



The V4 Humanities Education for the Climate. Diagnoses – Best Practices – Recommendations

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Trust, but verify.

1. level: elementary; **grade:** 7.

2. subject: Czech language and literature

3. time allocation: 1 teaching lesson (45 minutes)

4. aims:

The student identifies the most important ideas and themes of the text.

The pupil works independently with dictionaries and reference books (etymological dictionary, dictionary of foreign words, dictionary of non-standard Czech).

The pupil perceives the importance of wildlife conservation.

5. methods: brainstorming, independent work, peer teaching, discussion methods, explanation, working with text

6. forms: frontal teaching, pair work, individual work

7. materials: text with questions, dictionaries and reference books (etymological dictionary, dictionary of non-standard Czech, dictionary of foreign words)

8. literature:

TELIČKOVÁ, Zuzana. *Příliš důvěřivý dronte mauricijský: Blboun nejapný je smutným symbolem lidské hlouposti.* [cit. 2020-11-19]. Dostupné z: <https://www.stoplusjednicka.cz/prilis-duverivy-dronte-mauricijsky-blboun-nejapny-je-smutnym-symbolem-lidske-hlouposti>

Course of the lesson

Evocation (activities before reading)

Task 1: Before reading the text, the teacher uses the brainstorming method to find out students' preconcepts. *What comes to your mind when you hear the word BLBOUN?*

Possible solution: When we say someone is blboun, we mean they are stupid or dumb. People use this word for name-calling.



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Realization (activities during reading)

Pupils read the text, then complete the tasks and answer the questions. *Where might you encounter the text, who is it for and what is its function? Which information is new to you?*

Task 2: Pupils answer questions about the text.

- 1) *Roughly how big was dodo's brain?*
- 2) *What did the bird become symbol of?*
- 3) *What was the primary cause for the disruption of Mauritanian ecosystem?*
- 4) *What was the cause of dodo's extinction?*

Possible solution:

- 1) *Its brain was about the size of a hazelnut.*
- 2) *It became a symbol of human ruthlessness, superiority, but also synonymous with stupidity.*
- 3) *The Mauritian ecosystem has been disrupted primarily by human activity (deforestation).*
- 4) *The dodo became extinct because of the disruption of the ecosystem by human activity and the arrival of dogs, cats, pigs and monkeys, as these animals fed on its eggs.*

Task 3: The teacher returns to the evocation phase. The teacher asks the pupils if they know where they can find out more about the origin and meaning of words. We also work with the possibility of pupils referring to the Internet (e.g., the Academic Dictionary of Contemporary Czech is available here). The pupils are then introduced to the etymological dictionary and the dictionary of non-standard Czech, and it is explained how to work with these publications. Pupils will look up the dictionary entry "blboun" or a related word in pairs.

Possible solution:

one who gives the impression of a lack of judgment or ability; a fool (often as a bad name)

son, dimwit, idiot, moron

the dodo bird = an extinct large flightless bird known for its tameness and credulity toward humans, zool. Dronte Mauritanian

Task 4: Four foreign words are highlighted in the text. The teacher asks the pupils if they understand these words based on the context. *Do you think these words are common in Czech? Are they words of Czech origin?*



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The teacher then introduces the pupils to a dictionary of foreign words. Pupils look up the following dictionary entries in pairs: icon, population, predator, physiognomy.

Possible solution:

icon = a symbol or a representative of a particular group

population = a collection of individuals (plants, animals) of the same species in a particular space and time

predator = an animal that feeds in a predatory manner

physiognomy = appearance

Reflection (activities after reading)

Task 5: During the reflection phase, the teacher returns to the opening question and students are able to interpret the key conclusion. *What is the connection between the dodo bird and the characteristic of the person we say is "blboun"?*

Possible solution:

The dodo bird paid for its gullibility and therefore became extinct (predators ate its eggs). Figuratively, this is how we refer to a person who is stupid or who pays for his stupidity.

Task 6: The teacher reflects on working with dictionaries. *Which dictionary do you use to find the origin of a word / meaning of a foreign word / meaning of a swear word?*

Possible solution:

We use the etymological dictionary to look up the origin of the words, for the meaning of a foreign word we use the dictionary of foreign words, and swear words can be looked up in a dictionary of non-standard Czech.

Task 7: The teacher guides the pupils to define the reason for the importance of wildlife conservation in the context of the text they have been working with. *Why should we protect animals?*

Possible solution:

If we don't protect the animals or if we deliberately destroy them, they could become extinct. Once an animal goes extinct, it is forever. Thus, natural diversity is being depleted.



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Task 8: Pupils search for a text of any nature for their classmates in the form of homework. The requirement is that the text must contain words of foreign origin (or ungrammatical expressions). Pupils will share the texts in groups during next lesson and search for the necessary information using dictionaries and reference books.