FRANCIS OF ASSISI - LESSON PLAN

UDA 1

UDA 1 From the sword to the word, a European model of universal brotherhood

TITLE	"Francis: The Icon who chose the Sun and Peace" (From the sword to the word, a European model of universal brotherhood)

GENERAL AIMS

Promote knowledge of Saint Francis of Assisi not only as a religious figure, but as a "European Icon", that is, a pillar of European culture, literature and ethical thought.
Develop awareness of the value of Italian linguistic heritage through the analysis of the first texts in the vernacular (Canticle of the Creatures).
Foster a culture of peace and tolerance through the example of interreligious dialogue and non-violent conflict resolution (the meeting with the Sultan).
Educate for environmental sustainability and integral ecology, tracing in the Franciscan message the roots of respect for biodiversity and natural resources (in line with the Goals of the 2030 Agenda).
Reflect on the concept of universal brotherhood as a tool for social inclusion and for overcoming cultural barriers.

OBJECTIVES

Know the fundamental stages of Francis of Assisi's biography, placing them in the historical and social context of the 13th century.
Understand the revolutionary value of choosing poverty and renouncing material goods as a form of freedom and social justice.
Analyse the Canticle of the Creatures from a linguistic perspective (birth of the vernacular) and a thematic perspective (praise of creation).
Reflect on the meaning of intercultural and interreligious dialogue starting from the historical meeting between Francis and Sultan Malik al-Kamil.
Recognize Saint Francis as a European icon ante litteram for the values of peace, universal brotherhood and respect for human dignity.
Deepen the concept of "integral ecology", linking the Saint's figure to the protection of biodiversity and natural resources.
Develop the ability to synthesize and critically re-elaborate through multimedia storytelling.
Raise students' awareness of the 2030 Agenda Goals (nos. 13, 15 and 16), finding modern solutions to global challenges in the Franciscan message.

KEY COMPETENCES

☒ Literacy competence
☒ Multilingual competence
☒ Mathematical competence and competence in science
☒ Digital competence
☒ Personal, social and learning-to-learn competence
☒ Citizenship competence
☒ Entrepreneurship competence
☒ Cultural awareness and expression competence

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CIVIC EDUCATION TARGETS

Agenda 2030
Goal 13 - Climate action: Francis is the patron saint of those who cultivate ecology. His respect for every natural element anticipates the need to protect the planet's resources.
Goal 15 - Life on land: His equal relationship with "Brother Wolf" and living creatures teaches the protection of biodiversity and peaceful coexistence between humans and nature.
Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions: The meeting with Sultan Malik al-Kamil is a model of interreligious dialogue and rejection of violence as a means of conflict resolution.

SUBJECTS INVOLVED

Italian: Birth of the vernacular language (Canticle of the Creatures).
History: The context of the 13th century and the Crusades.
Art: Assisi and Giotto's frescoes
Technology: Digital storytelling with Canva
Music: From Canticle of the Creatures to Dolce è sentire
Science: Ecology
English: Development of keywords and short descriptions
Religion: Interreligious dialogue and conflict resolution.

Recipients	Lower Secondary School (Years 1 and 2)
Implementation period	First term, starting in November
Time	To be agreed within the Class Councils for a total of 15 hours: Italian (2h), History/Geog. (2h), Science/Maths (2h), English (2h), Technology (3h), Art (1h), Music (1h), Civic Education (2h).

ACTIVITIES

History/geography: Framing of the Late Middle Ages; the bourgeoisie as an emerging social class
Italian: Reading and analysis of the Canticle of the Creatures; the role of the vernacular language in the Late Middle Ages
Science/Mathematics: study of biodiversity (the wolf and humans) and protection of natural resources (hydrosphere) in line with Goals 13, 14 and 15 of the 2030 Agenda.
English: Francis of Assisi as a European Icon: vocabulary building on nature and peace; creating a bilingual "Canticle of the Creatures"
Technology: Multimedia storytelling workshop: use of Canva software for photo editing and iconographic decomposition of Giotto's works; creation of a digital comic to disseminate the life of Saint Francis
Art and image: Iconographic analysis (Giotto and the Assisi cycle) and the symbolism of the nativity scene of Greccio.
Music education: performance with voices and instruments of "Dolce è sentire"
Focus on interreligious dialogue and link to Goals 13, 15 and 16 of the 2030 Agenda.

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AUTHENTIC TASK

Francis: A Manifesto of Peace and Nature for the Europe of Tomorrow
Problem situation:
On the occasion of the meeting of the "European Icons" project, our school must present the figure of Saint Francis not only as a historical character, but as a current model for the European citizens of tomorrow. Foreign partners do not know well the link between Francis, the birth of the Italian language and the challenges of the 2030 Agenda.
The product:
Students, divided into working groups (historical editorial team, linguistic editorial team, scientific editorial team, artistic/digital editorial team), will create a Multimedia E-Book or a Digital Exhibition (on Canva) containing:
Comic-strip storytelling (reworking of Giotto).
The “Bilingual Canticle” (Italian vernacular / English).
The “Green Manifesto”: a practical guide based on Goals 13, 15 and 16 of the 2030 Agenda inspired by the Franciscan message.
A podcast or video clip of the musical performance of “Dolce è sentire”.
Recipients: Teachers and students of the European partner schools; the school community on the institute website.

ASSESSMENT

Ongoing assessments by individual teachers.
Process assessment:
- analysis of individual and cooperative work methods (autonomy, commitment, participation, sense of responsibility, collaboration);
- understanding of the task
Task-product assessment.

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ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

Assessment criteria	Advanced level (A)	Intermediate level (B)	Basic level (C)	Initial level (D)
Completeness and relevance of content	The product covers all themes (history, art, ecology) thoroughly and originally.	The product covers all themes completely and correctly.	The product contains essential information but with little depth.	The product is incomplete or contains errors in content.
Digital competence (Canva/Storytelling)	Creative and expert use of digital tools; excellent iconographic decomposition.	Correct and functional use of digital tools; good graphic result.	Elementary use of digital tools; simple graphics.	Difficulty in using digital tools; disorganized product.
Multilingual competence	Fluent and correct presentation in English; poetic and effective translation of the Canticle.	Correct presentation in English; clear and understandable translation.	Use of simple language structures; some grammatical errors.	Serious gaps in communication in English or Italian.
Social and civic competence (Agenda 2030)	Shows deep understanding of the 2030 Goals and links them critically to Francis.	Correctly links the Franciscan message to the Goals of the 2030 Agenda.	Identifies the main links with the 2030 Agenda when guided.	Struggles to grasp the link between the historical figure and current civic themes.
Collaboration and participation	Participates actively, proposes solutions and helps classmates in group work.	Collaborates constantly and carries out their task responsibly.	Collaborates only when prompted or carries out only the minimum assigned tasks.	Tends to isolate themself or does not contribute constructively to the group.