

FRANCE PREŠEREN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS 2C

PROJECT: Biodiversity - the Importance of Being Different



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THE MYSTERIOUS RIVER

On 30th May 2017 we visited

**ŠTIVAN- SAN GIOVANNI DEL
TIMAVO**

»No river can return to its source, yet all rivers must have a beginning«





**The true story of a river from
its beginning to its end.**

The River Reka



- The River Reka (literally 'river' in Slovene), is a river that starts as Vela voda (Big Creek) in Croatia on the southern side of Mount Snežnik, and flows through western Slovenia, where it is also initially known as Velika voda (Big Creek). The river is 54 kilometres (34 mi) long. At the village of Škocjan we saw it disappear underground through Škocjan Caves, and were told it flows 38 km (24 mi) underneath the Slovenian Karst.

Izginjajoča Reka

Dissapearing Reka river

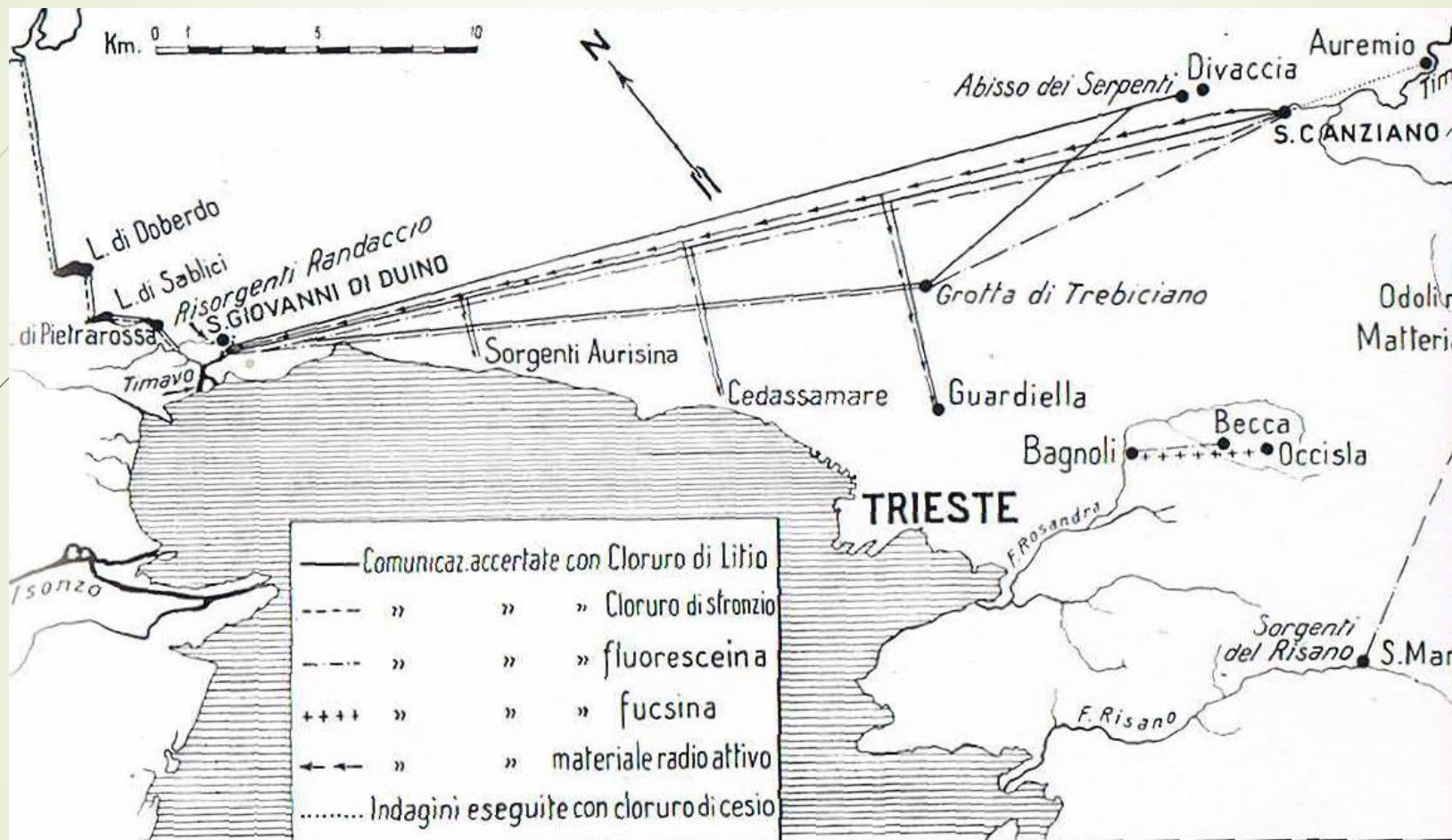


Reka - reka Reka (pov. in val. klan)

Prečni prerez toka Reke od izvirov pod Snežnikom, prek doline Reke do ponora v Škocjanske jame in njenega podzemnega toka pod Kraško planoto do izvirov v tržaški zaliv pri Devinu.

Cross section of Reka river flow from springs under Snežnik mountain, trough river valley to ponor in Škocjan Caves and its underground chanelles under Karst plateau till springs near Devin.

Podzemno pot Timave še vedno preučujejo...



- Shema rezultatov, ki jih je dobil G. Timeus po zapletenih raziskavah kraške hidrologije od 1907 do 1925 (po L.V. Bertarelliju in E. Boeganu, 1926)



The river continues as part of the River Timavo-Timava in Italy, where we met it at San Giovanni di Duino-Štivan.



The River Timavo-Reka Timava

- ▶ **The River Timavo - reka Timava, is a two-kilometre stream in the Province of Trieste. It has four sources near San Giovanni di Duino - Štivan and outflows in the Gulf of Panzano (part of the Gulf of Trieste) 3 kilometres (2 mi) southeast of Monfalcone-Tržič, Italy.**
- ▶ **The river has a karst character. It receives much of its water through the subterranean flow from the Reka River (Slovenia), but tracer studies have shown that other sinking rivers, Vipava, Soča, and Raša also contribute. From modelling results, the Timavo is believed to receive one third of its flow from the River Reka and two-thirds of its flow from infiltration of rain water into the Karst Plateau, and to a lesser extent from the other sinking river sources.**
- ▶ **The Roman authors Livy, Strabo, and Virgil mentioned the river. Virgil wrote that nine streams emerge from a mountain to form the river. A Roman settlement near the sources was called Fons Timavi.**

»A church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints«



The Church of San Giovanni in Tuba

- San Giovanni in Tuba is a church in San Giovanni di Duino-Štivan, a hamlet which is part of the municipality of Duino-Devin in the Province of Trieste, in the north-east of Italy. It is located at the source of the River Timavo and is notable for the remains of a paleo-Christian basilica.
- There are remains indicating that in the beginning it was a pagan temple dedicated to god Diomedes, Temavus, Hercules and Saturn. In 568 with the arrival of the Lombards in 610, or with the invasion of the Avars, the relics that had been laid under the altar was hidden in another place. The invasion of the Hungarians completely destroyed the Benedictine Monastery.
- In 1112 the patriarch Vodolrico ordered the reconstruction work of the church. In mid-1400 the Walsee Duino, feudal lords of the Timavo springs and its port, added a Gothic apse. Further damage to the structure of the church was caused in the 15th and 16th centuries by the Turks, and a restoration was undertaken in 1519 by Giovanni Hoffer, Captain of Duino in 1642, when the bell tower was built in Venetian style.
- The church of San Giovanni in Tuba was heavily damaged in 1917 during the World War I. The frescoes were almost all lost. What was saved is the floor of the ancient Christian basilica, a polychrome mosaic with geometric motifs including Solomon's knots, and floral designs.
- Today, mass is not celebrated in the Church.



WHY SAN GIOVANNI IN TUBA?

San Giovanni, the Italian form of "Saint John", is a name that may refer to dozens of saints. The name "Tuba" originates perhaps from tumba, considering the graves found at the site, or the Latin word tuba that means a natural or artificial waterway, in relation to the nearby underground river.

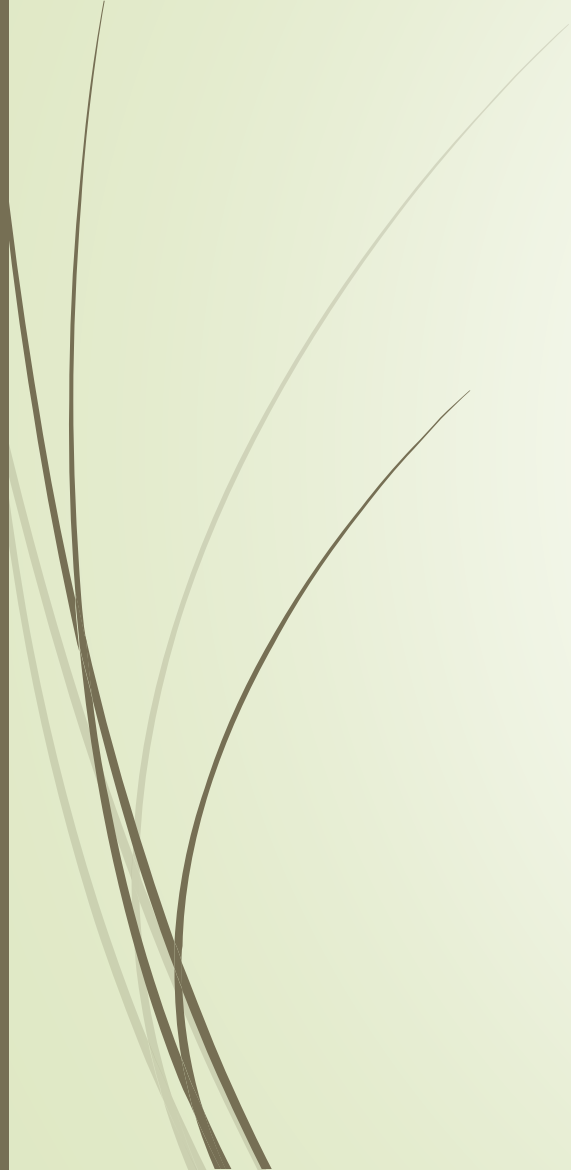


**»Once we're on the tracks, all roads
lead to Rome«**



Roman Roads

- Roman roads (Latin: viae; singular: via meaning way) were vital to the maintenance and development of the Roman state, and were built from about 300 BC through the expansion and consolidation of the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire. Roman roads were of several kinds, ranging from small local roads to broad, long-distance highways built to connect cities, major towns and military bases. These major roads were often stone-paved and metaled, cambered for drainage, and were flanked by footpaths, bridleways and drainage ditches. They were laid along accurately surveyed courses, and some were cut through hills, or conducted over rivers and ravines on bridgework. Sections could be supported over marshy ground on rafted or piled foundations.
- Friuli Venezia Giulia-Furlanija - Julijska krajina has been a crossroads between Central and Oriental Europe since most remote times.
- The presence of Romans in the area is documented by Livy in 178 BC.
- The road which connected Aquileia-Oglej to Istria-Istra was relevant because close to the River Timavo-Timava there was an inland natural harbour. The route was so popular that a 'Mansio' - a rest area for wayfarers and for feeding and changing horses - was built in San Giovanni di Duino-Štivan area.
- Roman Roads were a strategic resource because they made the circulation of people, goods and raw materials possible and easier. They also made possible sharing ideas and cults: an evidence is the cave, not far from the mouth of the River Timavo, consecrated to Mitra, a Persian divinity, who represents sunlight that fertilizes nature. The worship of this divinity reached Italy after the war between Pompey and Cilician pirates in 67 BC.





Mithraeum

- The Mithraeum is located near Duino-Devin. Mithraea were places of worship for the followers of the Roman mystery religion known as the Mithraic Mysteries. Unlike most other Mithraea, the Duino-Devin Mithraeum is a natural cave.
- The Duino-Devin cave is located about two kilometers from the sources of the River Timavo-Timava. At the center of the cave there are two benches and a square block of limestone that served as an altar during religious ceremonies. The lower wall has a plaque on two columns depicting the tauroctony, a standard iconic feature of the Mithraic Mysteries. 400 coins, oil lamps and a large number of jars were found in the cave.

»Life is a quarry out of which we are to mold and chisel and complete a character«



»We didn't realise we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun«

