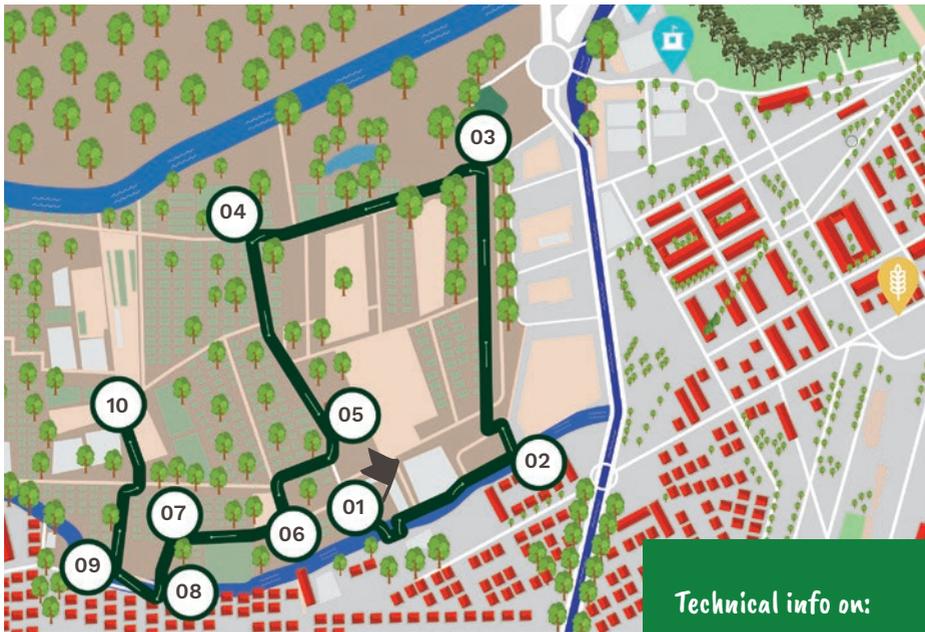




Discovering the importance of the Santa Eugènia Vegetable Gardens

ROUTE THROUGH THE SANTA EUGÈNIA VEGETABLE GARDENS

Discovering the importance of the Santa Eugènia Vegetable Gardens



*The numbers on the map correspond to points of tourist interest

We invite you to embark on a unique adventure of discovery through Santa Eugènia Vegetable Gardens of Girona, with the charismatic “Merdisser” as your guide. This route has been designed in detail through charming spaces that reveal the richness of this area’s nature and history. Each step will be an opportunity to connect with the beauty offered by the Hortes (Vegetable Gardens). With Merdisser’s great stories, you’re sure to have an unforgettable day! We are excited to take this journey with you, and we’re sure you will enjoy this route and all of the discoveries it has in store.

Welcome to Santa Eugènia Vegetable Gardens !



Technical info on:

Difficulty 

· Low

Distance 

· 3 km

Time 

· 1 h

Unevenness 

· 0m+ 4m-



Introduction

Pleased to meet you! Do you know who I am? My name is Merdisser, and I'm a well-known capgròs (carnival figure with a large head) from the city of Girona!

I want to tell you how important the Santa Eugènia Vegetable Gardens are, and what it means to have this wonder of nature so close to the city of Girona.

Come with me to discover Santa Eugènia Vegetable Gardens! And help me make sure the crops give us food all year long.





Activity 1

Energy is the first step! Let's go!

This is a real gearset from the old “Marfà” cotton thread factory, which dates back to 1819, according to records. It was the first textile mill established in the Girona area. These gears turned with the running water, and generated the energy the factory needed to work.



Want to know more about the Marfà Factory? Scan this QR code to see historic photos from those days:
<https://web.girona.cat/lamarfa/historia>



Hydroelectric energy is a source of **renewable** energy that makes use of the natural cycle of water. It's one of the oldest, and most widespread ways of generating electricity in the world. It's also a clean source of energy, since it doesn't create any pollutants or emissions while it's generating electricity.

Can you help me get the water to run through these gears so they can start generating energy?



Can you say how many gears the water has run through to reach the center?

Answer. The water has run through



gears.





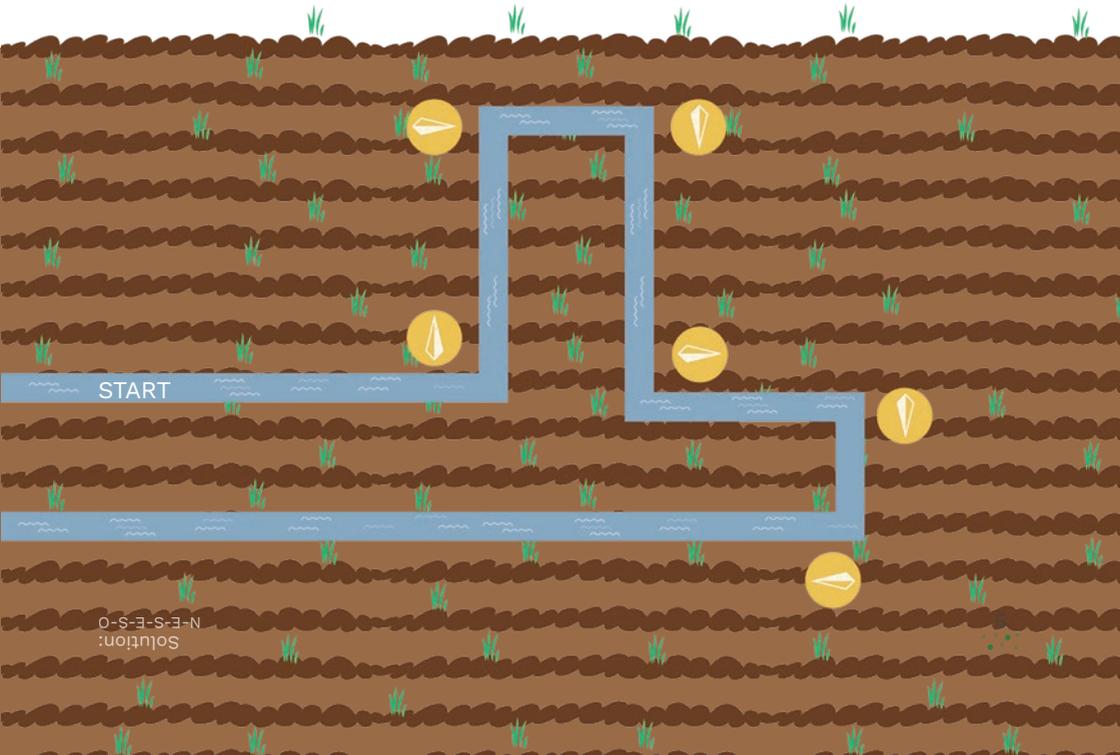
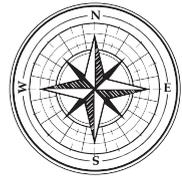
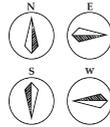
Activity 2

Cardinal points and the irrigation channel

The Monar irrigation channel is very important. It brings water to the crops we want to grow. Do you know the cardinal points? North, south, east and west!

Now you'll see a picture of the Monar irrigation channel following a path with five changes of direction. If it goes to the right, write an E for "east"; if it goes up, write an N for "north"; What would you write if it goes to the left? Or down? Take time to think about it!

Write the initial of the cardinal point for every change of direction that occurs along the course of the Monar irrigation channel:



Solution:
N-E-S-E-S-O



Activity 3

Discover the wildlife of the Santa Eugènia Vegetable Gardens

I know all of the animals that live in the Vegetable Gardens. I often see them running, playing or eating. I make sure not to bother them, because some of them are small and it is easy to frighten them. But I'm sure you'll see some if you watch patiently.

Can you help me answer these questions? I've seen so many animals, I can't remember some of their traits. Check the correct answer:

Fauna



1. What is the name of an animal that lives in the Vegetable Gardens, known for jumping non-stop, having big teeth and eating grass?

- a) Lion
- b) Rabbit
- c) Otter

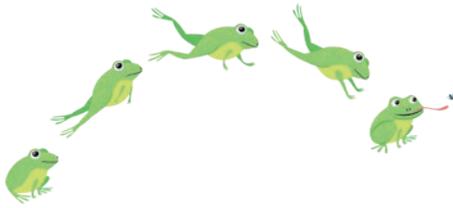
2. What is the name of a green animal that loves the still waters of the Vegetable Gardens?

- a) Snake
- b) Salamander
- c) Toad



3. What is the name of a small animal with a long tail that hides in the Vegetable Gardens?

- a) Hen
- b) Goat
- c) Wood mouse



Activity 4

Discover the wildlife of the Santa Eugènia Vegetable Gardens

In addition to the wildlife, I also know the different varieties of plants, or flora, that live in the Vegetable Gardens. In fact, I have planted some of them in my own garden! Here is a list of six things. Two are bushes, three are flowers and one is a fruit tree!

Can you match the names of these plants to their picture?

Flora

1 • **White willows** (*Salix alba*)

2 • **Fig trees** (*Ficus carica*)

3 • **Fineleaf fumitory** (*Fumaria parviflora*)

4 • **Field milk thistle** (*Sonchus arvensis*)

5 • **Wood sorrel** (*Oxalis sp.*)

A)



B)



C)



D)



E)



White willows have always been a key part of the Vegetable Gardens landscape. Their shade brings down the temperature in summer. When their branches are trimmed, they are used to mark the boundaries of the garden plots.



Activity 5

What if you were a vegetable farmer?

Here we are, at Can Po Vell, an old farmhouse, located in the middle of the Vegetable Gardens. It's been restored, and it is now home to the Municipal Workshop School, where students can study construction and gardening. It also houses the Vegetable Gardens offices. If you ever want to farm a garden plot of your own, you know where to go! I'd like you to be vegetable farmers today. Use your imagination and think about a few questions:

1. Circle: If you were a farmer, what crop would you like to grow?



2. Mark: What would you rather learn; to be a gardener or a builder?



CONSTRUCTION



GARDENING

3. Describe: What would a day spent in the Vegetable Gardens be like? What activities or workshops would you like to do? What rules would you follow? How would you behave? Describe it here.



Activity 6

Names of the most popular crops

Here we are in the middle of Santa Eugènia Vegetable Gardens. We can see each plot of land is marked off, and is growing different crops. The parcels of cultivable land are of varied sized, we find large ones and very small ones. These pieces of farmland are called plots. So, if you want to make a nice salad with your favorite ingredients, you know what to do!

Regenerative agriculture uses techniques to restore organic matter and the biodiversity of the soil, to revert the effects of global warming.



If we want the plants to give us fruits and vegetables of the highest quality, we have to water and take care of them, and protect them from the cold and the wind.

Do you know the names of any of the crops you'll find growing in the Vegetable Gardens? Do the crossword puzzle to discover their names. But be careful! There's one that doesn't belong here!

ZUCCHINI | THYME | LEMON TREE | LETTUCE | ONION | COCONUT

Solution:
INTRUDER: COCONUT



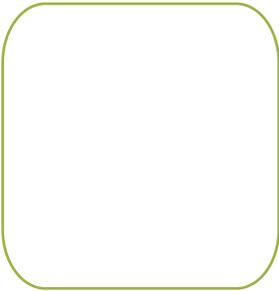
Activity 7

The Vegetable Gardens' natural resources

We don't need pens or pencils! Nature gives us everything we need to write. You can use leaves, sand, water, soil or even flowers! Flowers provide the color. Water and soil can be the ink and paper. Each of these things is like a brush prepared for creation, turning nature into a rich source of supplies.

Can you write the word "TER" with these supplies? A different letter goes into each square. Let your creativity bloom!

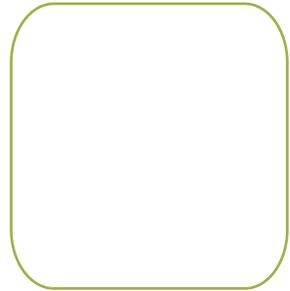
T



E



R





Activity 8

The Vegetable Gardens help us breathe!

We're close to the municipality of Salt, still within the city of Girona, and near the entrance to Santa Eugènia Vegetable Gardens. See how close the countryside is? We have to know how lucky we are to have this farmland this close to the city, and how important it is to care for it. There are not many people who live in cities and have Vegetable Gardens and the countryside just a few steps away.

There was a word I always used to refer to the Vegetable Gardens of the city of Girona, but I seem to have forgotten it. Can you use this symbol alphabet to unscramble the word?



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
☆	✿	☯	☾	☯	♀	☾	⊕	•
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
✱	✱	☯	♥	♥	◯	💧	☀	↻
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
⚡	↑	☺	♂	≈	+	◦	⚡	



Santa Eugènia Vegetable Gardens are the city's ___ because they help us breathe, and enjoy a natural area, right next to an urban setting. That's why we have to protect them!





Activity 9

A poem for the bridge and a promise for nature

Do you know Amor (Love) Bridge? I cross it every day to get to the Vegetable Gardens. It's one of the city of Girona's oldest bridges. The bridge crosses over the irrigation channel. I've written a poem we can recite together. It will help us understand the value of the Vegetable Gardens, and the love we should have for them!

Let's recite it together out loud! It goes like this:

Let's cross Amor Bridge, on a journey of colors,
the Vegetable Gardens are a magical place full of flowers.
With respect and attention, like a treasure to cherish,
let's give them loving care, and watch them flourish.





Activity 10

The Vegetable Gardens' classic crops

I've split the names of some typical Garden vegetables into syllables, and separated them from their plant! Can you put the syllables back in order and write the name under the right plant? That way you'll help me classify this year's crops, an important job to know what's been planted and how much has been produced.

You may know the potato and the tomato, but what about the potato or the tomato plant?

Connect the fruit or vegetable with their plant, and you'll find the correct order of the syllables.

pe | er | pp



ke | ar | ti | cho



to | to | ma



ta | po | to





Activity 11

Download the official route diploma

Thanks for helping me take care of the Vegetable Gardens and the plants, and completing the route that helps conserve nature (especially the Natura 2000 Network) with responsible waste management.

I've had so much fun telling you all you need to know about Santa Eugènia Vegetable Gardens, their natural spaces and crops! It's wonderful to see your commitment to the challenging task of caring for the Earth.

It's time to get your hard-earned OFFICIAL MERDISSESSER HELPER DIPLOMA! Scan the QR code to download it and add your name.

Remember that you can always keep a digital copy, so there's no need to print it! (That way we also save paper.)

Explorer Notes



A large, light green rectangular area with rounded corners, designed for writing notes. It features 18 horizontal dashed lines spaced evenly down the page.

Explorer Notes



A large rectangular area with rounded corners, outlined in green, containing ten horizontal dashed lines for writing notes.



Explorer Notes

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Menja't Girona

Merdisser ENG: DL GJ 27-2024