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SALTUM SKOLE

UD I VIRKELIGHEDEN

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Open School

**Education outside the classroom and
bring real life inside the classroom**

Presentation

Anja Rasmussen

Teacher in a public school in Denmark

Saltum Udeskole (Saltum Outdoor School)

Email: anja6618@saltumskole.dk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMslK4VssEY&t=97s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1uFRcLZ9hA&t=62s>

School reform in Denmark 2014: Open School-concept, exercise every day (among many other things)

Our take on the concept: 15 outdoor education days a year.

Didactical thoughts

We work with outdoor learning days like this:

Before	Outdoor learning day	After
We explore a topic in class. Brainstorming, reading, teachers presentations and so on..	We gather information in the real world, we try something that we have learned about or someone is visiting us to teach us something.	We write a rapport or an essay, make models, a podcast or evaluate the topic in other ways. Or we simply continue the topic.

Examples

The youngest pupils have worked with instructive texts such as recipes and manuals in Danish class, and now they are trying to follow some of the instructions in real life in our beautiful surroundings.





4th grade pupils have been exploring the neighbourhood formed by the ice age. They have biked 25 km around Saltum to get a feeling of the hill island Saltum is placed on, and they have seen the very flat area south of Saltum, where there once was an ocean - it is now farmland and a lot of windmills are placed there too.





In science 5th grade have worked with freshwater as a topic and this day they biked to a lake in a small village nearby and explored the life in and around the lake.



In religion 6th grade have collaborated with the church about making a temporary altarpiece to the church, because the existing one is being restored. They have spend time choosing the themes and motives during the topic, and this day they are doing the painting in the church's premises.





The teachers in 7th grade have worked with a cross-curricular project in home economics and biology. They have learned how to prepare a rabbit and cook it on the bonfire. They have found the plants that rabbits eat and they have experienced that the rabbit is an eco-friendly animal to eat.

In geography 8th grade has worked on a topic about high moors and we have biked to Store Vildmose to explore the very special ecosystem. We got a guided tour from a very enthusiastic guide. These photos are from the rest afterwards.





In history the 9th graders have had the topic “2. World War”. This day they visited the historical museum in Aalborg to learn more about the German occupation of Denmark. They also did a city walk in Aalborg to hear the interesting stories about the Churchill Group which was a resistance group.



The thoughts behind:

- increases motivation
- more time to research and reflection
- we believe that the pupils learn more this way
- prepare our pupils to life after school
- we explore the learning possibilities in our surroundings
- teachers are more motivated to deliver interesting lesson plans

Some statements from the pupils

Our topics are exiting

It gives some more variety at school

Thank you for some great days. I really appreciate it!

I remember things better after outdoor learning

Sometimes it is not that fun!

I would like to participate in the planning of a day.

It can be quite exhausting to have the same subject all day..

I get a better understanding of the topics

I like this about our school. I look forward to the next outdoor-day

Outdoor learning is for me to do something else than read and write. It is to get out and being active.

Your turn:

Think about your own field:

If you are an educator, how can you use your surroundings in the subject that you are teaching?

If you are anything else, how can you participate in giving pupils/students a glimpse of your professional competence?

Think of your own home surroundings: Which ones can be a learning opportunity for the local public school?

Other examples

German: Interviewing German tourists in the area

English: Writing a tourist brochure in English about sights from our surroundings.

Danish: Analysing mural paintings in Aalborg (our nearest big city)

Geography: Visiting the harbour of Aalborg to learn about logistics

Math: A trip to IKEA to learn how much it will cost to move away from home

History: Interviewing grandparents or the residents of the local care home

Home economics: Making a christmas meal with your grandparents at their house



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