

„ Ahorn” Project

Thinking about the project “Themenweg” required going hiking with our students several times a year. In 2001 a felled maple tree - according to the conservation authority 400 years old - was discovered by chance. The tree-trunk, that would have rotted, was acquired for our community by committed local people and some teachers. The maple tree is the reason for covering the time period from 1600 up to the present.

Feature: The project does not only take into consideration the history of our region, but directs attention to important historical episodes of the countries of our partner schools, of Europe and the world.



17 th Century

People living there. In the 2 nd part of the 17 th century the Turks attacked Vienna. In 1683 about 250 000 Turks attacked the city for two months. Finally the Turkish force suffered a devastating defeat by Jan Sobieski (a Polish king) and Duke Karl von Lothringen. Vienna was saved.

During this siege most of the houses in the area were destroyed, the church, its parish and its chronicles were destroyed. Even the Grünbach parson and lots of were killed. It is said that their blood was pouring down the hills around the church.

In 1726 the church and its parish were rebuilt, so the ritual life was possible again.

The “Türkensturz” at Seebenstein – a legend



In the year 1532 the Turks invaded Hungary again and expanded into the country. While their main forces were laying siege to Güns (Köszeg), single troops even entered Austria. On their raids they came to the valley of Pitten. The peasants of Seebenstein and Gleißfeld, however, joined forces armed with all kind of peasant utensils. In their despair they found the courage to attack the Turks. The peasants succeeded in

dispersing the enemies, expelling them away from the country.

The Turks tried to avoid the revenge of angry peasants and - as a consequence - a small part of Turkish troops got into the woods near Seebenstein. As the leader of the hostile troops saw a brightly lit figure of a woman, he ordered his men to follow and capture her. The young woman - who indeed was Holy Mary – escaped to a steep precipice. There she suddenly jumped sideways whereas the Turks fell down into the precipice. One single man survived as he came to rest upon a tree. He told how the transcendental apparition had led the others to death. From that time on the sheer rock walls have been called “Türkensturz”.

18 th century



In the 18th century Austria's history was dominated by the outstanding Habsburg ruler Maria Theresa (1770-1780), Queen of Hungary and Bohemia and Archduchess of Austria. Her father, the Emperor Charles VI, had drawn up the

“Pragmatic Sanction”: The empire was to descend to his daughter if there was no direct male heir. Up to his death Charles VI had spent the years trying to get the powers of Europe to guarantee the succession, but in vain.

At twenty-three, untrained, Maria Theresa succeeded to the throne. This woman had to defend her country against France, Prussia, Saxony and Bavaria.

Until the end of her reign she brought about a vast programme of reform: she made the Habsburg bureaucracy more efficient, she reorganised the legal, educational and feudal system, limited the Roman-Catholic influence, set up a professional army, and cured the finances. As a mother of 16 children Maria Theresa became “Europe's mother-in-law”, she strengthened political ties by her marriage policy.



In Wiener Neustadt, which is 22 km from Grünbach, Maria Theresa founded Austria's only Military academy. It is still the training centre for the officer cadets. Half way between Wiener Neustadt and the district town of Neunkirchen there are to be seen marking stones which were used as starting points for surveying all the land of the monarchy. Along this route the “Föhrenwald” (pine forest) was grown in order to protect the former barren land from the cold Schneeberg winds.

19 th Century

In this century the INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION led to many worldwide important changes of the society. JAMES WATT `s invention of the steam engine was the first impulse. Steam engines needed more coal

COAL PITS were made worldwide

THE COAL MINE in GRÜNBACH	In 1800	1st exploration
	In 1820:	1st coal output
	In 1850:	1st pits were dug



Between 1831- 1870 the pioneers who first explored the coal mine were called MIESBACH and DRASCHE who then modernized the Austrian coal mines in Grünbach.

The coal output in these mines increased enormously. Eleven millions tons of coals were produced until the shut down in 1965.

With the development of Stephenson`s steam engines the triumph of the railway began.

The railway called "SCHNEEBERGBAHN" from Wr. NEUSTADT → GRÜNBACH → PUCHBERG was built.

In 1897: the inauguration of the railway

Machines of all types led to mass production; new kinds of jobs were created.

The exploit of the workers brought enormous riches for many factory owners.

CAPITALISM came up →

On the other hand many labourers had to work for less wages.

Machines replaced the workers and the unemployment escalated.

This bad social situation led to the foundation of new parties, communities of interests and unions. The old political systems weren`t necessary any longer and broke down.

20 th Century

1955 – The year Austria received her State Treaty

1955 was of great importance, both for Austria in general and for Grünbach as well. The Austrian State Treaty was signed by Austria and the four World War II occupation powers who had liberated Austria and put up occupation zones (the British, the French, the United States and the Soviets). Austria's independence was restored. The Soviets who were in Grünbach for ten years had to leave, too. Austria declared her "everlasting neutrality". In remembrance of it we celebrate the 26th of October as our national public holiday.



www.aeiou.at/aeiou.encyclop.s/s739842.htm