



Title:	Exploring the Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Impacts on the Silesian Region
Objective:	Students will be able to identify and explain the cultural heritage of the Silesian Region and the impacts of climate change on its natural resources.
Materials Needed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whiteboard or chalkboard• Markers or chalk• Printed handouts• Access to the internet for research (optional)
Lesson Plan:	
Introduction (5 minutes):	Greet the students and introduce the topic of the lesson: the cultural heritage of the Silesian Region. Briefly explain that the region has a rich history and a mix of cultures that have influenced its customs, traditions, and architecture.
Lesson Content (25 minutes):	Reading and Discussion (15 minutes): Hand out printed copies of the text to each student and ask them to read it silently. After they finish, ask them to share any new information they learned about the Silesian Region's cultural heritage. Ask questions to promote discussion, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are some of the cultural symbols of the Silesian Region?• What is the Silesian wedding like?• What are some popular dishes in the region?• What are some examples of Silesian architecture?• What impact has climate change had on the region's cultural heritage? Group Activity (10 minutes): Divide the students into small groups. Give each student the question sheet for the article and ask each group to work together on answering the questions. After the groups have completed the activity, go over the answers together as a class.
Activities (10 minutes):	Play a short video or audio clip of Silesian music or dance to give the students a taste of the region's cultural heritage.
Conclusion (5 minutes):	Review the main points of the lesson and ask students if they have any questions. Emphasize the importance of protecting and preserving the region's cultural heritage. Encourage students to learn more about the Silesian Region and its cultural heritage on their own.

Read the article below and answer the questions.

The Effects Climate Change Has on the Cultural Heritage of the Silesian Region

The Silesian Region, located in southern Poland, has a rich cultural heritage that dates back centuries. The region is home to a diverse mix of Polish, German, Czech, and Slovak cultures, which have all influenced its unique customs, traditions, and architecture.

One of the most prominent cultural symbols of the Silesian Region is its distinct dialect, which is a mix of Polish and German languages. The dialect is still widely spoken by many residents of the region and is often used in folk songs, poems, and literature. Another cultural tradition that is unique to the region is the “Silesian wedding,” which is known for its lively music, colourful costumes, and traditional dances.

The Silesian Region is also known for its culinary heritage, which includes hearty meat dishes, traditional soups, and a variety of bread and pastry recipes. Some of the most popular dishes in the region include “*kaszanka*” (a type of sausage made with buckwheat), “*kluski śląskie*” (a type of potato dumpling), and “*żurek*” (a sour rye soup).

The region’s architecture is also a testament to its rich cultural heritage. Silesian architecture is characterized by a mix of Gothic, Baroque, and Art Nouveau styles, which can be seen in the many castles, palaces, and churches that dot the landscape. The region is also home to several UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the historic silver mines of Tarnowskie Góry and the wooden churches of southern Poland.

The Silesian Region is not immune to the effects of climate change. In recent years, the region has experienced more frequent and severe weather events, such as floods, droughts, and heat waves. These extreme weather events have had a significant impact on the region’s cultural heritage.

One of the most visible effects of climate change on the region’s cultural heritage is the erosion and degradation of historic buildings and monuments. Increased rainfall and flooding have caused damage to many of the region’s historic structures, while rising temperatures have led to the deterioration of wooden buildings and artefacts.

Climate change has also affected the region’s agricultural practices, which are an important part of its cultural heritage. Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns have made it more difficult for farmers to grow traditional crops, such as potatoes and rye, and have led to the decline of traditional livestock breeds.

In addition to these impacts, climate change has also threatened the region’s natural heritage, which is closely tied to its cultural heritage. Many of the region’s historic sites and traditions are closely linked to its natural environment, including its forests, rivers, and mountains. As these natural ecosystems are impacted by climate change, the region’s cultural heritage is also at risk.

To address these challenges, the Silesian Region has begun to take action to protect its cultural heritage from the effects of climate change. Efforts are underway to restore and protect historic buildings and monuments, and to promote sustainable agriculture practices that can withstand the impacts of climate change. The region is also working to preserve its natural heritage, including its forests and rivers, which are essential to the preservation of its cultural traditions and practices.

In conclusion, the Silesian Region’s cultural heritage is a testament to its rich history and diverse mix of cultures. While climate change has posed significant challenges to the region’s cultural heritage, efforts are underway to protect and preserve these traditions for future generations. Through careful planning and sustainable practices, the region can continue to celebrate its unique cultural heritage for years to come.

- 1.** What is the Silesian Region known for in terms of its cultural heritage?
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- 2.** How has the region's architecture been influenced by different styles over time?
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- 3.** What is the Silesian dialect, and how is it used in the region's culture?
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- 4.** What are some popular dishes in the Silesian Region?
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- 5.** What are some of the region's UNESCO World Heritage sites?
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- 6.** How has climate change impacted the Silesian Region's cultural heritage?
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- 7.** What are some of the effects of extreme weather events on the region's historic buildings and monuments?
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- 8.** How has climate change affected the region's agricultural practices?
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- 9.** Why is the preservation of the region's natural heritage important for its cultural heritage?
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- 10.** What steps is the Silesian Region taking to protect its cultural heritage from the impacts of climate change?
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- 11.** How has the Silesian Region's culinary heritage been impacted by cultural influences over time?
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- 12.** What are some examples of the Silesian Region's traditional livestock breeds?
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- 13.** How has climate change impacted the region's natural heritage?
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- 14.** What is the role of the forests, rivers, and mountains in the region's cultural heritage?
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- 15.** Why is the preservation of the Silesian dialect important for the region's cultural identity?
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The Key

Question:	Suggested answer:
1. What is the Silesian Region known for in terms of its cultural heritage?	The Silesian Region is known for its distinct dialect, traditional cuisine, and unique architecture, which is a mix of Gothic, Baroque, and Art Nouveau styles. It is also home to several UNESCO World Heritage sites, including historic silver mines and wooden churches.
2. How has the region's architecture been influenced by different styles over time?	Silesian architecture is characterized by a mix of Gothic, Baroque, and Art Nouveau styles that have evolved over time. Many castles, palaces, and churches in the region reflect this mix of architectural styles.
3. What is the Silesian dialect, and how is it used in the region's culture?	The Silesian dialect is a mix of Polish and German languages that is still widely spoken by many residents of the region. It is often used in folk songs, poems, and literature, and is an important part of the region's cultural identity.
4. What are some popular dishes in the Silesian Region?	Some popular dishes in the Silesian Region include "kaszanka" (a type of sausage made with buckwheat), "kluski śląskie" (a type of potato dumpling), and "żurek" (a sour rye soup).
5. What are some of the region's UNESCO World Heritage sites?	Some of the region's UNESCO World Heritage sites include the historic silver mines of Tarnowskie Góry and the wooden churches of southern Poland.
6. How has climate change impacted the Silesian Region's cultural heritage?	Climate change has impacted the Silesian Region's cultural heritage by causing erosion and degradation of historic buildings and monuments, making it more difficult for farmers to grow traditional crops, and threatening the region's natural heritage. Extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, and heat waves, have also caused significant damage to the region's cultural heritage.
7. What are some of the effects of extreme weather events on the region's historic buildings and monuments?	Extreme weather events, such as floods, can cause damage to many of the region's historic structures, while rising temperatures can lead to the deterioration of wooden buildings and artefacts.
8. How has climate change affected the region's agricultural practices?	Climate change has made it more difficult for farmers in the Silesian Region to grow traditional crops, such as potatoes and rye, and has led to the decline of traditional livestock breeds.
9. Why is the preservation of the region's natural heritage important for its cultural heritage?	Many of the region's historic sites and traditions are closely linked to its natural environment, including its forests, rivers, and mountains. As these natural ecosystems are impacted by climate change, the region's cultural heritage is also at risk.
10. What steps is the Silesian Region taking to protect its cultural heritage from the impacts of climate change?	The Silesian Region is taking steps to restore and protect historic buildings and monuments, promote sustainable agriculture practices, and preserve its natural heritage, including its forests and rivers.
11. How has the Silesian Region's culinary heritage been impacted by cultural influences over time?	The Silesian Region's culinary heritage has been influenced by a mix of Polish, German, Czech, and Slovak cultures, which have all contributed to its unique cuisine. The region's hearty meat dishes, such as "schabowy" (pork schnitzel) and "bigos" (hunter's stew), reflect this mix of culinary traditions. Additionally, the region's proximity to the Czech Republic has also influenced its cuisine.
12. What are some examples of the Silesian Region's traditional livestock breeds?	Some of the Silesian Region's traditional livestock breeds include the Silesian horse, the black-and-white Silesian goose, the Silesian white-bearded pig and the Silesian pigeon. These breeds have been raised in the region for centuries and are an important part of its cultural heritage.

<p>13. How has climate change impacted the region's natural heritage?</p>	<p>Climate change has impacted the region's natural heritage by causing changes in the distribution and behaviour of many plant and animal species. Additionally, rising temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns have led to the decline of some traditional industries, such as logging and mining, which have long been intertwined with the region's natural heritage.</p>
<p>14. What is the role of the forests, rivers, and mountains in the region's cultural heritage?</p>	<p>The forests, rivers, and mountains play an important role in the region's cultural heritage. They provide resources for traditional industries, such as logging and mining, and are also the inspiration for many of the region's folk tales, songs, and dances. Additionally, these natural features are often the settings for important historic events and battles.</p>
<p>15. Why is the preservation of the Silesian dialect important for the region's cultural identity?</p>	<p>The preservation of the Silesian dialect is important for the region's cultural identity because it is a key marker of its unique history and heritage. The dialect reflects the region's mix of Polish and German cultural influences and is still widely spoken by many people in the region. Additionally, the use of the dialect in literature, music, and other cultural expressions is an important way of preserving and celebrating the region's distinct cultural identity.</p>