

ACTIVITY 5	Let's do science... on the glacier
The aim of the activity	Practice using the scientific method to discover particular species of flora and fauna typical of the high Alpine mountains.
Places where the event can be held	Classroom, an alpine glacier
Age group for the activity	8-11

BEYOND SCHOOL PROJECT

A. BEFORE OUT-OF-SCHOOL LEARNING ACTIVITY	
Educational tools	A naturalistic historical book, or a ppt presentation of such a document
Method, technique and strategies	Participate lesson, storytelling
PRACTICE	The work of naturalists of past centuries is shown to students
Introduction of the activity	The teacher tells the story of the discovery of a particular species of plants or animals made by a famous naturalist. The more adventurous the story, the better!
Development of the activity	The teacher shows the students the book that tells about that particular discovery. In particular, he shows the drawings, reads the notes and descriptions, points out which details the scientist focused on. He then introduces the scientific method: exploring, observing, writing down all the possible details in a notebook, to fully understand the species being observed and to be able to trace it back to existing species.
Evaluation of the activity	You can take a written test with open questions to verify the knowledge acquired regarding the scientific method

B. IN THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT	
Educational tools	A notebook and a pen
Method, technique and strategies	Practical activity, excursion
PRACTICE	Naturalistic observation and application of the scientific method

Introduction of the activity	The students are taken to a (safe) high mountain area, if possible near a glacier or an alpine lake, but in any case above 2000 meters above sea level. The activity that will be carried out is explained to the students: they will have to explore an area delimited by the teacher and take notes about the species they encounter, whether animals or plants.
Development of the activity	The students carry out the experiment. They saw the naturalist's notes in the previous lesson, so they know what they have to do: write down the characteristics of what they find, make representative sketches, take note of their considerations. They can encounter numerous species of plants, flowers, insects, birds, reptiles, if they are lucky even some mammals. Being at high altitude makes the experience more meaningful because you can find uncommon species that only grow in that particular type of environment. They will feel like real explorers on an adventure.
Evaluation of the activity	Students' behavior and effort are evaluated.

C. AFTER OUT OF SCHOOL LEARNING ACTIVITY

Educational tools	A manual containing alpine flora and fauna.
Method, technique and strategies	Practical activity
PRACTICE	Search the manual for the species noted during the excursion
Introduction of the activity	The students will have taken notes regarding the species encountered: brain storming is done to understand what types of species they have noted (plants, flowers, insects, birds, mammals...) and we try to understand, by looking at the students' notes, which species they are been noted by multiple people. The common ones, a comparison can be made to see whether the noted details and personal considerations are similar or not between different students.
Development of the activity	Students search the manual for the species they have encountered. Based on their descriptions, they have to find the species in the manual and the scientific name. By writing down the name in their notebook, each student will eventually have their own naturalistic manual.
Evaluation of the activity	We can evaluate the success of the work and the effort made.



