

KRAŠKA GMAJNA - LANDA CARSIICA

DRY KARSTIC GRASSLAND



Dry karstic grassland is a more or less stony pasture on limy grounding on the Karst. This type of meadow is arid and set on primitive shallow soil.

The dry Karstic grassland was created by the pressure coming from the grazing of sheep first and then goats.

Maybe the creation of this kind of meadow started in the Bronze Age (between 5500 and 3200 years ago) and was associated with the rise of pastoralism in the Karst.

MINI QUIZ

1) What is dry Karstic grassland?

- a) A kind of wood present in the Karst.
- b) A kind of meadow in the Karst.
- c) A kind of meadow in Trieste.

2) How did the Karstic grassland form?

- a) By the grazing of sheep and goats.
- b) By the presence of humans.
- c) By the cultivation of land.

3) When did the creation of dry Karstic grassland start?

- a) In the Stone Age.
- b) In the Iron Age.
- c) In the Bronze Age.

4) What kind of habitat is the Karstic grassland?

- a) It is a kind of arid meadow.
- b) It is a kind of wet meadow.
- c) It is a kind of shrub.

THE HABITAT

The dry Karstic grassland is an arid meadow which is very bright and sunny. Especially in the summer there are long periods of draught, so the plants have adapted to this kind of climate.

Measure the temperature, the light and the humidity in the middle of the dry Karstic grassland, under the trees and in the dolina. Fill in the chart below.

	Light (lux)	Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%RH)
Dry Karstic grassland			
Under the trees			
Dolina			

Can you see any differences? Write them down.

THE VEGETATION OF THE DRY KARSTIC GRASSLAND

In the dry Karstic grasslands there are numerous endemic species such as **Potentilla tommasiniana** or **Gentiana primaticcia**. The basic elements of the dry Karstic grasslands are **Centaurea rupestris** and **Carex humilis**.

From March to August the observer can witness a wide variety of colours: the yellow of the **Potentilla tommasiniana** and **Centaurea rupestris**, the purple of the **Centaurea cristata** and the **Iris illyrica**, the deep blue of the **Gentiana tergestina** and so on.

The turf is dominated by **Carex humilis** and **Stipa eriocalis**.

Have you see any of these spicies? Find as many plants as you can.



Crocus reticulatus



Viola hirta



Potentilla tommasiniana



Gentiana tergestina



Eryngium amethystinum



Iris illyrica



Stipa eriocalis



Carex humilis



Saxifraga tridactylites



Narcissus radiiflorus



Centaurea rupestris



Dianthus tergestinus

THE ANIMALS OF THE DRY KARSTIC GRASSLAND

Many different animals populate the dry Karstic grassland. Some of most common are listed below.

If you pay attention you might see some of them or their traces like molehills or dung.



Ant



Snail



Grasshopper



Mantis



Bumblebee



Bee



Butterfly



Sand lizard



Mole



Lynx



Fox



Rabbit

THE VEGETATION OF THE DOLINA

The dolina is a very special kind of habitat. It is a depression in the ground typical of the Karst where the vegetation is very different from the dry Karstic grassland. The dolina is also characterized by the phenomenon of thermal inversion where cold air stagnates on the bottom.

The plants need much more water. The habitat is more humid and the layer of soil is deeper.

Have you see any of these spicies? Find as many plants as you can.



Primula vulgaris



Galanthus nivalis



Erythronium dens-canis



Hepatica nobilis

THE OVERGROWTH OF THE DRY KARSTIC GRASSLAND

The first bushes that have populated the dry Karstic grassland are the **Cotinus coggygia** and the **Juniperus communis**. Then other kinds of trees appeared.

Look around and try to find as many bushes and trees as possible. (Clue: look for the dry leaves under the trees)



Juniperus communis



Cotinus coggygia