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Age: 14

Earth is a world with so much biodiversity. Every bit of its land harbors some kind of organism. But since the day human being becomes the dominant species, ruling all Earth's ecosystem, its beauty has been decreasing. A large part of its biodiversity is centered in and round woodlands, forests and jungles.

Our school trip took us to visit such a forest at a place called Arboretum. Our tour guide took us through one of the 3 major parts of Arboretum. As we walked along the man made road, we came upon a place where historical trees were being preserved. They are not so resistant in diseases nowadays so are no longer used in agriculture. This reminded me that despite the fact that because of some human species are becoming extinct, some others put an effort to preserve them.

As we went further into the forest, our guide was able to introduce us to many interesting types of trees that had unique characteristics. At Arboretum, they had planted trees that are hard to find and difficult to grow. Some plants such as the ferns that we were told was the first tree in the world, had developed curious ways to survive. Their adaptation to live through the cold frost of the ice age was to hide its trunk in the soil. When a normal tree is cut, over time new branches would sprout out from the trunk. But when coniferous trees are cut, they do not grow back. This would put it in more danger of going extinct if cut down.

The destruction of forests caused by humans is speeded up by the advanced machines used to do the job. In the past the tools used by wood cutters and carpenters were much simpler, hence less harmful.

At the Musée du Bois, another guide explained to us about different tools and their uses. The axes used by the men in the past could only cut one tree at a time with much human power spent on the work. The wood cutter would feel the pain close to that of the tree as he laboriously cut it with the axe. The coal that was made was produced in small amount, so less pollution was caused. We also had the chance to see some people made shoes out of wood, and an ancestor of washing machine.

Despite the comfort that we gain by using advanced, more sophisticated machines, I believe the way of living the ancient people was much more sustainable. Arboretum provided us with the opportunity to realize this.

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This day was not promising to be sunny and warm, but we moved on to the Aubonne Arboretum where we would be able to fulfill our knowledge of fauna habitants. Our journey started next to le Crépon where we would find historical site. We moved in, putting out way towards La Vaux. On our way, we saw several different kinds of trees and plants. We saw some kinds which could be found only at Arboretum in Switzerland. We continued our walking tour, moving into the forest. As the weather was in her bad mood, the soil in the forest was very wet and muddy. It was very hard and slippery to walk there but it was worth it. The fauna habitants that we were able to see while walking were impressing us with their force, power and beauty. We felt ourselves not very comfortable as it seemed like we entered their kingdom which nobody had the right to enter. The forest hides its secrets which were not to be found out. We finished our walking tour by planting the tree on the hill. This ceremony

symbolized the community and socialization of all of us. People who didn't talk to each other helped and worked together. After the little stop for lunch, we visited the Musée du Bois where we could see with our own eyes the whole process of wood making. We saw how wood is important for Switzerland and its population. Wood is the only renewable source that Switzerland has. Out of it, many objects are made, such as toys for children, games, tools, shoes and many more. Overall, this trip was very educational and helped us understand and respect nature more.

Author: Kelsi Van Veen and Ana Hernandez

Age: 15 and 14

Have you ever had the experience of encountering nature? When we were first told we would be visiting the Arboretum, we were not sure what to expect. We were told it would be like a zoo for plants, but it was not until the end of our journey that we were truly able to figure out for ourselves what the Arboretum was really like.

We were dropped off at a 'camping site' at around 9:30 am but our real experience began when we entered the forest, half an hour later. Walking through the muddy paths with the birds chirping all around us, we suddenly became enthusiastic about our surroundings. Not only were there several interesting sites to fill out green map with, but the views were spectacular!

After spending a few hours hiking through the green trees and grassy hills, we planted our own dogwood tree. Everyone worked together to shovel in soil and water in it. We named our tree Nikita Marley and each whispered something special to the tree in which some cultures believe that this helps the tree grow.

This day is an experience that will last a lifetime. Even when our memories fade, there will always be the beautiful Dog Wood tree as a reminder of this wonderful day working together with friends and classmates to produce something amazing.

Authors: Anda and Ingo

Ages: 16 and 14

Our experience at the Arboretum has been very educational. We found out that there are more than 200 different types of trees and we personally saw a 'sonar frog' which has a yellow stomach and is very rare. We also put icons on the incomplete Arboretum Green Map. Nicola translated the guide who guided us through the woods and showed us pretty sites. Near the end of the tour, we helped plant a tree and we named it Nikita Marley.

If everyone helped plant a tree and contribute to help the eco-system, the things that are happening to the world today wouldn't be happening.

Green Mapping helps communities to learn about their local environment and we think that there should be more people getting included in projects like this.