



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION VOYAGE EXPERIENCE

2021 VIRTUAL TOUR

A trip to a sustainable future

LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

This video course helps pupils to understand the origins and propagation methods of economic and environmental crises, identifying some solutions to counter them. It offers useful ideas to introduce concepts such as price formation, inflation and speculation and to frame the main environmental problems that afflict our planet.

The course begins with two documentaries, both belonging to the Museo del Risparmio's collection, which explain the characteristics of two of the most famous speculative bubbles in history.

The first speculative bubble – The black tulips, tells of the “flowers that drove men crazy”. After arriving in Holland in 1562 from Constantinople with the help of merchants and adventurers, tulips quickly conquered nobles and rulers, creating a real trend. Soon the mania for rare bulbs spread throughout the country and in 1636 the price of flowers exceeded that of diamonds. The bulb trade and their purchase rights generated speculative activity that made producers, brokers and traders rich, but ended up causing a 90% fall in prices, with the bubble bursting in 1637.

The second documentary is **The dot-com bubble**. The term dot-com refers to companies that invested in new technologies during the 1990s, including Amazon and Yahoo. From 1998, thanks to the lower interest rates charged by the Federal Reserve and the prosperity of the American economy, huge amounts of capital were made available to companies for the development of web-based services, starting the so-called new economy. Driven by euphoria, the funding boom resulted in financial deregulation and opportunistic behaviour. With the rise in interest rates in 1999 and the emergence of financial scandals, dot-com stocks collapsed and the bubble burst.

However, crises are not only financial but also environmental. In fact, economic crises and environmental crises are often closely linked. The following videos illustrate the main environmental issues that afflict the planet, and provide guidance and suggestions on how to solve them. The **Circular and green economy** video illustrates the new models of production and consumption that future generations will have to move towards for the planet to survive. These models contrast with the current linear economy paradigm, which is based on immeasurable growth and waste.

The video **How to save the planet's biodiversity – What you can do**, offers valuable advice on the protection and preservation of species and habitats.

After viewing the videos, pupils will be able to test themselves in the Planet Guardian app to see if they make the right choices to improve the environment for future generations.

At the end of the course, students will have fun with the team quiz “The sustainability tree”, which will help them reflect on the importance of vegetation for the planet and for the economy.