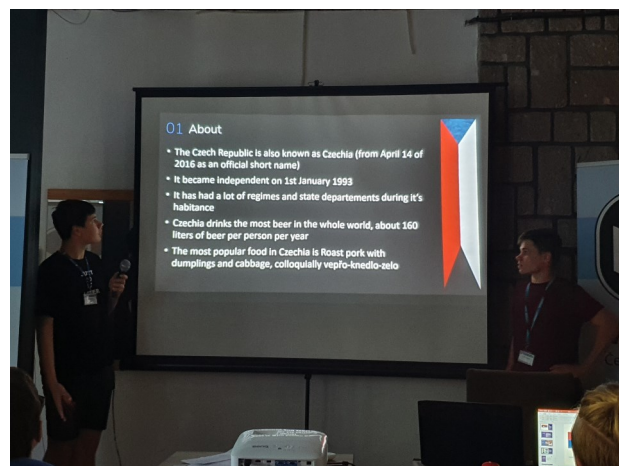
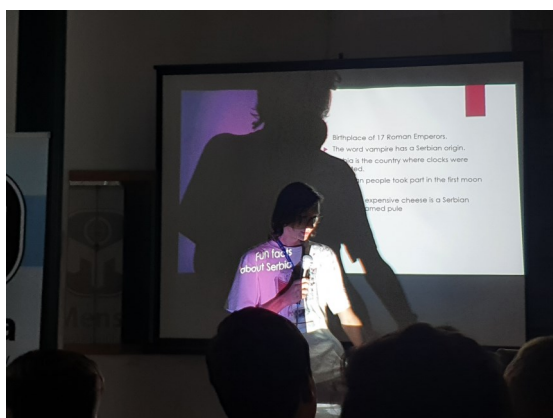
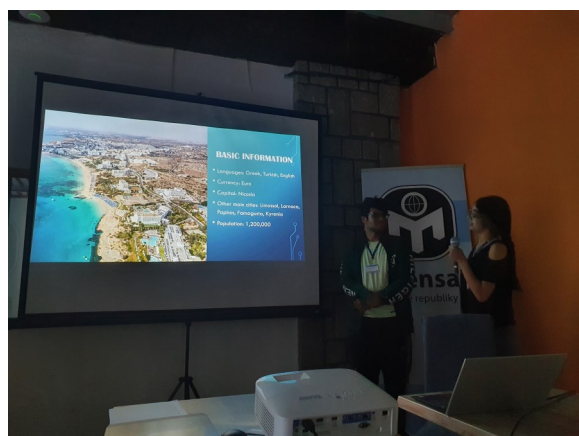




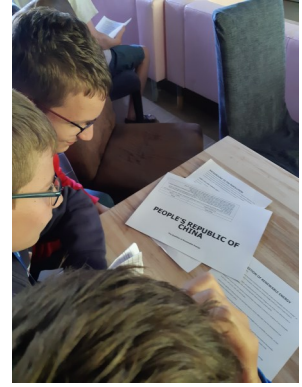
Basic information

- Full name: International Mensa science camp
- Duration: July 17th to July 23rd
- Main organiser: Tomáš Blumenstein
- Age group of participants: 12-19 years old
- Camp residence name: Lavka 222
- Countries that participated: Czechia, Serbia, Germany, Slovenia, Montenegro, Croatia, France, Cyprus, Poland, China, Mexico and the USA



July 17th

Model UN: A workshop about renewable energy in which we were split into groups of three and were each assigned a country to represent. We got to the conclusion that we could use nuclear energy as much as renewable energy but can't use fossil fuels.



Be a master of your own emotions: In this workshop, we relearned how to handle our emotions better and how to have control over them. Lenka Minářová, psychologist, introduced us to a few exercises for calming ourselves down in moments of strong emotions. She also showed us parts of our brain that control our instincts (lizard brain), emotions (mammal brain) and critical thinking (human brain).



The future is 4C : Tanja Olear Gojić held a workshop about the 4C principle (which consists of critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity.) Some of the facts she told us are: Men often use the left hemisphere more, rather than women who use the whole brain. Male brains are usually larger, but that doesn't affect anything about the IQ. We also found out about the difference in the use of our hemispheres. We were introduced to the opinions of Mensa members based on their experience with the school. The research showed school could often be boring to them considering the fact that they have a higher brain capacity. She claims the solution for building your future easier is 4C.



July 18th

Ciphers: Tomáš Blumenstein introduced us to the art of cryptography. We cracked multiple secret codes and messages using some of the common cyphers, such as the Letter-To-Number cipher (replacing each letter with their position in the alphabet), the Ceaser cipher, the Morse code, and binary code. The lucky few that solved the ciphers first, got a prize in the form of candy. This lecture would help everyone later on with the cryptography game.



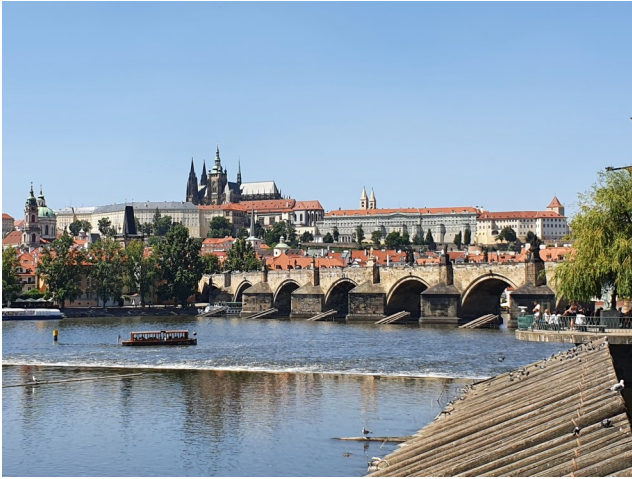
You won't believe the shocking facts that we found out about China: Today, Xiaoyu Zhao also known as „Z“, gave the Mensa camp a presentation about the country that he was born in - China. As you might already know, China is a huge country full of interesting landmarks, but when you ask a person that lives in China, you're going to receive really interesting and shocking facts that you wouldn't expect. We won't write things like basic information and facts that everyone knows. For example, did you know that Chinese people don't really go along with each other and have silly stereotypes about one another, or that just 70 years ago, China didn't speak one language, but people there spoke in more than 10 languages in that area.

Mathesso: Today, an experienced businessman Karel Janeček visited the Mensa camp with his game called Mathesso. The game's goal is, to help people of all ages with learning math and making them like it more. Karel and his crew had prepared some program for the campers to do, such as playing Mathesso, juggling, sword fighting, rope walking and much more. The whole camp enjoyed the activities and had fun the whole afternoon.



July 19th

Prague: Today, we went to the capital city of Czechia, Prague, by train. We took a tour around the city and saw some beautiful monuments; we walked by the Charles bridge, The National theatre, took a stroll around the Wenceslas square, The Gothic powder tower,



visited the famous Prague castle, the Old town square, the Saint Nicholas church, and we watched the Astronomical clock tower spectacle. We were im-

pressed by the old-fashioned architecture of the buildings in the city center.

Prague is the capital and the largest city in



Czechia, with the population of 1,3 million and it's a political, cultural, and economic

hub of central Europe. It was founded in the 5th century. The city has more than 10 major museums, along with numerous theatres, galleries etc.



July 20th

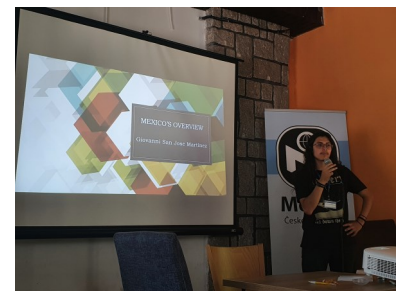
Diplomacy: Wednesday morning, Giovanni San José Martínez held a workshop about representing countries and trading resources (water, oil, food, tech...) to solve national and global problems that



were assigned to us. The representing teams were given limited time to discuss and trade goods between themselves in order to reach the assigned goals and survive the drought. In the end, most countries didn't collect the needed amount of water, even though Giovanni revealed after the end of the workshop that there was enough water to divide equally between every team and still survive. The workshop taught us a useful lesson about real world politics and why our system is dysfunctional – because the wealthier countries don't share their re-

sources with those in need.

Mexico – the Country of family: Today Giovanni San José Martínez, a camp counselor, held a presentation about his country, Mexico. He taught us facts about his culture. He took a chance to expand our already existing knowledge and to break stereotypes while also teaching us about customs and art. It was nice to find out new things about a country through the lens of someone, who lives there instead of the typical Eurocentric perspective we all have.



Fun facts about Mexico

Mexicans take every chance to have holiday

Día de los Muertos is a holiday that celebrates and honors the departed souls of loved ones. This is one of the biggest ones, followed by Cinco de Mayo and other roman catholic holydays. Also a fun fact, burritos are NOT a part of Mexican cuisine but tacos, zan-tarrón, mole de panza, mixote, chorizo, cemitas and churros are.

Mexico is a diverse country— 50% of the population is of both European and indigenous descent (mestizos), 25% is white, and 25% of the citizens are black.

-Cipher: In the early afternoon we played a cipher-solving game. We were given a map in the beginning, as well as a sheet with a table with cipher-solving keys. On each location we



needed to visit, we were given a cipher to solve, so we could figure out which destination is the next correct one. The time limit for solving was 15 minutes, though we were given a hint if we couldn't solve it after 10 minutes. We walked around Sázava dealing with the ciphers, roamed through the woods and in the end, we needed to swim through the river. At the end, the Manipulation project team finished all of the tasks first and got the win.



July 21st



Modern radio astronomy: Miroslav Bárta, a member of the Czech Astronomical Institute of Sciences, visited our camp in hopes of introducing us to the concept of radio-astronomy. He explained the importance of telescopes that create images via electromagnetic waves (infrared and radio parts) and their contribution to science. He taught us about the Atacama Large Millimeter/ submillimeter Array (ALMA), and interferometer (a group of antennas working together as a large telescope). He showed us what it observes (molecular gas and dust) and why its important (helps produce high –resolution images of the universe).

Quiz: Tomáš Blumenstein held a quiz with questions about general knowledge, containing categories such as art, religion, science... We played in teams as project groups and were given a sheet with a table for our answer. There were 30 questions in total. The winners were

Dark forest adventure: At 10PM we had a walk through the forest while the organisers hid in the bushes while trying to scare us in every way possible. We weren't allowed



to use any flashlights. We crawled through many bushes, jumped over numerous tree trunks, passed through a few fields and even had to walk a part of the way alone. Near the end of the night, we were left alone in the middle of the woods by the organisers, trying to find the right path on our own. Through teamwork and collective brainstorming, we eventually came back home around 2AM.

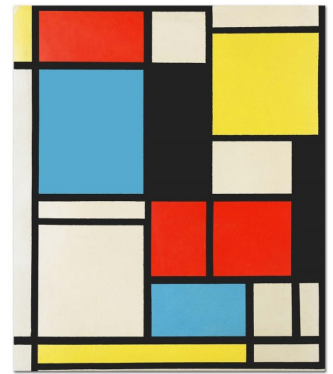
July 22nd

-USA: we started off the morning with Jessica Morgan's presentation about her homeland, the United States of America.



Jess shed a light on the issues of the American, touching on topics like white privilege, gun control and abortion, while also pointing out the bright side—the beautiful nature and various cultures. It was nice hearing someone actually bring up the problems of the country instead of just the bright side of the story.

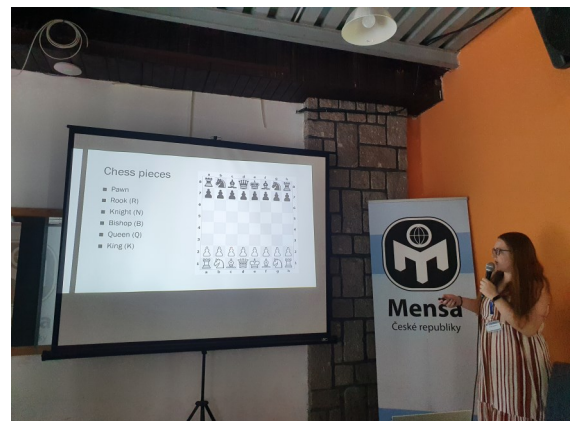
Mondrian: Mondrian was a 20th century Dutch artist. At the beginning of his career, he focused mainly on landscape pieces. However, he started flirting with the abstract, at first making some cubism pieces, which eventually developed into his trademark style which we all know and love today. His most famous pieces consist of horizontal and vertical lines overlapping at 90°, with some of the formed rectangles and squares being in primary colors — red, blue and yellow. Tanja Olear Gojić showed us that there's more to Mondrian's art than simple geometry shapes—math. The Mondrian mathematical problem consists of dividing a monochromatic background into a grid of equal dimensions ($n * n$) into rectangles and squares while keeping in mind that no two shapes should have equal sides. The point is to calculate the difference between the largest and the smallest surfaces possible, which would give us the Mondrian number.



The Queen of Gambits: A Woman international master, a sharp player since the age of 4, Natálie Kaňáková taught us a few tips and tricks on becoming a better chess player.

The basic set of rules looks something like this:

- Don't overfocus on learning the openings if you're a beginner
- Always keep your concentration level high
- Always have a general plan on what you want to accomplish in the game
- Focus on the king's safety, don't shy away from castling
- Make sure your pieces can collaborate
- Tend to keep your pieces in the center of the board (esp. bishops and knights)



Interviews

Communication team: We asked the leader of the Communication project team, Pavel, about their language that they created as the final outcome of their project. He told us the group considers him as the 'leader' because he does the grammar and makes up words as well as putting everything together.

What's the biggest difference about their language is that they merged adjectives and adverbs, everything else is mostly the same, claims Pavel. They have about 150 words in the language, as well as tenses that you get by adding the suffixes. The communication group spends around 3h a day working on their meeting their goal, finishing the language, aka they really put a lot of effort in it.



Xiaoyu Zhao: We asked Z some questions about adapting to a new surrounding, in hopes of finding out how it is when you move to a totally different part of the world. He said that he had a cultural shock when he came to Czechia, as it's a European country and totally different from China. He also told us he likes his country more and he misses it as well as his family, food... He said the biggest cultural difference between China and Czechia is obviously that they use chopsticks and we use forks and knives. His favorite custom is Chinese New Year. We also found out that he's been in Czechia for 3 years now, but still doesn't consider it his home because, as Z told us, if you're from China, it's your only home, although he did say he is starting to feel more and more comfortable.

Giovanni San José Martinez: We found out some very useful information from when Gio presented Mexico, so here is what else he told us in the interview. Firstly and most important, he told us he is a backstabbing h*e because he does a lot of trolling and many people get trolled easily, so its on them, said Giovanni. He told us that Czech wasn't difficult for him to learn because the pronunciation was easy. He showed us a bit of his sweet side, telling us that the part he loves the most about his culture is the way they treat, talk and joke with each other without it being seen as rude.

He said he got the inspiration for his Model UN and Diplomacy workshop from when he was in high school and he would participate in events like this and enjoyed them so it was easy for him to make something similar by himself because it expresses him, as he told us. We learned a lot about Gio in this week and this interview helped us understand him even more as a person.

