

FICHE ACTION

Aims and Skills targeted, Aims & description, Results.

AGRIPPINA THE YOUNGER, A POWERFUL WOMAN (1st c. A.D.)	
Participants: 31 Italian students	Date: 22/04/2021 Place: Cerignola, Italy
<p>Aims and skills targeted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To know and deepen a female figure of great importance lived in the Roman Empire. • To understand the meaning of written, material, oral, iconographic sources. • To recognize and attribute the value of "influencer" to a woman of the ancient age. • To apply correctly the method of translation, interpretation, understanding, to penetrate deeply into the context of Roman culture. • To know how to place historical facts in the coordinates of space and time. • To know how to select and use computer data, iconographic and non-iconographic sources, websites to develop digital communication, using different languages. 	
<p>Description: It is known that in the late republic and in the early imperial age, many Roman women began to participate more intensely in social life making themselves protagonists, through marriages, of a political life always precluded from them. This is what happened to Agrippina the Younger, fourth wife of Emperor Claudius and mother of Nero. In her portrait and in her life, legends are confused with history, leaving us with the image of an ambitious, powerful woman, but also full of contradictions. He is a female figure mentioned by historians Tacitus, Cassius Dione, Suetonius and the naturalist Pliny the Elder. The starting point of the students' work was the knowledge of historical events related to the period of the Julio-Claudian dynasty and the knowledge of such an intense and particular female character, able to juggle court intrigues and ambition towards power. Thanks to the recovery of materials, images of archaeological finds, such as coins, marble busts and other direct historical sources, such as the work of Tacitus and Suetonius, in the original language and in translation, the students were able to learn about different aspects of the character and some salient episodes of his life, such as the death ordered by his son Nero and represented by the students in a colorful and compelling storyboard. The brainstorming activity allowed an overall look at the figure of Agrippina, as it was handed down to us by Latin writers and the focus of words and images of power. Through guided debates, the students were able to reflect on how suggestive and manipulative the power of words and images can be, learning to communicate clearly and autonomously. Agrippina's studio has brought to light how her regal bearing, her beauty, her charm as a cultured and intelligent woman, her hairstyle, precisely at the "Agrippina", were a model to imitate for Roman matrons: an <i>influencer</i> of that time! Thus, students with creativity and enthusiasm have created feminine hairstyles from the Roman era with the help of a material as particular as it is "good" for us Italians: pasta! The students had a lot of fun in the realization of these extravagant hairstyles, taking the opportunity to present and celebrate, a characteristic element of their country.</p>	
<p>Results: The students, through the realization of PowerPoint, storyboards, illustrated billboards, images, magazine "Hairstyles in the ancient Rome", on original creations by Agrippina and by Roman women, with the material technique, have managed to achieve the objectives required in this work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge and deepening of a female character of a historical era of importance for Roman history, the Giulio-Claudian age, through the analysis of sources, the direct work of historians, the selection of websites. Persistence of classical tradition in the current reality. 2. Reading, translation, interpretation of the work of historians Tacitus and Suetonius to reflect on Roman culture and apply different strategies for translation. 3. Storyboarding: dialogues, images, captions. 4. Communicate clearly and effectively, promoting innovative attitudes in debates, even divergent but always respectful of others. Recognize the charm of the word, from affabulation to its manipulation. 	



