

Seaviors Aci Middle School Report-2019-2020



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Aims:

Our project is creating an awareness for the importance of a healthy environment for the three species of dolphins. Climate, clean water and partnerships with others are topics of our project. We will come up with actions to teach students in our school and other students in our neighborhood about threats like hunting, marine and water pollution, overfishing, bycatch, climate change in Arctic and Antarctic.

Timeline and highlights from our experiences:

- October:** We became part of Research and Project Group that is an after school club. We wanted to make our city more liveable. We listed problems and would like to turn our ideas into reality as participants as **GSL competition**.
- November:** We created a Project **timeline**. We studied **SDGs** and watched videos and presentations. We **identified the problems** and our field of study. Made researches about species and characteristics of dolphins, effects on them, water pollution, fishing, TUDAV reports, etc. Summarized and wrote reports. Shared with each other.
- Late December, early January:** **pre-test surveys were conducted** to measure what Gr5-6-7 students know (to know our community). We prepared the questions and investigated their answers. Had field visit to choose the right place to clean (Black Sea seaside)
- Late January:** We supported the other GSL team's field observation and workshop. Also, **applied to Children and Youth Biental** to reach more people.
- February:** We **organized GSL TALKS** and invited scientists to make presentations to each grade students about climate, water, dolphin and arctics (explained on the right table).
- February and March:** We analyzed pre-test surveys.
- Mid of March and April:** Because of the pandemic, these events cancelled:
April 16th: **dolphin observation trip**
March 24-27th: **beach clean-up with gr5 students**,
Mid of April: **Biental is cancelled**.
post-test survey and our own process presentation
- Late April:** Completed our report, video and blog that demonstrate our journey.

We cannot think of sea water separately from fresh water. We invited Akgun İlhan from Istanbul Policy Center to give a speech about water issues of Istanbul and recycling and waste management.



We love the big picture. All livings are connected and we wanted to learn what Mr Sinan from Polar Research Center experienced scientific trips in Arctic and Antarctica and asked him to give a talk about how climate change in these regions affects dolphins in Istanbul.



We will try to increase the awareness of the species of dolphins living in Bosphorus. We will develop the knowledge of threats to the Bosphorus/Marmara Sea and to the dolphins. We will explore ideas of how to clean up the beaches and find the possible solutions for sustainable sea life in Istanbul. Zeynep Gulenc from TUDAV gave a talk about dolphin species during GSL TALKS (event: series of scientists' presentations)



In order to get funding and implement sustainably, we worked in cooperative partnership with
- Istanbul Metropolitan municipality ([IBBDeniz](#))
- head of local municipality ([Sarıyer Belediyesi](#)),
- Zeynep Gulenc from TUDAV ([Turkish Marine Research Foundation](#))
- Zekeriyaqoy Middle School
- Sinan Yirmibesoglu from [ITU Polar Research Center](#)
- Akgün İlhan from [Istanbul Policy Center](#)

Impacts:

- We mostly worked one hour a week (between 3.45-4.45 pm on Monday). Also, we spent more time during GSL TALKS, survey, tasks, etc.
- We reached 322 students in our middle school and 10 volunteer students from other public school to share with their friends.



GSL TALKS posters are put on the school walls.

What we learnt and which knowledge and skills we gained:

We made some research about what harms the dolphins and what the species of dolphins in the Bosphorus are. How climate change and water pollution affects their habitat. Learnt about what the relation between water sanitation and cetaceans

We had well-developed communication skills and used advanced level language skills. We learned research skills and know to use online resources. We also have a good reading, questioning, reasoning and analyzing abilities.

We learnt how to connect NGO, municipality with the help of our mentor teacher. Also, we practiced leadership and organization skills during GSL TALKS and survey. We experienced collaborations, work-sharing, taking responsibility, being productivity, time management, organizing events, making presentations, and analyzing data.



A memory from the presentation held in assembly area. Gr7 students listening Polar Research Center presentation.

Funding:

- We convinced our school administration to support our paper and poster print, transportation and snacks for our guests.
- We convinced local governments for dolphin observation boat tour and beach clean up day.

Outcomes:

We implemented pre-test (Figure-1-see below) on Socrative (web-based assessment tool) to 322 students to see their prior knowledge before our actions about dolphins, climate and water issues in Istanbul. We couldn't implement post-test because of lockdown and couldn't compare the results in order to be able to measure how effective we were in terms of creating awareness quantitatively. But we experienced how people were excited and engaged during presentations. Visitor students also shared their happiness. The guest scientists were impressed by the listeners. They shared their ideas and feelings on interview (see in our video). We were more satisfied with the impact if we could implement the actions mentioned in future plans below. In order to secure the sustainability of our Project, we assigned some protocols to run these events each year with a greater number students in public schools.

Future plans:

We are planning to arrange these events when the lockdown ends. (cancelled due to Covid-19 lockdown)

- Taking 5th grade students (101 students and 10 teachers) to the seaside of Black Sea to do some cleaning with professional equipment with the helps of the local government.
- Going on a boat tour in Bosphorus to do some dolphin watching and make scientific observations with help of TUDAV.

How we involved the community and organizations:

We invited the scientists via email, Social media, or phone. We told them our goals and asked them to spend some time to present. We hosted and arranged transportation with the help of our school administration.

We arranged a face-to-face meeting via phone with the help of head of school and convinced local governments to arrange boat tour and beach clean up day. We announced all events and organization on our Instagram account. Read QR code on first page.



Our school is a private school but we also support students in public school and invited volunteer students to events in our school. They came with their teachers

Rooms for development:

We could've been more active on our social media. It was pretty limited at the beginning of the year.

We run the survey for pre-test and organized GSL TALKS but couldn't make our own presentations due to Covid-19 lockdown.

We could've been more connected to our school if we were telling the other students about our Project.

We could've worked more on our project. Raising awareness and cleaning is good but we are just a small patch for a giant hole that is the bycatch and hunting by the fishermen in the black market. We still believe that we could have made a change.

Figure-1: A Screenshot of pre-test survey implemented to 322 students in our middle school. It shows what they know about dolphins, and climate change.

Total Score (%)	Number of Correct Answers	Istanbul Bogazi'nda yunus ya:	Marmara Denizi'nde yunus ya:	Karadeniz'de yunus yasiyor m	Istanbul Bogazi'nda yaklasik k	Istanbul Bogazi'nda kac tur y	Istanbul'da y
14,29	1	C	A	B	E	E	C
71,43	5	A	A	C	D	B	A
100	7	A	A	A	D	B	A
42,86	3	C	A	A	E	E	A
14,29	1	B	B	A	C	C	C
71,43	5	A	A	A	D	C	A
85,71	6	A	A	A	C	B	A
57,14	4	C	A	B	D	B	A
42,86	3	A	A	B	E	A	B
57,14	4	A	A	A	C	C	A
28,57	2	C	C	A	E	E	A
42,86	3	A	C	B	C	B	A
71,43	5	A	B	A	D	B	A
85,71	6	A	A	A	C	B	A
57,14	4	A	A	B	B	B	A
71,43	5	A	B	A	D	B	A
57,14	4	A	B	A	D	D	A
57,14	4		68,75	68,75	62,5	37,5	56,25