Today we students of the Ekoskola culture accretion group had the opportunity to visit Buskett Gardens, for a hands-on activity and an audiovisual exhibition.

We started our day with a tour of the park where we were introduced to a number of indigenous trees. During the tour, we show the Araar tree (Għargħar), and white poplar (Il-Luq) among others. According to the guide, many different trees and shrubs grow in the gardens but there are also many fruit-bearing trees there as well. This is one of the greenest areas in Malta. Indigenous forests once covered Malta, but trees were cut down for shipbuilding in the era when galleons plied the Mediterranean waters. Perhaps the Buskett Gardens offer a glimpse of what Malta looked like in those days.

We also had the opportunity to discuss with the guide our ideas about the possibility of creating a garden within the school premises. He offered also to help. In fact, a representative of the Tree 4 Campaign offered a planted seed to all the students.

After the tour, another guide explained to us the material exhibited. The exhibition included printed material as well as a number of short clips to explain the different forest scenario in four different countries. We had the opportunity to learn about what is happening in the Amazonia and in Botswana.

The Exhibition’s main aims as illustrated by the Kopin representative were to raise awareness about the environmental, cultural, social and economical importance of forest. She also highlighted the main problems related to deforestation and exploitative practices.