

Our monuments of nature



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CONTENTS	PAGE
Introduction.....	5
French objects of nature.....	6
Greek objects of nature.....	12
Italian objects of nature	19
Polish objects of nature	26
Romanian objects of nature.....	32
Slovenian objects of nature	44
Spanish objects of nature	50

Introduction

This booklet is a final product of the common work developed by the schools involved in the project "Towards a greener future" (Ecole Saint Christophe Maternelle et Primaire, in Lorient, France, 12/th Dimotiko Sxoleio Amigdaleona Kavalas, in Kavala, Greece, Circolo Didattico Viale Cesare Battisti, in Recanati, Italy, Szkoła Podstawowa z Oddziałami Integracyjnymi, nr 21 im. Henryka Sienkiewicza, in Gliwice, Poland, Scoala Cu Cls. I-VIII " Vasile Lucaciu", in Carei, Romania, Osnovna Sola Franca Rozmana Staneta, in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Col-Legi Episcopal "Mare De Deu De L'academia", in Lleida, Spain), created within the framework of Lifelong Learning Program - Comenius.

With this assignment students presented interesting objects of nature found in their vicinity. The research they have done about monuments of nature expanded their knowledge on natural conditions of their surroundings and engendered curiosity and fascination with the world.

France



The Carnac Alignments

The Carnac alignments are located on o Carnac in the Morbihan in Brittany. This is an exceptional site consists of megalithic alignments of menhirs, dolmens and covered walkways and spread over four kilometres. The alignments of Crnac megaliths are the most famous and most impressive of the period with around 4000 stones.

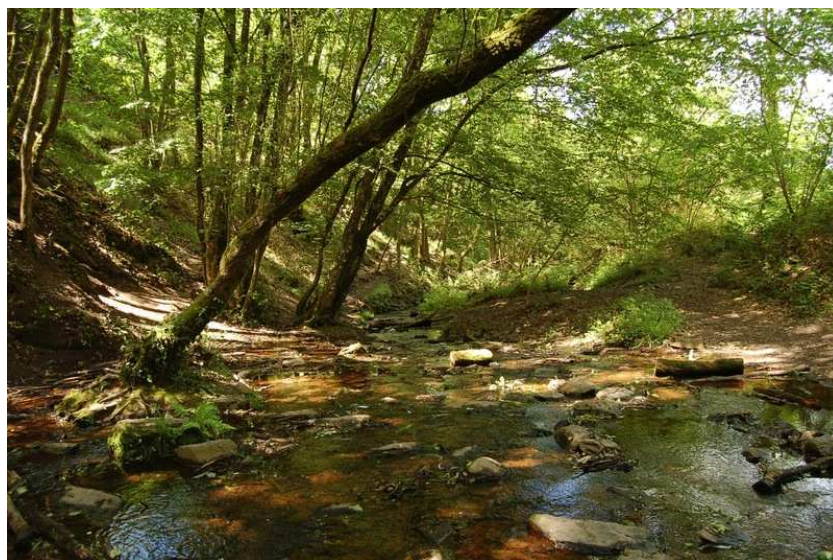


The alignments were erected by Neolithic communities. These tribes were settled in large houses made of wood and clay with livestock and agriculture. The settlement led them to create a cult of the dead by building huge collective tombs, giant stones, dolmens and menhirs alignments. The men knew they could move these heavy stones with logs and ropes.



Broceliande Forest

Broceliande Forest has a rich variety of landscapes: high moorlands, valleys, majestic trees, valleys, but also streams and ponds adorn this particular territory. The landscapes here are the kingdom of fairies and goblins that populate the undergrowth. In September 1990, the Valley has burnt for five days.



The Golden Tree

The Gold Tree is a gold-leaf chestnut created by the artist Francois Davin. It has 90 grams of gold cover and it is surrounded by five black trees. The trees symbolize the black burnt forest and all forests destroyed by negligence or profit. Gold symbolizes immortality, especially that of that forest.



The Gold tree has become the new legend of Broceliande Forest.



Huelgoat Forest



Huelgoat is popular with tourists due to its impressive natural setting among the vestiges of the ancient forest that once covered inland Brittany. It has an area of 10 square kilometres.

The legendary Huelgoat Forest hides thousands of surprises for a walker. Scrapie Rock, the Devil's Cave, Mare Wild Boar, Cave Artus, the Chasm, Fairy Pond are all sights to be discovered on a trail.



© Yann_LV

HUELGOAT

Cemetery boats at Kerherve

Cemeteries of boats, a tradition of Brittany who losses...

Boat graveyard at Kerherve, on the outskirts of Lorient (Morbihan), is located on the Blevet.

This cemetery of boats was born with the World War II. The skippers of tuna Groix did not want to let the Germans in. They were therefore hidden in the mouth of the Blavet. At the end of the war, many of those skippers were, unfortunately, killed and the boats remained there, eventually to die quietly.



Greece



Mount Paggaiion

This little known mountain southeast of Serres, and close to the north Aegean, is very rich in flora, birds, and butterflies. Its highest point is 1956 meters. Some 700 species of plants have been recorded here, including some that are not found anywhere else in Greece.

On the lower slopes below 700 meters are kermes oak, Oriental hornbeam, prickly juniper, manna ash, wild pear, and Christ's thorn, and many flowers, including several orchids. Higher up is beech forest with main species found in central Europe, and above the tree line, alpine meadows with many flowers as well.

Many rare or special plants grow in rocky crevices. Many birds breed on the mountain, including some birds of prey, though they are not protected, and the mountain is exploited for marble and timber. Butterflies are also common.





The Oriental Hornbeam

It is a smaller tree, rarely over 10 m tall and often shrubby. It has small leaves, 3-5 cm long. The seeds have a simple bract (not trilobed), about 2 cm long.



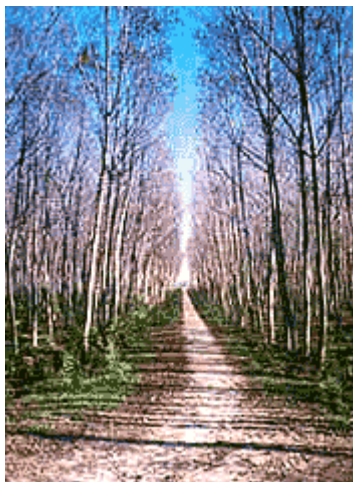
Christ's thorn

It grows about 6 m (20 feet) tall and is sometimes cultivated in hedges. The alternate leaves are oval and finely toothed. The very small, greenish yellow flowers, which grow in small clusters, are followed by brownish yellow, leathery fruit. The sturdy thorns are straight or slightly hooked.



Korman Otza Forest

This is the largest expanse of riparian woodland (dominated by poplar *Populus*, willow *Salix* and plane *Platanus*).



Towards a greener future

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The Nestos Delta

The Delta itself consists of a mosaic of sand dunes, brackish lagoons and saltmarsh. This is an exceptional area for birdlife and supports the most important population of spur-winged plovers *Holopterus spinosus* in Europe.

Nestos foredunes



Nestos saltmarsh



Nestos lagoon



Italy



Mount Conero (Mount Ankona)



Monte Conero is a promontory in Italy, situated directly south of the city of Ancona on the Adriatic Sea. The name *Conero* comes from the Greek name Komaròs, that indicates the Strawberry Tree (Corbezzolo in Italian language) commonly present on the slopes of the mountain. The Conero is 572 meters high and it is the only coastal high point on the Adriatic sea from Venice to the Gargano massif in the region of Puglia.



Since 1987 it is a state park and protected ecological area (Regional Park) with 18 trails and several archeological/historical sites. Wildlife include Eurasian Badger, Beech Marten, Least Weasel, Yellow-bellied Toad, Peregrine Falcon, Kingfisher and Pallid Swift. Apart the strawberry tree, vegetation include Oak, Holm Oak, Aleppo Pine, *Cupressus sempervirens* and many others.

It is wonderfull for the wood, for the very high overhanging on the sea, but for the very little beach .

You can explore the mountain by foot, by bike or by horse.



The Mediterranean Cyprus

It is a species of cypress native to the eastern Mediterranean region, in northeast Libya, southeast Greece (Crete, Rhodes), southern Turkey, Cyprus, Northern Egypt, western Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Malta, Italy, western Jordan, and also a disjunct population in Iran.

It is a medium-sized evergreen tree to 35 m tall, with a conic crown with level branches and variably loosely hanging branchlets. It is very long-lived, with some trees reported to be over 1,000 years old.



The Strawberry Tree

Arbutus unedo, the Strawberry Tree, grows to 5-10 m tall, rarely up to 15 m, with a trunk diameter of up to 80 cm.

The leaves are dark green and glossy, 5-10 cm long and 2-3 cm broad, with a serrated margin.

The hermaphrodite flowers are white, bell-shaped, 4-6 mm diameter, produced panicles of 10-30 together in autumn. They are pollinated by bees.



The fruit is a red berry, 1-2 cm diameter, with a rough surface, maturing 12 months at the same time as the next flowering. The fruit is edible, though many people find it bland and mealy; the name 'unedo' is explained by Pliny the Elder as being derived from *unum edo* "I eat one", which may seem an apt response to the flavour. They mainly serve as food for birds but in some countries they are used to make jam and liqueurs.



The Two Sisters

The most singular, attractive and secluded stretch of unique coast: a white pebble beach with two spectacular rocks in front.

This beach is reached only by boat from the Numana port.

You can see a wonderful sea depth there.



The Frasassi Caves



Frasassi caves are a wonderful creation of nature created by water rich in minerals through thousands of years. They are among the most famous show caves in Italy.

The caves, discovered by a group of Ancona speleologists between 1948 and 1971, are situated 7 km south of Genga, near the civil parish of San Vittore and the Genga-San Vittore railway station (Rome-Ancona line).

Rich in water, the cave system is particularly well endowed with stalactites and stalagmites.



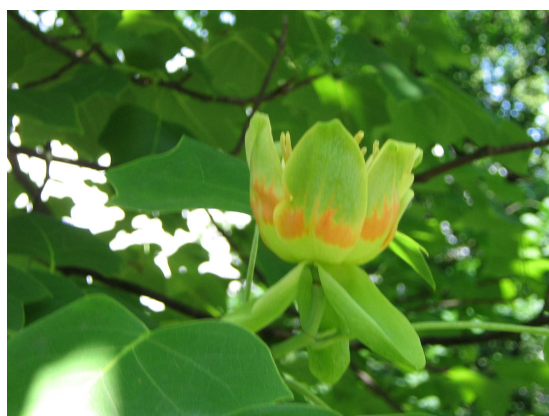
Poland



The Frederic Chopin Park

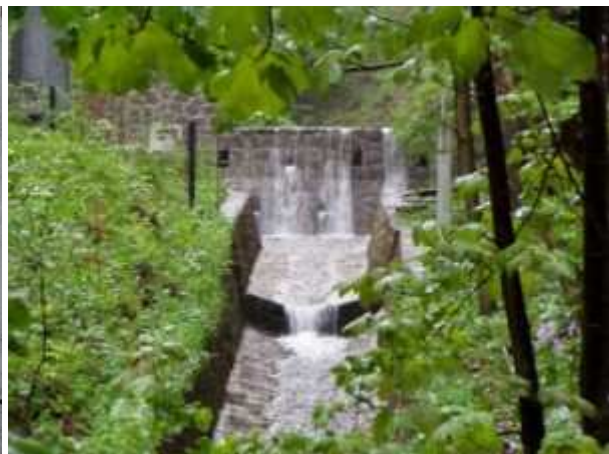
The greenest park in the city centre of Gliwice. It takes the area of 6.3 ha, where you can have a rest or admire beautiful flowery compositions.

There is the Municipal Palm House in the park with over 6000 specimen of flora and fauna. You can see there citruses, spices and exotic palms and cacti, originating from Australia, Africa and both Americas.



The Szyndzielnia Mountain

This is a peak in the Silesian Beskids, placed among the valleys of Olszówka, Wapienica and Biata. The Szyndzielnia Mountain is situated within the borders of Silesian Beskids Landscape Park.



Błędów Desert

The Bledowska Sands are the largest (in Central Europe) accumulation of loose sand away from any sea, deposited thousands of years ago by a melting glacier.

It takes an area of 32km², and the average thickness of the sand layer is about 40 meters (maximum 70 meters), which made the fast and deep drainage very easy. In the recent years the sands have started to shrink. The phenomenon of mirages has been known to exist there.

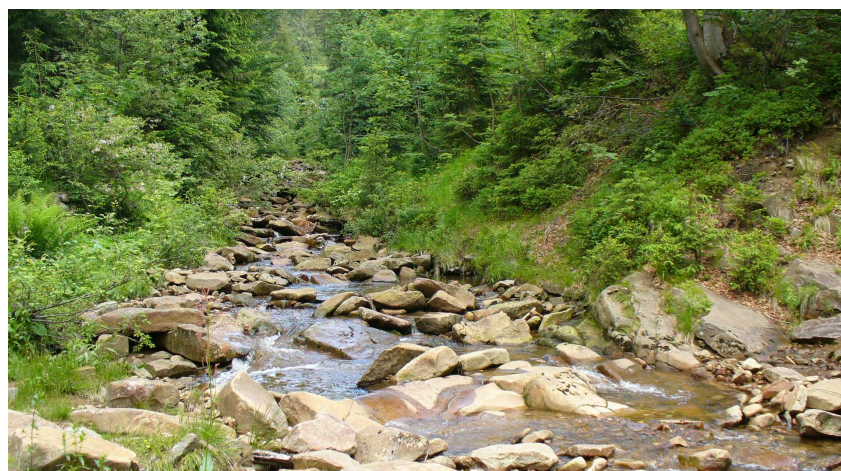




The Vistula Source

The Vistula has its source at Barania Góra in the south of Poland, 1220 m above sea level in the Silesian Beskids (western part of Carpathian Mountains) where it begins with the White Little Vistula (*Biała Wisetka*) and the Black Little Vistula (*Czarna Wisetka*).





The Malinowska Cave

The Malinowska cave is situated in the upper part of the steep slope of Mt Malinów formed of very thick-bedded sandstones and conglomerates of the Godula Beds. It is 214.5 m long, 22.7 m deep and consists of entrance shaft (ca 10 m deep) and system of galleries formed due to widening of the vertical joints.



Romania



The Vermes Marsh

It is a botanical type of reservation, with a surface of 10 ha, a wet depression between dunes, with elements that characterize the Pannonian bioregion.

The Vermeş Marsh is the home of some rare species of our country's flora (Aldrovanda vesiculosa, Dianthus superbus, Cirsium brachycephallum, Euphorbia lucida, Hypericum tetrapterum, Peucedanum palustre, Taraxacum palustre, Silene multiflora, Potamogeton acutifolius, Hottonia palustri).

This site is also very important from a faunistic point of view, being especially known for the birds that live here. This marsh is the only place in our country where the common snipe *Gallinago gallinago* has been found nesting, probably being the home of the shore nesting woodcock *Limosa limosa*.

From the amphibians, the Vermeş Marsh is also the home of a rare species from our country, namely the marsh-frog - *Rana arvalis*.





Hottonia palustris



Dianthus superbis



Aldrovanda vesiculosa (DH)



Hottonia palustris



Dianthus superbis



Aldrovanda vesiculosa (DH)



Ranunculus lingua



Stratiotes aloides



Large Pink

It is a plant growing to 80 cm tall. The leaves are green to greyish green, slender, up to 8 cm long. The flowers are sweetly scented, 3-5 cm in diameter, with five deeply cut fringed petals, pink to lavender with a greenish base; they are produced in branched clusters at the top of the stems from early to late summer.



The Carei Arboretum

It is a park , which is located near the citadel's walls. Currently the park is spread over an area of 10.3 ha, the land having a mixed character. The 1970 inventory of the wooden species revealed the presence of no more than 110 exotic and indigenous species, some of them being rarities of the dendrological flora grown in Romania, other representing true records through their sizes.

From the valuable wood essences, currently 13 species are present in the park, e.g. Ginkgo Biloba, Yew, Flowering Ash, Field Maple, Japanese Acacia, White Mulberry.





Ginkgo Biloba

Ginkgos are very large trees, normally reaching a height of 20-35 m with some specimens in China being over 50 m .The tree has an angular crown and long branches, and is usually deep rooted and resistant to wind and snow damage. Young trees are often tall and slender, and sparsely branched; the crown becomes broader as the tree ages. During autumn, the leaves turn a bright yellow, then fall, sometimes within a short space of time (1-15 days). A combination of resistance to disease, insect-resistant wood and the ability to form aerial roots and sprouts makes ginkgos long-lived, with some specimens claimed to be more than 2,500 years old



The Plain of Carei

The Plain of Carei includes several types of habitats: wet inter-dune depressions, pannonian dunes, water courses from plain areas, grasslands with calcareous, peaty and clayey soils, communities of hydrophilic tall herbs on the skirts of the forests, low altitude grasslands, alluvial forests, mixed riparian forests, Euro-Siberian steppe vegetation, Balkan-Pannonian forests of oak, water meadows.

The plain of Carei has a special importance because of: mammalian species(ground squirrel); species of amphibians and reptiles (red-bellied bittern, water turtle, crested triton, dobrogea crested triton); fish: (groundling, eel , rhodeus, umbra); plant species: (, marsh angelica, iris, marsh clover, pasque flower)

Sand dunes with *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis*



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Hyla arborea



Adenophora lilifolia

Clopoței



Cirsiium

brachycephalum



Aldrovanda vesiculosa

Otrățel



Iris humilis

sp. arenaria





Eleocharis carniolica

Pipirigut



Ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*)

Slovenia



The Ljubljana Marshes

It is a wetland area on the southern edge of the Ljubljana basin. Today, it is the largest swamp and wet grassland in the country and one of the few in Europe. This area is important for the conservation of plant and animal species already on endangered species lists in Europe. 6000 years ago, when the area was covered with small lakes, the inhabitants built wooden structures supported on poles - kolišča.



Checkedred Lily

It flowers from March to May and grows between 15 and 40 cm in height. It has a round bulb, about 2 cm in diameter which contains poisonous alkaloids.

In Slovenia you can find it in the Ljubljana Marshes.



ŠMARNÁ GORA

It has got two peaks. A lot of people go to Šmarna Gora every weekend. It is 669 metres high.



The Sava

It is the longest river in Slovenia. It flows through three countries - Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia. It is quite clean. The rapids on the river are dangerous. Kayaking championships take place here.



The Tivoli Park

It is in the center of Ljubljana. In Tivoli we can go for a walk and relax. There are a lot of trees. It is very green.



Spain



The River Serge

The river divides Lleida into two parts. On the right we can find important buildings, such as La perla (town hall), and on the left there is an important park called Camps Elisis.

People who live in Lleida practise sports and go walking or jogging alongside the riverside.

There are some bridges over the river to improve communication.



The Mitjana Park

Its a natural space which is very important due to the fact that it has natural ecosystem of the Mediterranean area. There are also some animals, and more than fifteen species of birds have their nests in different trees and bushes of this area (mallard ducks, moorhens or gallinules, gulls, egrets and grey herons).



Eddy B.



Eddy B.

The Mallard Duck

The mallard lives in wetlands, including parks, small ponds and rivers, and eats water plant, frogs and insects. It is also migratory. The mallard is the ancestor of all domestic ducks. The mallard is 56-65cm long, has a wingspan of 81-89cm, and weighs 0.9-1.2kg.

The breeding mallard has a bright green head, black rear end and a yellowish orange bill tipped with black. The female mallard is light brown.



Tamarisks

They are evergreen or deciduous shrubs or trees growing to 1-18 m in height and forming dense thickets. Tamarisks are characterized by slender branches and grey-green foliage. The bark of young branches is smooth and reddish-brown. As the plants age, the bark becomes bluish-purple, ridged and furrowed. The leaves are scale-like, 1-2 mm long, and overlap each other along the stem.

Tamarisks can be found in the Mitjana Park.



Snails

Snail is a common name for almost all members of the molluscan class *Gastropoda* that have coiled shells in adult stage. It includes sea snails, land snails and freshwater snail. Snail can be found in a very wide range of environments.

In Lleida it is typical to eat land snails cooked in different ways.



of the wild boar is compact, the head is large, the legs relatively short. They have fur. The colour usually varies from dark grey to black. Adult boars average 120-180 cm in length and have a shoulderheight of 90cm. As a whole, their average weight is 50-90kg. Their tusks serve as weapons and tools. The lower tusks of an adult male measure about 20 cm. Wild boar piglets are coloured differently from adults, having ochre, chocolate, cream coloured stripes lengthwise over their bodies.

They are omnivorous scavengers, eating almost anything they come across including grass, nuts, berries, carrions, roots, tuvers, refuse, insects and small reptiles. They are hunted by humans for food and sport.