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OUT OF THE DARK: ASTRONOMY AS UNIFYING THREAD FOR CULTURES.



Worldviews

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Introduction

The Spanish Erasmus+ team has studied different Cosmovisions, with the help of the Philosophy teacher, Esther González.

This is the first task in relation with the humanistic part of the project, approaching the myths and legends about the universe. We have built models of different cosmovisions, that is, the different ways in which old cultures saw the world or the universe.

This activity, that was published on the blog Out of the dark, helped the two mediterranean schools to know something about the Swedish culture, before going there.

For the nordic people universe was divided in 9 kingdoms which were located in a huge tree called Yggdrasil. These kingdoms were Asgard, Midgard, Helheim, Nidaveir, Alfheim, Musspelheim, Vanaheim, Jötunheim, Nilfheim.

An eagle called "Veärföfnir" lived on the top of Yggdrasil while a dragon called Fafnir slept in the roots.

In its branches there were a deer called Eikbyrnir and the squirrell Ratatosk.

Also, there was a big snake curled in Midgard's sea called Jönmundgander.

Materials

Different materials have been used for each model, but the main ones have been:

- a wooden board, used as a support, plastic balls,
- paint,
- brushes,
- glue,
- wires,
- paper...



Procedure/Method

Each model followed a different procedure, since each one belonged to a vision of the world and none was the same. The common steps that everyone has followed have been:

1. Draw a picture with the idea of how we want our world view to be.
2. Copy on paper all the materials that we will want to use and some that can replace others, in case something does not go as planned.

3. Begin by assembling the basis of everything we want to do.

4. Decorate all the objects to make it look more realistic.

5. Perfect everything we have done before to make it look better than we thought.

6. Take a look at everything in case something has broken in the process, and if so, fix it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVPm38fSzl>

Results

Different models corresponding to the cosmovisions studied.



Conclusions

We have learned how other cultures saw the universe and put ideas together with our colleagues to bring to light a job well done, combining Philosophy and art.

Thanks

We thank our philosophy teacher, Esther González, from the first year of highschool, for having proposed this entertaining activity and María José, the headmaster, for encouraging us to show our models at the highschool, during the III Science Fair.

Bibliography

<http://outofthedarkerasmusus.blogspot.com/2018/05/cosmovisions-spanish-present-for-our.html>