioni informatiche che non sempre sono fruibili o funzionano adeguatamente, ma una volta superati alcuni ostacoli organizzativi, essa costituisce certamente una modalità coinvolgente e gratificante sia per il docente sia per i ragazzi.

ALLEGATI:

Testi elaborati dalla classe

ENGLAND

GEOGRAPHY

England is the largest part of the United Kingdom and the majority of British people lives there.

The landscape is made of hills and large flat areas, dominated by the Pennine Chain that forms a sort of backbone of the country. As England is geologically old, mountains are not very high, especially if compared to other European chains.

This land is rich in rivers. The Thames, The Tyne, The Mersey, The Severn, The Trent, The Avon are among the longest and they get the water of a lot of tributaries. This forms a really complex river system supported by other artificial canals which represent an important waterway for the country.

As far as lakes are concerned the most famous area is The Lakes District, but there are also others in the rest of the country.

England is surrounded by the sea and borders to the Irish Sea to the West, to the North Sea to the East and to the English Channel to the South.

The coasts develop for miles and miles with a great variety of sceneries, but the most amazing area is definitely the Channel coast with its high cliffs and picturesque bays.

CITIES

All the biggest cities of the UK are situated in this region: Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Bristol together with London, are among the biggest.

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool, with a population of around half a million, was the English city that suffered most during the crisis of deindustrialization; but it has also perhaps had the most successful regeneration. Liverpool was once the largest port in the United Kingdom after London, the gateway to the world of the industrial north of England, through which imports and exports of textiles and manufactured goods passed, and from which millions of emigrants from Britain, Ireland and Europe, set sail in search of a new life in North America or the colonies.

That time has passed, and now Liverpool - on the wrong side of England for trade with Europe - has lost most of its importance as a seaport. Yet the closure of most of the old docks turned out to be a fantastic opportunity for Liverpool, and the most famous part of the old port area - the Albert Dock - is now a major tourist hub, and classed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

This port city on the estuary of the Mersey, is a tourist mecca, drawing in visitors from around the world... twentieth century pilgrims journeying to the home city of their idols, the Beatles. And still today 50 years after the Beatles played in the **Cavern Club** (now rebuilt as a tourist attraction), Liverpool still attracts thousands of tourists coming to visit the city where the world's greatest pop group lived and played.

MANCHESTER

Population about 500,000. The former industrial capital of the north has been reinvented as a business city and the capital of contemporary culture. Manchester clubs and music are known worldwide. The old port area has also been redeveloped as a cultural and commercial area, very close to the most famous football stadium in England, Old Trafford, home the Manchester United FC. Inland from Manchester, the valleys of the Pennines offer a remarkable concentration of historical sites from the time of the Industrial Revolution.

Manchester also is home to an impressive number of museums and art galleries.

Aside from the arts, Manchester also has an impressive collection of themed museums. Most popular among these is the **National Football Museum**, opened in 2012, and located in the city centre; this is reputedly the world's finest football museum.

BIRMINGHAM

At the heart of an urban area of about one million people, Birmingham is England's second largest city by population. The "city of a thousand trades", two hour drive north-west of London, has reinvented itself twice, firstly as Britain's "motor city", now as its second largest shopping centre.

The centre of Birmingham, called the **Bullring**, has been completely redeveloped twice in 50 years, the first time in the 60s as a commercial center in the architecture of the day, designed for car access; then again in the early 2000s, to make a more user-friendly shopping center, which surprises with its architecture and its large pedestrian areas.

Nearby there is the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre, Britain's premier venue for national and international trade fairs and exhibitions. The rich and glorious past of the city, especially during the 19th century is reflected in what remains of its Victorian monumental architecture, and **art gallery**, one of the largest and richest in the country. The "Cradle of the Industrial Revolution", the Birmingham area has two major [open-air museums](#), one at Dudley, the other at Ironbridge Gorge.

BRISTOL

Before the industrial age, Bristol was England's second city, after London. It was England's great port, trading with Africa and the Americas from the 16th century onwards. In the nineteenth century, although Bristol remained an important port, it did not grow exponentially like the cities of the industrial north of England.

Today, while it is the second largest city in the south of England, Bristol seems to be on a smaller scale than the cities of the north. Bristol's docks closed in the 1970s, and since then the docklands have been redeveloped as an attractive tourist and residential area, which is relatively concentrated and largely traffic-free. A number of tourist attractions can be reached on foot, or by taking the small ferries or water taxis that ply back and forth along the "floating harbour" - so called because this whole dock area is behind locks that ensured, in the past, that ships remained afloat even at low tide.

Among the attractions the most important is the **SS Great Britain**, the world's first iron ship, designed by Brunel, and now restored and preserved in the dry dock in which she was originally built.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

William Shakespeare was an English poet, playwright, and actor. He was born on 26 April 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon. His father was a successful local businessman and his mother was the daughter of a landowner. Shakespeare is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's *national poet* and nicknamed *the Bard of Avon*. He wrote about 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and a few other verses, of which the authorship of some is uncertain. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

Marriage and career

Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway at the age of 18. She was eight years older than him. They had three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith. After his marriage information about his life became very rare. But he is thought to have spent most of his time in London writing and performing in his plays. Between 1585 and 1592, he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part-owner of a playing company called the *Lord Chamberlain's Men*, later known as the *King's Men*.

Retirement and death

Around 1613, at the age of 49, he retired to Stratford, where he died three years later. Few records of Shakespeare's private life survive. He died on 23 April 1616, at the age of 52. He died within a month of signing his will, a document which he begins by describing himself as being in "perfect health". In his will, Shakespeare left the bulk of his large estate to his elder daughter Susanna.

His work

Shakespeare produced most of his known work between 1589 and 1613. His early plays were mainly comedies and histories and these works remain regarded as some of the best work produced in these genres. He then wrote mainly tragedies until about 1608, including *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth*, considered some of the finest works in the English language. In his last phase, he wrote tragicomedies, also known as romances, and collaborated with other playwrights.

Shakespeare's plays remain highly popular today and are constantly studied, performed, and reinterpreted in diverse cultural and political contexts throughout the world.

(there is not information about History and London because it will be studied later during the school year)

Northern Ireland

Landscape:

The Northern Ireland is one of the four constituent nations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

North was covered by an ice cap for most of the last ice age, the consequence of this is evident in the massive presence of drumlins (is a particular type of whale-shaped hill or "humpback.") in the counties of Fermanagh, Armagh, Antrim and Down.



Lough Neagh, which covers 391 km², is the largest lake present on the island, and the British Isles.

A second group of lakes is centered around Lough Erne in Fermanagh.

The largest island in Northern Ireland is Rathlin, off the north coast of County Antrim.

Strangford Lough is the largest inlet in the British Isles, and covers 150 km².

There are a number of plateaus in the Sperrin Mountains with substantial deposits of gold, on the granite Mourne Mountains and basalt, as well as smaller chains in the county of Armagh and along the Fermanagh-Tyrone border.

The hills are not high; the volcanic activity which created the Antrim Plateau also formed a series of geometric pillars known as the Giant's Causeway on the north

Antrim coast.



Giant Causeway

On the Giant's Causeway there is a famous legend of the giant Finn McCool, who would build a pavement to walk up to Scotland to fight another giant, Angus.

One version of the story goes that Finn fell into a deep sleep before going to Scotland, so when Angus was looking for him, his wife Oonagh covered it with a cloth and her husband Finn claims to convince the rival that actually this was their child. In a variant, having seen the enormous tonnage of the enemy, it is the same Finn to tell his wife to prepare the misunderstanding. In both versions, however, when Angus saw the "child size," he thought that his father would be terribly giant, and ran home terrified destroying the pavement to avoid being chased. Another version of the legend, Finn built the Causeway to allow his rival to reach Ireland from Scotland. Angus was defeated by Finn and the Causeway, completed its function, disappeared in the ocean.

Other less widely stories they would like the pavement had been built by a giant love to reach his beloved, who lived in Scotland.

Across the Causeway, on the Scottish coast, the island of Staffa has the same basalt formations, especially in Fingal's Cave.

In the same region there are also the rope bridge at Carrick-a-Rede, the Mussenden Temple and the Glans of Antrim.





Bridge at Carrick-a-Rede



The Mussenden Temple



The Glens of Antrim

The Upper and Lower River Bann, Foyle and Blackwater form fertile lowlands, with excellent arable land which are also found in the North and East Down, although much of the hilly area is marginal and suitable for agriculture.

The valley of the River Lagan is dominated by Belfast, whose metropolitan area includes about a third of the population of Northern Ireland, with a high urbanization and industrialization along the Lagan Valley and both shores of Belfast Lough.

Clima:

Northern Ireland has a temperate oceanic climate, more humid in the west rather than the east, although cloud cover is persistent across the region. The average maximum temperature during the day in Belfast is about 6, 5 ° C in January and 17.5 ° C in July.

Northern Ireland – important historical events

THE BLOODY SUNDAY -

The 30th January on 1972 for the Northern Ireland people is a terrible day.

This day was named "Bloody Sunday" because the British army shot on some protesters and they hit 26 people.

Fourteen of them died and there were other injured, the protesters were in the street to get civil rights but the government of Britain did not agree with them and decided to shoot these poor people.

After a long time the prime minister David Cameron condemned that act.

FAMOUS PEOPLE – GEORGE BEST

George Best was one of the most famous football players in the history of football.

He was born in Belfast and since he was young he loved playing football, but George was different from the other children.

When he was fifteen he was noted by an observer of Manchester United.

After that, this man sent a telegram to the manager of the team and there was written "I think I found a genius".

George debut in 1963 but his best performances were in 1962 when the Manchester United won the champions league and he won the gold ball.

Unfortunately George did not love only football because he was on magazine every day for his private life, he loved also girls and alcohol.

He became famous also for some phrases like: "I spent a lot of money for women, alcohol and fast cars, the rest I squandered" or "In 1969 I did a cut in alcohol and women, there were the worse 20 minutes of my life".

About him we can say a lot of stories but certainly he is remembered by all of the Northern Ireland people.

CITIES

Belfast:



Belfast is the capital and largest city of Northern Ireland, one of the four constituent nations of the UK. Much of Belfast, including the city center, belongs to County Antrim. It is situated on the east coast of Northern Ireland, flanked to the north-west by a chain of hills, including Cavehill, presumably the place that inspired the story of the writer Jonathan Swift, in fact, Gulliver's Travels (it is said that hill reminded him of the silhouette of a sleeping giant that guarded the city).

Belfast is also located in the inner and eastern part of Belfast Lough, the mouth of the River Lagan, a position that has always favored the development of the shipbuilding industry that has made it famous in the past.

Historically, Belfast has been the center of the Irish linen industry, the tobacco

production, manufacture of ropes and the construction of ships: the largest shipbuilder in the city, Harland and Wolff, which built the famous RMS Titanic, Belfast pushed on the world stage in the early twentieth century as the largest and most productive shipyard in the world.

Belfast played a key role during the Industrial Revolution, gaining a reputation as a global industrial center until the latter half of the twentieth century.

The industrialization and the migration it brought made Belfast, for a short time, Ireland's largest cities at the beginning of '900, and the industrial and economic success of the city was cited by opponents unionists to the Home rule.

Today, Belfast remains a big industrial center, as well as artistic, academic, commercial and forensics, and is the economic engine of Northern Ireland. The city suffered a lot during the period of the conflict (called "The Troubles"), but later enjoyed a period of peace, free from political violence of previous years, which led to a substantial economic and commercial growth.

Belfast is also a major port, with commercial and industrial ports that dominate the coastline Belfast Lough, including the famous Harland and Wolff shipyard. Belfast is a city part of the "Dublin-Belfast corridor", which has a population of three million people, about half the population of the Irish island.

Belfast is home to four teams the Irish Football League: Linfield F.C., F.C. Glentoran, Cliftonville F.C. Crusaders and F.C.

Culture:

The city is famous for its murals that reflect the political and religious affiliation of the two communities: Catholic and Protestant.



The Shankill Road and the neighborhoods that face it are almost entirely inhabited by Protestants and the murals reflect the loyalty of the people to the British crown or supporting Protestant paramilitary groups.

The wall of the districts almost entirely Catholic overlooking the Falls Road has as its theme a united Ireland, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) or folklore themes and the Irish language.

Till today the two areas are divided by a wall and gates or openings along it are closed every night at 21:00 and reopened at 06.00 am. The houses of Catholics to the wall



boundaries have grills to windows protection of bottles launches or various materials that can be done by Protestants.

On the wall in the Catholic, they are commemorated all victims of various clashes and one of the last was in 2004.

Every year in July in the Protestant district is celebrated a festival in which they burn the image of the Madonna and praise even the killing of Catholics.

Derry o Londonderry:



Derry has the second highest number of inhabitants of Northern Ireland and the fourth of the whole island of Ireland. It is often called the city of Londonderry ("virgin city") because its walls were never penetrated during the siege of 1688-1689.

The old walled city is located on the west bank of the River Foyle, but the contemporary city expands on both sides and is connected by several bridges.

The city's name is the subject of a dispute between nationalists (mainly Catholic) and unionists (the vast majority Protestants). Nationalists call the city of Derry and part of the unionists call it Londonderry, name adopted by the British in 1613 with the adoption of a Royal Charter, which enshrined the name, official date, as a result of attempts to urban reconstruction of London imitation.

SCOTLAND

Geography

Scotland comprises the northern part of Great Britain and borders with the North Sea (East) the Atlantic Ocean (West) and England (South). In Scotland there are about 800 islands, the most important are Shetland in the North, Orcadis in the North-West and Hebridi in the West. In Scotland there are many lakes, the biggest is Lomond but the most famous lake is Lock Ness, for the popular legend about the monster Nessy. Other important lakes are Fyne the longest lake in Scotland, Toy and Lochy. In Scotland there are 2 mountain ranges, in the North there are the Grampians (with Ben Nevis, the highest peak in Britain) and in the South there are the Southern Uplands, in this mountains range the highest peak is Merrick (843). In the South of Scotland, near the English border there are the Cleviot Hills. The longest river is Tay (198km). This river springs from the Higlands and flows through the center of the country.

Historical events in Scotland

James VI was the Maria Stuart's son, when Elizabeth I died in 1603, unified under the same crown Scotland and England , with the name of James VI of Scotland and James I of England.

The union of this two states under the same king didn't mean automatically the political union of this two states, the demonstration was the two different names of James, like all the Stuart family for 100 years.

In 1707 the " Act of Union" said the England's Parliament had to be formed by some Scottish people.

So until 1997 Scotland was part of the Great Britain but in this year a popular referendum chose to re-establish the Scottish's Parliament like an independent organ outside London Parliament, this Parliament took the local decision.

With the "Act of Union" a new type of flag was born the Union Jack with the fusion of the Saint George's cross and Saint Andrew's cross. The Union Jack symbolizes all this: respect for individuality within a closely knit community.

With the unification there were new laws, one of this was that that it was prohibited to speak Gaelic in public or to play the bagpipe or wear the kilt.

Edinburgh

Edinburgh is named after King Edwin of ancient Northumbria and it has been recognized as Scotland's capital since the fifteenth century. A long established city with many years of progress, the city now boasts one of the finest architectural backdrops in the country.

It is really the facade of this beautiful city which has caused it to become as popular as it is. However, Edinburgh is not just castles and houses - there are also numerous attractions as well as interesting historical tours which all help to transport visitors back in time. Here, you will find an odd mixture of past with present in an almost effortless blend of time.

Certainly, one of the most popular attractions in Edinburgh is Edinburgh Castle. The Castle is built on volcanic rock and stands out above the landscape. Many Scottish Kings have used this castle as their seat and on your tour you will see the great hall, Saint Margaret's Chapel and the esplanade where the annual Edinburgh Military Tattoo takes place. If you are present around lunchtime, you might find yourself startled by the famous One 'o Clock Gun. You can also see both the New and the Old Town from this vantage point. The Old Town is well worth a visit.

Another great place to visit is the Palace of Holyroodhouse. A Royal residence for Queen Mary, the Palace is open to the public where its long history is most easily learnt about. Not far from the palace, you'll find Holyrood Park - a large natural area kept in tip top condition all year around. It is one of many fine parks in and around Edinburgh.

Glasgow

Glasgow is as popular among tourists as it is among locals. It boasts magnificent scenery and many leisure and cultural attractions.

Glasgow was properly established in the 6th century by Saint Mungo who was a Christian missionary. He built a church on the site where the present Glasgow Cathedral stands today, causing Glasgow to become a religious centre. Prior to this, the area had been inhabited by Picts and Celts and later, by Romans. Romans built outposts and then eventually the Antonine Wall in an attempt to separate the Romans from the Picts. Ruins of this wall can still be seen today.

The city of Glasgow has seen many changes of scenery. Initially, most of the buildings were built of wood and the town was quite well looked upon. Trade and industry flourished and Glasgow became quite prosperous. Shipbuilding was a massive industry. However with the great depression and the Second World War, these trades fell into a decline and Glasgow became poor. It didn't last long, however, and soon new industries sprung up which again brought wealth to the city. Old buildings were knocked down and new ones were built. Today it stands proudly as a place of wealth, growth and progression. You can see Victorian architecture as well as newer styled buildings.

People can wine and dine to their delight as well as take in some of the sights. The Glasgow Cathedral, Provand's Lordship, Merchant City and the City Chambers are all relatively old buildings with interesting architecture. The Glasgow Green is great for walks and will also enable you to view the People's Palace. If you are into art, you might try the House for an Art Lover which is only one of several museums and art galleries housing some really fine and famous artworks.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

MARY STUART

Mary Stuart was Queen of Scotland from December 1542 to July 1567, and Queen of England for the English people.

That of Mary Queen was a life that began and ended tragically.

Ran away from the Anglo-Scottish Wars, she lived into the culture of the French court of Medici and had an excellent education in the cultural sphere.

On the death of her first husband, the king of France, Francis II, Mary Stuart returned to Scotland, where she was waiting for the clash with the new religion Calvinist, established during his absence.

She was a very tolerant Queen and this only served to increase the power of the Lord Protestants.

Fled to England , she thought she could be helped by the Protestant Queen Elizabeth I of England , her cousin,

who imprisoned her for twenty years. In these two decades, the Queen of Scotland in her name to assassinate Elizabeth and elevate The Queen of Scots is found herself to be the Her execution was a serious blow to the divine God" was judged and condemned to death.



became the heart of Catholicism English and many plots were organized Mary to the throne.

living symbol of the Counter-Reformation and ended sacrificed.

authority of kings: for the first time in history a "Queen consecrated by

ROB ROY

Robert MacGregor, known as Rob Roy, was a robber, clan leader and legendary Scottish hero, called the "Robin Hood" of Scotland.

Robert MacGregor was born in a cottage, near Loch Katrine.

He was the third son of Donald Glas, the MacGregor clan leader, and Mary Campbell.

As a young adult, he began working as a herdsman for James Graham, the Duke of Montrose.

At age 22, he married Helen MacGregor of Comar, from which he had four sons, James, Ranald, Coll, and Robert.

In 1711, Mac Gregor asked the Duke of Montrose a loan of 1,000 pounds to extend their belongings, but the money was stolen by trust person.

Despite MacGregor became available to repay the amount, he was driven by the Duke of Montrose, who considered him a thief, confiscating all his possessions.

Forced to flee, MacGregor became an outlaw, and formed an alliance with the enemy of the Duke of Montrose, the Duke of Argyll.

In 1715, MacGregor fought in the Battle of Sheriffmuir.

MacGregor was captured in 1722, and was imprisoned in London.

MacGregor remained in prison until 1727, when he was pardoned.

During his last years of life, his family converted to Catholicism.

Robert "Rob Roy" MacGregor died on 1734, at his home at the age of 63 years.



RICHARD MADDEN

Richard Madden is a Scottish actor, known for playing Prince Charming in "Cinderella" and Robb Stark in the television series Game of Thrones. His father was a fireman, while his mother was a teacher.

Soon he was given the role of the little Andy in the film adaptation of a book Complicity.

After he was hired for the protagonist in Barmy Aunt Boomerang, a British television series that shot six episodes that went on the air from 1999 to 2000.

He graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow in 2007.

While at RSAMD, working with the Arches and Glasgow Repertory Company, with which he staged Tom Fool.

In his final year at RSAMD, he was given the role of Romeo in a production of Romeo and Juliet at the Globe Theatre, after a show in London, he was brought in various outdoor theaters in the summer of 2007.

In 2014 he was the star of the Discovery Channel miniseries Klondike, while in 2015 he played the role of Prince Charming in the Disney movie Cinderella.



WILLIAM WALLACE

William Wallace was born 1270 near Kilmarnock.

Son of Sir Malcolm Wallace, William had two brothers, John and Malcolm.

He was educated by two priests uncles, he could study Latin and French.

To legend, Wallace was blocked by two British soldiers who asked him about some fish that he caught. The discussion became into a fight during which William killed the soldiers, then he was arrested.

Wallace in August left the Selkirk Forest, where it had his basis and moved to Stirling to group the men of Andrew Moray, who in turn had started a new revolution.

A Stirling, the forces of de Moray and Wallace competed in the battle with the British.

On 11 September 1297, the Scots obtained an important victory at Stirling Bridge, because the English army suffered a sharp defeat for having ventured beyond the river from the north.

After the victory, William Wallace was called Guardian of Scotland in 1298.

Within a few months, in June England invader Scotland, put fire to the Lothian and took possession of some castles.

Their main objective, the capture of Wallace, it failed.

William Wallace, was located in Falkirk, where he decided to place his spearmen in several circular formations, "schiltrons", for defensive wall, but the situation was alarming.

The resistance of the men of Wallace was defeated, but William escaped.

William was captured by John de Menteith, with Edward I.

The protagonist of a summary trial, was killed in London on 1305: first hanged and then quartered.

The British government showed his body in Edinburgh, Berwick and Newcastle, while his head was placed, impaled on a pole, on London Bridge.

The headstone of William Wallace is placed on a wall, near the place where his execution took place: it is now a place of visits by many Scots and tourists.

Wallace was a noble person.

Believed to be the Scottish national hero for leading his countrymen to revolt against the English who occupied Scotland.



WALES

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Landscape

Wales occupies the western part of Britain, bordered by sea on three sides, and by England to the east. Wales is divided into three regions:

The Centre: a mountainous region with a coastline of the Sea of Ireland

The North: rural area with the presence of some holiday resorts along the coast.

The South: along the south coast, there are the largest centers of the country.

Rivers

The hydrography is very fragmented and asymmetrical, with shorter rivers on the western side (Dovey, Teifi), while the longest ones are in the east side, and then they turn S (Wye, Severn) or N (Dee), flowing, respectively, into the Bristol Channel and the Irish Sea, with deep estuaries.

Lakes

About the lakes, the lake Vyrnwy and Bala's lake are the most important lakes in Wales which are two big tourist destinations, too.

Mountains

Wales is mainly a hilly country with two major mountain systems: Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons in the S and Snowdon, the highest peak in Wales and England (1,085 m), in the N. The region called "the Valleys", in the S, links the mountains to the coast, while Cardiff, the capital city, Newport and Swansea occupy the southern littoral.

IMPORTANT HISTORICAL EVENTS

The Celts settled in Wales around 600 BC.

The Roman conquest in the 1st century. A.D. failed to assimilate and in the 5th century, Saxon invasions drove back them to the west.

In 1240 Llewelyn, united the Welsh and later, Edward incorporated Wales in 1284 and divided it in counties, giving the title of Prince of Wales to his first son Edoardo.

The Act of Union of 1536 allowed the 12 Welsh counties to send 24 representatives to Parliament so the rich Welsh people assimilated British customs and costumes, while the middle and lower classes kept national aspirations.

The 18th century was characterized by movements that led to the schism (completed in 1811) between the Anglican Church and Methodist. The schism was one of the events from which the Welsh particularism stated, in the 19th and 20th c., during that period the trend started about the use of Welsh as a literary language.

The Industrial Revolution, the population increase (up from 590 thousand to 2 million inhabitants in the nineteenth century), the rise of a middle class together with the organization of the working class in the Trade Unions, the advancement of the cultural, economy and so on. were the main elements of contemporary Welsh history.

CITIES

Newport

Newport is in the county of Gwent. It is the third city of Wales. The population is about 140000 people. Newport is on the mouth of the river Usk near England. It is known for numerous river bridges and for lively night life.

Newport is an active port for a minery esportations and it is a railway juiction for iron industry. Newport hosts Golf's Ryder Cup in 2010. The city has the most popular university, which counts 10000 students.

Cardiff

Cardiff or Caerdydd is the capital city of Wales, it's the largest city in Wales, the tenth largest city in the United Kingdom and the youngest capital city of Europe.

The city is Wales' chief commercial centre, the base for most national cultural and sporting institutions (in football, cricket and rugby), the Welsh national media, and the seat of the National Assembly for Wales. Cardiff was made a city in 1905, and proclaimed capital of Wales in 1955. Since the 1990s Cardiff has seen significant development with a new waterfront area at Cardiff Bay which contains the Senedd building, home to the Welsh Assembly and the Wales Millennium Centre arts complex.

Places to Visit

Cardiff CastleNational Museum

CardiffMillennium Stadium

Wales Millennium Centre

Norwegian ChurchSt Fagans

National History Museum

Festivals & Events

Cardiff International Food and Drink Festival

RHS Cardiff Flower Show

Cardiff MAS

Carnival

Cardiff Harbour Festival

The Great British Cheese Festival

Wales is the birthplace of many famous faces such as Dylan Thomas and Catherine Zeta Jones.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Dylan Thomas

Dylan Thomas was born in 1914 in Swansea. In 1934 he published his first collection of poetry that made him famous, the most famous is "and death Shall have no dominion". In 1936 he married the dancer Kathleen McNamara, who gave him three children. In 1946, he released the book that represents his final consecration "Death and entrances". Dylan thomas has had an alcohol addiction that brought his family almost to poverty. From poetry to short stories, his themes are small homeland, Swansea and Wales. He died on November 9th,1953 due to pneumonia, one year after Stravinsky composed a piece in memory of Dylan Thomas

Catherine Zeta Jones

Catherine Zeta Jones Born from a Welsh father and an Irish mother. Since 1998, she has been repeatedly considered by specialized magazines one of the most beautiful women in the world. Her career began in 1987.She played Peggy Sawyer in the "Forty-Second Street". She recorded a single, For all Time, which also received some success. She is the star of the hit British TV series Darling Buds of May, but his film debut took place in France with Sheherazade with French director Philippe de Broca. She won the Academy Award and the BAFTA for Best Supporting Actress in 2003 with "Chicago", dancing and singing to the rhythm of jazz. In 2007 Elena De La Vega in The Legend of Zorro.

Tabelle di valutazione

Check list: valutazione del lavoro di gruppo

INDICATORI	DESCRITTORI	LIVELLO
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Diponibilità al dialogo con i compagni	La partecipazione al dialogo con gli altri membri del gruppo è	Attiva Adeguate Alternativa Passiva Disinteresse
Collaborazione	La collaborazione nelle scelte delle procedure, dei contenuti, del prodotto finale all'interno del gruppo è	Attiva Adeguate Alternativa Passiva Disinteresse
Assunzione della responsabilità	L'accettazione dei ruoli da ricoprire e dei compiti ad essi collegati è	Completa Alternativa Mancata
Puntualità consegne	Il rispetto dei tempi di consegna nelle diverse fasi di realizzazione del lavoro e l'aver con sé i materiali necessari per il lavoro di gruppo in classe sono	Puntuali sempre Non sempre puntuali Mai puntuali

VALUTAZIONE DELLA PRESENTAZIONE

PRODOTTO (del gruppo)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperazione in classe • Distribuzione ruoli nel gruppo • Puntualità di esecuzione 	Valutazione da 1 a 10
REPORT (individuale)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of English: Correttezza – chiarezza – lessico – pronuncia • Interazione con gli ascoltatori 	Valutazione da 1 a 10