

Course of Kuolimo

This is versatile course for the whole year which includes the following subjects:

- biology, chemistry, mother language, PE, swedish and english

The course is studied from many different perspectives in accordance with the new curriculum.

The course has been made
in cooperation with

**Lappeenranta
University of
Technology (LUT)**





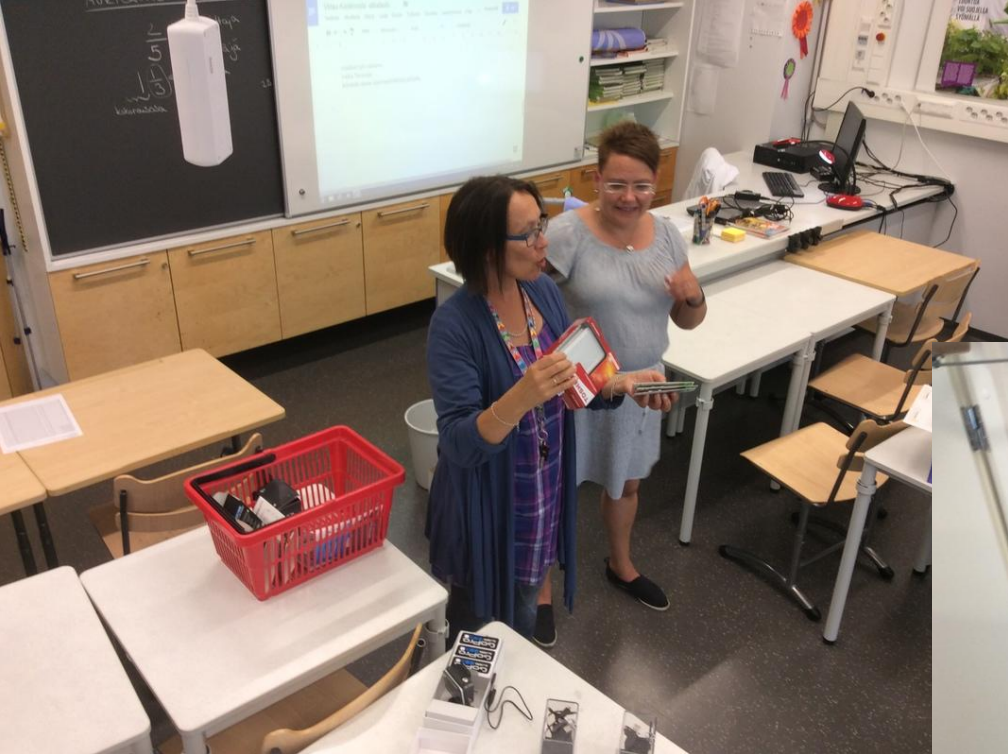
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Kuolimo

22,7 km (260 m)

SAVITAIPALE







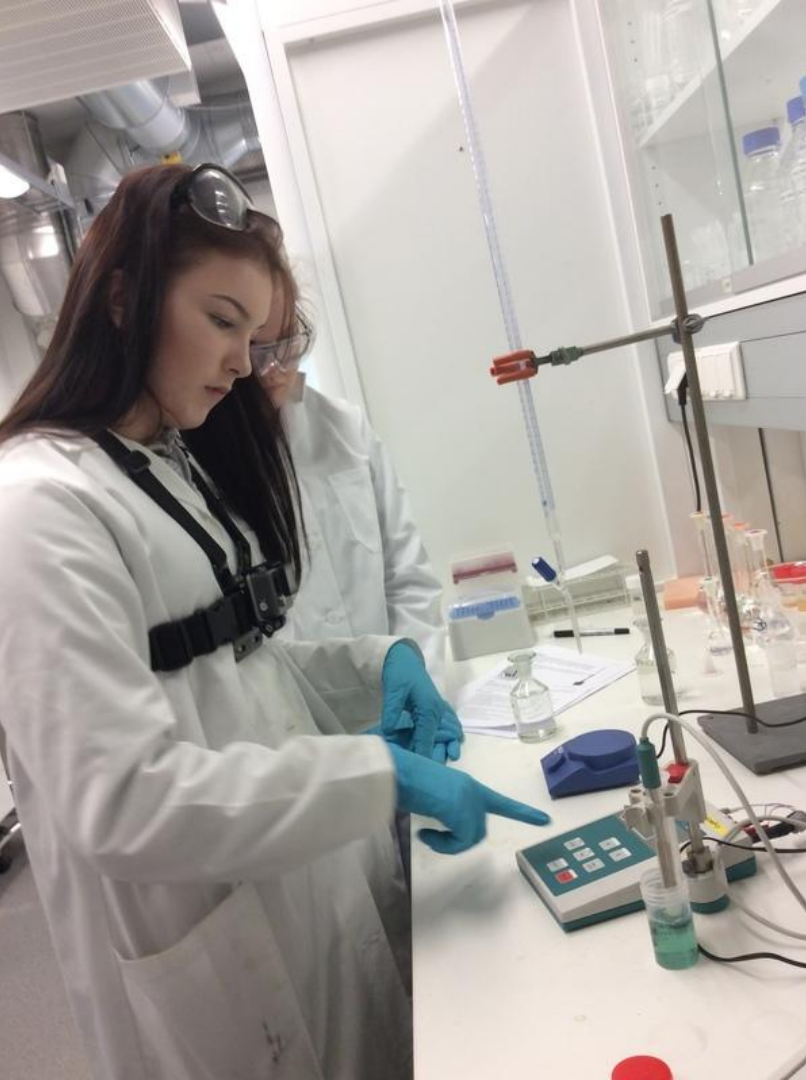














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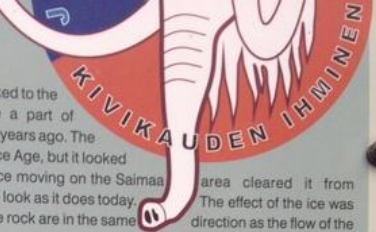
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Saimaa

The history of the Lake Kuolimo is closely linked to the Lake Saimaa, since Kuolimo used to be a part of Saimaa, from which it grew apart about 4500 years ago. The Lake Saimaa existed long before the latest Ice Age, but it looked very different than it does today since the ice moving on the Saimaa area cleared it from loose rock material and reshaped the lake to look as it does today. The effect of the ice was so big partly because the fracture lines of the rock are in the same direction as the flow of the ice.



During the Ice Age, the ice pushed the ground down almost three hundred metres. This affected the shape and size of the lake. The ground went down most in the North and northwest where the ice was thicker. As the ice started melting, the ground started to rise quickly back to the normal level. Most of the rising happened already before the ice had melted from the area. The south eastern parts of Saimaa were freed of the ice first and started to rise earlier than the northern parts of the lake, but because the land uplift has been faster in the northwest since the end of the Ice Age, the ground has been inclining to southeast. Because of this, the basin of the Lake Saimaa has been tilted towards northwest and it is slowly returning back to the normal level. The inclining of the ground causes the shoreline to change place and shallows the bays in the north western and northern parts of it.

The Saimaa basin was freed from the ice during approximately 1500 years, about 10 700-9 200 years ago, as the ice retreated from the Salpausselkä towards northeast. As the southern Saimaa was freed of ice it was a part of the Baltic Ice Lake, which was a large lake, formed of melt waters from the ice sheet, occupying the Baltic Sea region. It had an outlet channel to the ocean in the area of Denmark. As the Billingen area in Central Sweden was freed of ice, the waters of the Baltic Ice Lake flew to the ocean from there and the water level of the Baltic Ice Lake dropped 26-28 metres.

Salty sea water got to flow to the Baltic Sea basin and a new stage called the Yoldia Sea begun approximately 10 300 years ago. This stage was relatively short lasting and the water was salty only in some region since large amounts of melt water flew from the ice sheet. As the water dropped to the Yoldia Sea level, a short lasting ice lake was dammed up in the Southern Saimaa. This lake lasted only for 100-200 years after which areas of lower land were appeared in Mäntyharju and Ristina as the ice edge retreated and the water level dropped to the level of the Yoldia Sea. The Southern Saimaa became independent of the sea for good about 9500 years ago. The Northern Saimaa was still a part of the Baltic Sea of the time called the Ancylus Lake.

The central lakes of the Saimaa Lake Complex grew independent of the Baltic Sea one by one from south to north. At first the connection from Saimaa to the Baltic Sea was from the north in Pielavesi, from where the water flew through Päijänne to Kalajoki and to the sea. Because the land uplift was more rapid in Pielavesi than in other parts of the lake, the connection to the sea got shallower and the water level rose and slowly connected lakes together. A little over 6000 years ago a vast lake was formed and it reached from Lappeenranta to north of Iisalmi. The water level continued rising and finally it found a new path to the waters to flow to the sea, first in Ristina's Matkuslampi and then Kärlenlampi in Lappeenranta until the present channel through Vuoksi was formed 5000 years ago, as the water broke its way through the First Salpausselkä. Since then the waters of Saimaa have flown to the Lake Ladoga in Russia.

Suomenniemen - Savitaipaleen



