

ISTITUTO COMPRENSIVO "ADELE ZARA", ORIAGO DI MIRA (VENEZIA)

The River Brenta

*present and past
waterways*

*in the reality
and through technology*

LAB ACTIVITIES

YEAR 4 PRIMARY SCHOOLS

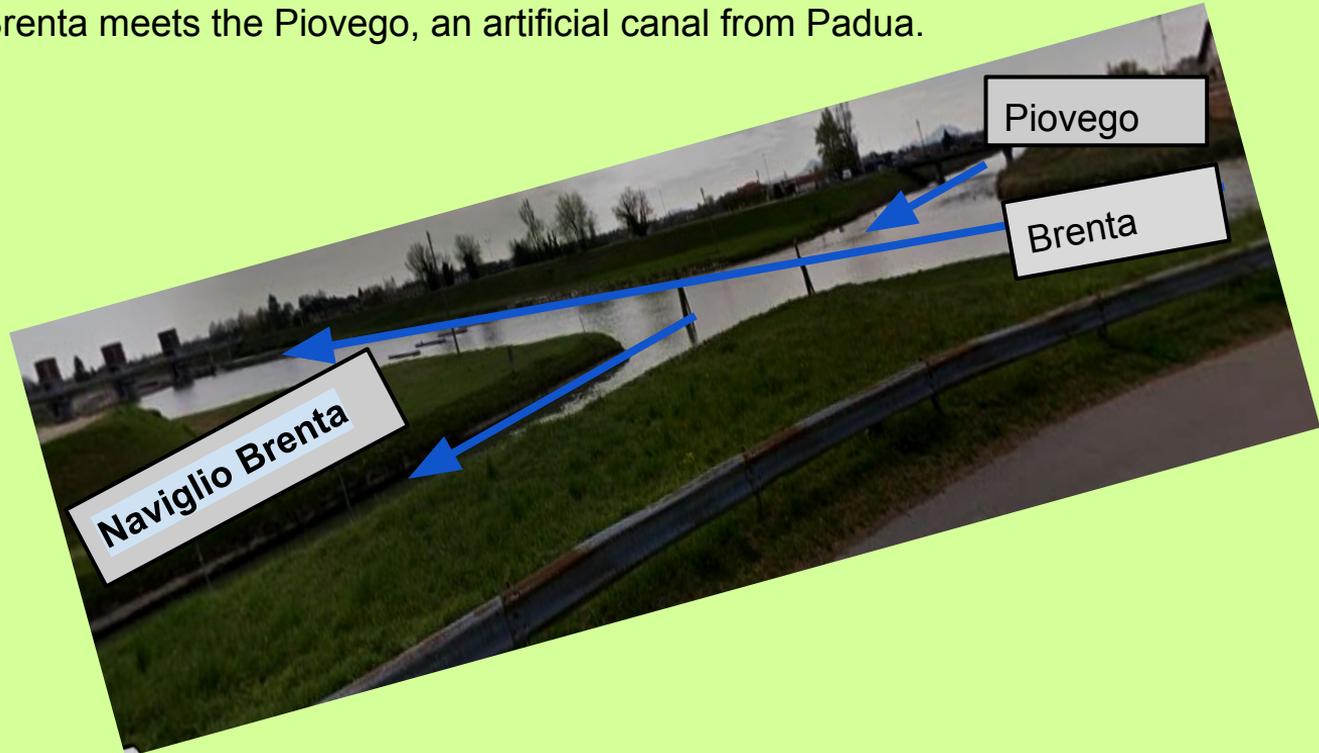
anno scolastico 2019-2020

the River Brenta and the Brenta Naviglio (Canal)

River Brenta rises in the mountains, from Levico and Caldonazzo lakes.

When it comes to Stra, a city on the river banks, a branch of the Brenta, named **Naviglio**, flows into the Venice Lagoon, another one flows into the Adriatic Sea.

Here the Brenta meets the Piovego, an artificial canal from Padua.





This is the **River Brenta**.

It is an important waterway used by people in the past but also nowadays.

It is also an important place for the plants that grow along the riversides and for all the animals that live in and on its waters.



This river has got many bends: they are its natural meanders. They are controlled by human hand with some poles in order not to let the banks collapse



In some points the branches almost touch the water



A lot of plants grow on the river banks



plants

Honey Locust

Scientific name: **ROBINIA PSEUDOACACIA**

in Italian: **ROBINIA**



It is a tree: it can be 20/ 30 m tall.

Its flowers are white and its fruits are reddish and brown.

The trunk and the branches are light green and they've got thornes

Habitat :

It is native to North America but you can find it everywhere here in Italy.



The Honey Locust is a medicinal plant

You can eat its fruits and you can make honey from them too

MARSH REED

Scientific name : **PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS**
in Italian : **CANNA PALUSTRE**

These reeds are long and rigid grass plants. Among them many birds can find shelter.

At the top of the reed there is a head with many small spikes: they are its flowers. It has got long green leaves too.

Habitat

It grows on the river banks and in humid areas.
Its roots are under the water and it reproduces very fast.

Curiosity

In the past it people used it to make brushes and to build the roofs of the peasants' house: "**i casoni**".



WEEPING WILLOW

Scientific name: **SALIX BABYLONICA**

in Italian: **SALICE PIANGENTE**

It can be 25 m tall. Its trunk is grey- brownish.

It has got long and flexible branches

Its green leaves are 10 cm long and 2 cm width.

Its flowers are yellow and very small.

Its fruits are green and small, too.



HABITAT:

The Weeping Willow grows on humid lands so you can often find it along the river or canal banks.

It is native to North China.

CURIOSITY People use its branches to make baskets, hats and wickers.



WHITE WILLOW

Scientific name : **SALIX ALBA LINNEO**
in Italian : **SALICE BIANCO**

It is 15\ 25 metres tall.
Its bark is greyish and its rising silver branches are long and flexibles.

Leaves are spearhead with serrated edges.
It blossoms in March/ April
Its fruits are seeds with cotton tufts.

Habitat: it lives along the river banks.

Curiosity:

People use its wood to make wooden planks and its flexible branches to tie grapevines.

It can be used also as medicinal product.



ELDER

Scientific name: **SAMBUCUS NIGRA.**
in Italian: Sambuco.

It is a small tree with a green bark and whitish branches.
Its flowers are white, small and very fragrant. Leaves are light green. Its fruits are round black-violet berries.

It blossoms in April, May and June.

HABITAT This kind of tree is very common. It loves humid and clay land.

CURIOSITY

Its leaves are poisonous but you can eat flowers and berries
It is called ***magic flute tree*** because you can make flutes and blowpipes out of its branches.



HAZEL TREE

- Common name: Hazel tree
- Venetian name: Noseara
- Scientific name: *Corylus*
- Origin: Asia Minor
- Height: The hazel can reach a height of 4 m.
- Trunk: the trunk is often covered in mosses.
- Leaves: They appear in May and they are oval round.
- Fruits: the hazelnut is the fruit of hazel.
- Flowers: flowers are produced before leaves.



FIG TREE



- Common Name: Fig tree
- Venetian Name: Figaro
- Scientific Name: Ficus Carica
- Origin: Middle East
- Description: Common fig is a small tree
- Trunk: this tree has a short trunk and its bark is grey and smooth.
- Flowers: the flowers bloom inside a pear-shaped pod which later become fruit .
- Leaves: leaves appear in late Spring and they are bright green and divided into deep lobes.
- Curiosity: it was one of the first plants to be cultivated by man.

WATER LILY

- Common name: water lily
- Venetian name: ninfea
- Scientific name: nymphaea
- Origin: Europe
- Description: water lily is a floating plant that lives in the water.
- Flowers: water lily flowers can be pink, yellow or white.
- Leaves: this plant has large leaves and showy flowers.
- Flowering: water lily blooms in warm weather during the late spring and summer months.



BLACK POPLAR

- Common name: Black Poplar
- Venetian name: Piopa
- Scientific : *Populus Nigra*
- Origin: Europe, Asia Minor
- Height: Black Poplar can reach 30m in height and 2m in trunk diameter .
- Leaves: they are triangular and glossy green.
- Fruits: the black poplar produces a lot of seed wool. When the seeds come off it looks as if it snows.
- Flowers: it has male and female flowers. The male flowers are long and red. The female flowers are yellow.





Banana plant

- Common name: banana plant
- Venetian name: banano
- Scientific name: *Musa Paradisiaca*
- Height: it can grow over seven metres tall.
- Trunk: it's not a trunk, but “ pseudostems” .
The banana plant is a perennial herbs.
- Fruits : the banana fruits develop from the “ banana heart” .
The banana heart is the flower of banana plant.
- Leaves : banana plant has large leaves.
Too much wind can shred banana leaves.

THE RIVER BRENTA ANIMALS



The river is a waterway used by animals too.

You can see a lot of birds on its waters and also some egrets resting on the poles along the banks.

Sometimes you can see some bubbles coming out of the river: under the water there is probably a fish swimming!

Fishermen know there are lots of fish in the River Brenta!!!

TENCH



The tench is a freshwater fish; it has got a stocky body covered in scales, with big fat flippers.

The livery is green on the back, while in the ventral side it is light green - yellow.

The flippers are brown to green. The eyes are red.

Usually it reaches a 35-40 cm of length.

It loves muddy seabeds or the ones covered in vegetation.



MALLARD



The Mallard is a big duck with hefty bodies, rounded head and flat bills.

Its beak is as long as the head , Its tail is short and rounded.

The males have a green head and grey wings and belly. The females have brown plumage with orange and brown bills.

When they fly the wings are broad and set back toward the rear.



Sulle acque del Naviglio Brenta il germano reale,
l'anatra con le piume del collo colorate nuota calma



e ogni tanto sale sulla riva e poi
ritorna in acqua





THE SWAN





The swan is a big water bird.
Its wings can spread between 155 and 250 cm

It has got short webbed feet and a long neck.

There's a big change during its growth because the length of the neck rises, the dimension of the wings grows and the colour of the beak and the feathering change.

Generally, swans have grey feathers at birth.

The feathering for the adult swans is commonly white-coloured, partially or totally black.

THE CARP

The Carp can reach between 30 and 60 centimeters of length and between 3 and 35 Kg of weight .

The Carp is a fish that can live up to 20 years.



THE HERON

As an adult, the heron is 98 cm tall and weighs 2 kg.

Its wingspan is about 1.70 m and its feathers are grey and white.

The legs and beak are yellow.

All herons have their necks folded back.



THE SEAGULL

THE SEAGULL

Seagulls are birds up to 75 cm in size.

Its wings are grey, white and black.

The gull takes 4 years to become an adult.

It lives in colonies with other gulls and it nests along the coasts.



THE LITTLE EGRET

The egret is 55 cm long and weighs 650 g.

The feathers are all white, the beak and legs are black.

It has feathers on the nape and at the base of the neck as an ornament.



Sulle acque del Brenta
puoi vedere
anche
molte barche
che portano turisti
che portano prodotti
o fanno gare
o semplicemente
sfilano.
È
la natura del Brenta!



A photograph of a white boat on a canal, with a building and trees on the left and a street with cars on the right. The text "THE END" is overlaid in the center.

THE END