

10.- SOCIAL SCIENCES

We teach Geography and History. This is Carmen and I am Pilar. We teach compulsory secondary education (CSE), which is divided into two cycles.

Once the students have finished these studies, they are given a diploma, and they can go on to study higher education. At that level we teach Geography, Art and History.

In History, we study topics from the prehistory to the world nowadays, and also we study Physical, Economical, and Political Geography.

We'll explain to you year by year which topics we study: in the first year of CSE, the program consists of Geography and History. In Geography, we study the earth, the location of the main rivers, mountain ranges, and also the climate zones. We go on to study Spain and Aragon, where we live. Once we have finished with Geography, we move on to History, where we analyze from prehistory to Roman times and antiquity in Spain and Aragon.

The following year, the second year, we continue studying Geography, but we focus on the study of population, analyzing migratory movements, their consequences, causes, and effects, to then move on to economic activities. In History, we focus on the Middle Ages, where we analyze the cultures that lived together in Europe and Spain at that time, which, as you know, were the Christian and Orthodox peoples, and also Islamic peoples.

In the third year, we study Physical Geography: we study the continents, their rivers, their relief; we study the economic areas, agriculture, agriculture in the developed world, subsistence farming, industry, business; we also study population topics such as the city, today's world's problems, and we also refer to Spain – in its diversity, its uneven population distribution.

In the fourth year, we study Modern History: we study all the civilizations which can be found worldwide today – a multicultural study is done. Topics of the modern era are studied: discoveries, scientific advances, art, Renaissance, Baroque; revolutions are also studied: the French and the industrial revolution. Then we move on to the contemporary world where we look at all the conflicts in which the world has been involved – we are referring here to the World Wars – and before focusing on Spain, from Franco's time to nowadays.

We use various resources for this: the student has a textbook which needs to be brought to class daily – it is the core material to work with. But, within the school, in the department or in the library, we have other means: for instance, the showing of Art DVDs or others which explain the different civilizations and cultures; specialized magazines where we can find topics which will be of interest to all the students. Above all, we need to work with maps: Atlases and all kinds of maps are the basic tools in our subject.

We also use the computer for interactive activities, to look up data on the Internet, to search for information and do group work, which will later be discussed in class.

FEMALE PUPIL: The History teachers give us an explanation about the contents related to the topic they are going to talk about: they provide outlines, summaries and maps for us. Then, on my own, I take notes which I date on the upper left side of the paper. On the upper right side I write the subject I'm taking notes for. The notes need to be written clearly so that I can study them later; I also keep them in a file where I keep the notes for each subject in different sections so as to have everything in order.

Come on and experience secondary education!