

2 SEARCHING FOR ANIMAL TRACKS

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

CHAMOIS, DEER,

ROE DEER, WILD BOAR,

all present at Lema, are called **UNGULATES** because they have hooves instead of nails.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

Find and recognise the

FOOTSTEPS OF THE 4 UNGULATES

present at Lema

(chamois, deer,

roe deer, wild boar).

3 ALPINE BUTTERFLIES

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

BUTTERFLIES use their colourful wings flamboyant as a defence technique against the predators?

Some blend in so well that they do not you see, some have poisonous wings, others with a drawing on the wings that frighten enemies.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

PROOF

PLAINING

WINGS AS

A BUTTERFLY!

4 VANTAGE POINT

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

THE MALCANTON

IS A LAND OF LEGENDS,

many collected by the

Malcantone Museum in Curio

www.museodelmalcantone.ch

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

Read the legend of the

Biscione of Breno

(village you see below)

5 STORMY WIND

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Wind has a direct effect on the type
of vegetation.

On the crest of Monte Lema, the plants and
shrubs maintain a low profile at
because of the stormy wind.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

SPACE THE

ALBERELLI

AS IF I WERE A

STORMY WIND!

6 ANT

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The ant can carry

a load of

50 TIMES ITS WEIGHT.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

GET CARRIED AWAY

ALSO FROM

ANT!

7 SUEDE

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Chamois antlers are permanent.

They start growing from birth and are

visible even at an early age.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

The chamois is a very

able to remain balanced between

the rocks of Monte Lema.

ALSO TRY

BE A CHAMOIS AND

TO REMAIN IN

BALANCE ON THE RAFTERS!

8 MUSHROOMS

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Mushrooms grow under and in symbiosis (helping) with plants.

**OFTEN MUSHROOMS
ARE NOT EDIBLE,
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU TOUCH!**

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

Mushroom delicacy not only for us but also for example for snails,

**CLIMBING ON THE
MUSHROOMS AND EVIDENCE
TO EAT THEM!**

9 THE SOUND OF COWS AND GOATS GRAZING

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

COWS and **GOATS** are very important for the care of the mountain landscape. Many alpine pastures in Ticino have been abandoned and on the pastures the forest began to advance. Shepherds use the sound of the cowbell to find cattle in the wide expanses of the mountain pastures.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

**TRY TO COMPOSE
A MUSIC AT
SOUND OF
BELLS!**

THE BISON OF BRENO

For a long time, the shepherds of Breno had been aware of an extraordinary fact. When they went to milk the cows in the morning, they found them with flabby udders, bristling hair and frightened eyes. So they kept watch over the stables and for some time discovered nothing, although they always found the cows already milked. Finally, one day one of those shepherds witnessed something horrendous: at midnight he heard a rustling sound and saw a monstrous animal advancing.

It was a kind of snake about two metres long, with eyes of fire, gaping jaws, a forked tongue and a huge red crest on its head. The poor man felt his hair stand up in fright and shivered like a leaf. In the morning all the shepherds knew who the nocturnal milker was and agreed on how to dispose of him. But that monster must have been the devil himself, because he calmly continued to milk the cows, disregarding everyone.

Then the mountain people took counsel. It was decided to make a vow to Our Lady to free them from the monster, and to make an annual pilgrimage on foot to the Sanctuary of the Sacro Monte above Varese. So they did. And the long procession left singing prayers to the Madonna.

They arrived at Sacro Monte tired, overstretched, their feet swollen and bleeding, but full of faith and hope. Our Lady granted the grace and the monster was never seen again.

The old shepherds died, their children grew old, then they too left for the other world. But the children's children did not forget the token and the vow they had made, and they went every year to the Sanctuary of Sacro Monte. During one pilgrimage, the strangest thing happened. The procession was moving slowly along the carriage road leading from Bisuschio to Varese. Lena, the most beautiful girl from Breno, had remained at the back of the procession because her feet were aching. Suddenly the patter of a horse is heard. As fast as lightning, a coal-black steed passes by, carrying an even blacker rider on its back. He touches Lena's arm, who, at that contact, follows the stranger at full speed. Everything disappeared in a cloud of dust and the bewildered pilgrims saw nothing more. In vain they called for her, in vain they searched, no one had seen either maiden or horseman. Who was that strange character? Perhaps the snake disguised as a knight? Mystery!

After that very sad event, they no longer had the courage to go to Sacro Monte and limited their pilgrimage to the Oratory of San Mattia, located in the small hamlet of Guasti in Vernate.