



Press release
Naters, 13 February 2025

UNESCO World Heritage in Switzerland

New teaching tool: school classes discover the UNESCO World Heritage in Switzerland

The free digital teaching tool on UNESCO World Heritage in Switzerland was presented yesterday at a vernissage at the World Nature Forum in Naters (VS). The learning tool, designed for cycles 2 and 3, provides pupils with exciting access to the World Heritage sites in Switzerland and motivates them to learn outside of school.

Do you know the Grand Canyon, Stonehenge or the Pyramids of Giza? These impressive places have one thing in common: they are UNESCO World Heritage properties. Switzerland can also proudly present 13 such sites: Places that not only bear witness to the history of the earth, but are also living symbols of our traditions. We all have a duty to protect them and preserve them for future generations. Children and young people are the decision-makers of tomorrow, which is why the umbrella organisation World Heritage Experience Switzerland (WHES) is keen to get young people interested in World Heritage. The new teaching material picks up on this by addressing topics from the pupils' everyday lives, thus creating a seamless transition into the school curriculum.

A learning programme designed to inspire

The digital teaching material developed in collaboration between Schulverlag plus, WHES and the World Heritage organisations in Switzerland contains around 15 lessons. It is anchored in the subject area 'Nature, Man, Society' (Cycle 2) and 'Nature and Technology' as well as 'Spaces, Times, Societies' (Cycle 3) of the nationwide Lernplan 21 and places a special focus on education for sustainable development. In addition to the detailed version, there is also a compact version for 4-5 lessons, which can be ideally combined with an on-site visit to a World Heritage property.

Through practical tasks, children and young people learn to appreciate Switzerland's cultural and natural treasures and thus develop an awareness of their long-term preservation. Kaspar Schürch, Director of WHES, emphasises: "We all bear responsibility for the UNESCO World Heritage properties in Switzerland. With this teaching aid, we want to inspire the next generation for the World Heritage and thus contribute to its preservation."



Living diversity at the vernissage

The event at the World Nature Forum in Naters offered educational stakeholders a comprehensive insight into the many ways in which the UNESCO World Heritage can be used as an out-of-school learning centre. René Providoli from the explore-it foundation opened the vernissage with an exciting impulse for experiencing with and without 'Grätji' (Valais German for digital mobile device). Several speakers then delved deeper into the World Heritage topic before Schulverlag plus demonstrated the new teaching aid. Two experienced teachers also reported on how they use it in practice. A guided tour of the Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch World Heritage visitor centre and a subsequent aperitif with an integrated testing station rounded off the informative afternoon.

Rethinking out-of-school learning

The new teaching material brings World Heritage into the classroom and at the same time encourages teachers to use UNESCO World Heritage as authentic out-of-school learning place. This allows pupils to experience unique learning experiences with their heads, hearts and hands.

Free access to the teaching material (in German)

The teaching aid is now available free of charge on the Schulverlag website:

<https://shop.schulverlag.ch/de/unesco-welterbe-90891.html>

School travel options and further supplements for lessons can be found at: edu.ourheritage.ch

Contact and Information

World Heritage Experience Switzerland

Anja Walker, Project manager Mediation

anja.walker@whes.ch

Tel. 031 544 31 15

edu.ourheritage.ch

Schulverlag plus AG

Fabian Engi, Product Owner myDigit / Akquise Lehrmittelprojekte

fabian.engi@schulverlag.ch

Tel. 058 268 15 03

www.schulverlag.ch