

# Friends for our planet!



**PRESERVING NATURE**



A collection of stories from the  
partners of the Erasmus+ project  
"Friends for our planet!"



**SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022**



PARTNER SCHOOLS OF THE PROJECT  
“FRIENDS FOR OUR PLANET!”:

GBS De Bosmier, Balen, Belgium

Muuruveden Koulu, Muuruvesi, Finland

Astiki Scholi, Chios, Greece

Scuola primaria “Papa Luciani”, Solighetto, Italy

Clubul Copiilor "Martha Bibescu", Comarnic, Romania

CEIP Plurilingüe Vista Alegre, Burela, Spain



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# On our best in the forest

Storybook by Vince, Warre, Zeb, Jari and Josse, 5<sup>th</sup> class  
GBS De Bosmier, Balen, Belgium

## Storybook Erasmus

We're going to the forest!

Yay! Hooray! Yes!

All of us are looking for little bugs.

We found something! Come take a look!

Hi! I'm an earthworm. Please don't kill me, I'm helping plants grow!

The earthworms make the soil fertile.

How do they do that?

Don't touch me, please leave me be!

I'm a woodlice, I keep plants and animals alive! Take a look at my crochet legs.

You can count my paws, but then put me back in my house!

Look! This is where I live!

Challenge 3 - Natuurbehoud

2021-2022

Namen: Vince Josse Warre Jari





# Exploring time!

Storybook by Yna, Sofie, Senna, Marthe and Silke, 5<sup>th</sup> class  
GBS De Bosmier, Balen, Belgium

## Storybook Erasmus



Today we're going outside.

We're going to the forest to search for little bugs.



Hello, I'm a centipede!

And I'm an earthworm! Nice to meet you!



Hi, I'm a woodlice!  
In Dutch I'm called a 'pissebed' which means 'peeing in bed'!

And I'm an earwig, but don't be scared, I won't come near your ear.

If you like your food, please leave us be. By cleaning up our planet, we make sure you get something delicious on your plate every day!



Great job guys, now let's bring all the bugs back to where they belong. In nature!

I'm releasing the bugs!



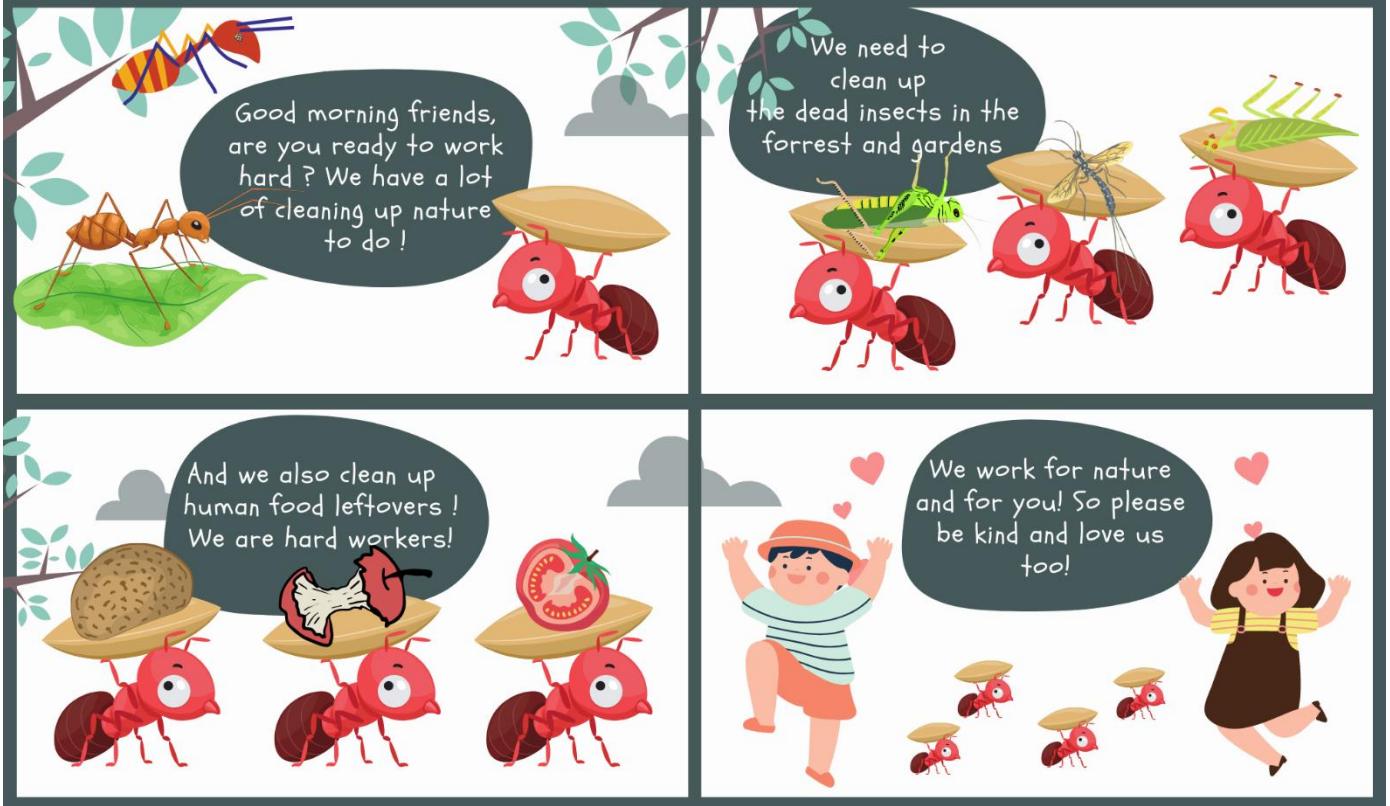


# The hardworking ant!

Storybook by the 5<sup>th</sup> class  
GBS De Bosmier, Balen, Belgium

## The hard working ant!

Friends for our planet





# The importance of trees!

Story by 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class

GBS De Bosmier, Balen, Belgium



TREES ARE VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY PRODUCE MOST OF OUR OXYGEN. WE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT OXYGEN!



DID YOU KNOW THAT TREES EAT CO<sub>2</sub>? THAT'S A GOOD THING, BECAUSE THE GROWING EMISSION OF GASES MEANS THAT THE CO<sub>2</sub> IN THE AIR IS MUCH TOO HIGH. THIS CAUSES THE EARTH TO WARM UP MUCH TOO QUICKLY. BY EATING CO<sub>2</sub>, THE TREES ENSURE THAT GLOBAL WARMING SLOWS DOWN.



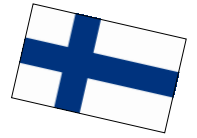


TREES ALSO FILTER A LARGE PART OF ALL THE PARTICULATE MATTER THAT WE (THE PEOPLE) PRODUCE FROM THE AIR. THIS MAKES THE AIR MUCH HEALTHIER!

A TREE GIVES LIFE TO MORE THAN 250 PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES. THIS CONTRIBUTES TO BIODIVERSITY.







# Mountain hare Kerkko

Story by Elias, 3<sup>rd</sup> class  
Pictures by Lana and Anton, 2<sup>nd</sup> class  
Muuruvesi School, Finland

Once upon a time there was a mountain hare called Kerkko. Everything was fine. But the first snow fell really early. His coat hadn't turned white for winter yet. Kerkko was still brown. One day he



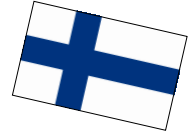
climbed out of his home hole. He saw a wolf. Kerkko started running away. Till he saw a bottle. It had white liquid inside. Kerkko drank it. He turned white. The next day they found out that a forest wizard had accidentally dropped the bottle. This was lucky for the mountain hare. A mountain hare needs a white coat when the ground is covered with snow. – Thank you, wizard, said Kerkko, the mountain hare.



The climate change may change the situation the opposite in the future: The mountain hare – also called the white hare – will keep changing its coat white every year whether there is snow or not. If winters get warmer and there is no snow in winter the white hare will be easily noticed by predators and it will be in a big danger.

(<https://animalia.bio/mountain-hare>)





# Saimaa ringed seal meeting lack of snow!

Story by Veera, 4th class,  
Pictures by Aida, 1<sup>st</sup> class and Jenna, 2<sup>nd</sup> class  
Muuruvesi School, Finland



Once upon a time there was a seal who already with anxiety was waiting for winter. Winter was already coming but there was no sight of snow. The seal was pregnant. She was wondering what to do. Where to give birth to the pup

when there is no snow. There was no other choice but to give birth on the bare ice. Within less than an hour the pup was born.

- How cute you are, the seal was thinking. Luckily it started to snow just then.

The next day there was a lot of snow, then the seal and the pup made themselves a nest under the snow.

- Luckily everything is fine now, the seal said.

- Yes, it is, the pup said and hugged his mother.

- Luckily the fox can't get you now, and the frost can't make you cold, said the seal. Now I'll go and get some fish for food.



The Saimaa ringed seal lives in the Lake Saimaa in Eastern Finland. It is one of the most endangered seals in the world. The seal needs a snow nest to protect the pups from cold and predators. With the climate change there isn't always enough snow for the seals and people help them by shoveling snow to the nesting places and making artificial nests for them. Fishing nets and traps are a threat for them, too. Therefore there are special regulations for fishing in Saimaa area. (<https://wwf.fi/elainlajit/saimaannorppa/>)





# Planet Earth is angry

Story by class F1

Pictures by classes F1 and E2

Astiki Scholi, 11<sup>th</sup> Primary School of Chios, Greece



Planet Earth is very angry. The situation is terrible. The atmosphere is polluted, the sea creatures can't breathe, the rubbish is everywhere in cities and the countryside, the ice on the poles is melting and big fires are burning the forests.

- Oh, my! What are the people doing?, thought the Earth.

The oceans got frustrated and huge waves were created. The wind blew with anger!

- Everybody, listen to us!, said the clouds. We don't want to hurt people but we suggest we teach them a lesson! They may think about what they are causing and stop being so selfish!

- Right, Mother Earth answered. What do you suggest?

- What do people need to survive?

- Food and water!, the ocean answered.- Right, the clouds replied. We are not going to pour any drop of water on land. People will be taught their lesson!

All the Earth Elements agreed. The sun started shining hot all over the planet and not even a small cloud appeared in the sky. Weeks passed, months passed, there was no water in the rivers, the lakes and the wells. The land dried up, no plant or tree gave any fruit.



The people wondered desperately :-What is going on? What will happen to us?

The presidents of all the countries met o make decisions. All the Earth Elements met, too. They decided that people had suffered enough and it was the right time to announce them the rules they had to follow in order the clouds to give them rain again.







- We have been waiting for you! , said the fox. The Earth Elements informed us you were coming. Follow us!

The children followed the animals and after walking through pine, birch and cedar forests, they reached the

spring of the longest river. There , they saw the Earth's rules engraved on the big rock.

- Read the rules, Chris! , one of the children said.

The Rules of the Earth

- Don't litter!

- Recycle!

- Don't pollute the rivers, the lakes and the sea!

- Don't waste water!

- Protect the forests!

- Protect the animals!

-Right! the oldest child said. I will write down the rules and tomorrow we will inform adults about what Earth wants us to do.





Next morning the children rushed out into the streets going from house to house and informing people about the Earth's rules. The old ones informed the mayors and the ministers so all the members of the

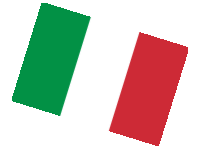
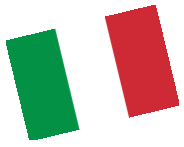
parliaments gathered in order to take measures for the protection of the environment. All the people, young and old, followed the Earth's orders. They collected all the rubbish, the factories and cars used solar energy in order to reduce fumes and forest wardens were hired in order forest fires to be voided. The Earth was relieved watching all the changes that had taken place. Luckily, people had followed its orders.

- Go on clouds! Offer people your precious gift, the water! the Earth said.

Rain started pouring down everywhere! Thousands of rainbows appeared in the sky! People, young and old, got out into the streets and the parks holding their umbrellas!



No more mistakes! If we act together, we can save our Planet!



# The uprooted birch

Story and pictures by the 3<sup>rd</sup> class

“Papa Luciani” Primary School, Solighetto, Italy

The quotations are from the poem “La quercia sradicata dal vento” A. Zanzotto, IX Egloghe, Poesie e prose scelte, Mondadori, 1999

In the schoolyard of Solighetto Primary school there was a young birch. Its trunk was white as snow and had dark-coloured black patches, its foliage was green and light. Its roots were very superficial. The plant was



formed by two rough trunks, arranged in a v-shape and by many thin branches.



Here and there there were small holes that the insects had dug, dropping a fine dust on the ground, a sign of its poor health. Its leaves were small, serrated and pointed. The happy birds searched for protection in that park.

This birch had a story to tell to the children of that school who happily played at its feet every day.

In a nearby village, Pieve di Soligo, lived a poet, named Andrea Zanzotto who loved walking and going to observe



nature. He was a thin man, of medium height. His hair was brown and a little white, his eyes as black as infinity. He used to dress not very neatly. He always wore a black hat on his head, a red scarf around his neck and had old shoes, like those of the past. His characteristic was that he was a bit crazy for the poems he wrote. He often passed by Solighetto Primary school and stopped to look at that marvellous birch.



The birch was always cheerful and happy. During one night a strong storm came, a strong wind came, a lightning fell on the top of the birch and broke it. The great storm wounded the birch and tore off several branches.

The poet tells us ... *una sera, che il vento era tutto,/ sì, tutto e mi premeva/ col suo gelo... ed un'energia/ faceva le cose sempre più/ sempre più, terra nella terra...*

Inside his house, the frightened poet thought and wrote - birch ... *resisti/ ora, sull'orlo, sta/ anche per tutto il mio/ amancare...*, ...but the plant was uprooted by the strong wind.

Then the day came and poet Andrea, who had been awake all night, worried about the birch, went out for a walk and went to see the schoolyard. He found the birch uprooted and sad he wrote:

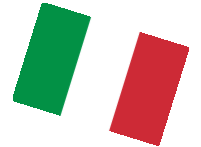
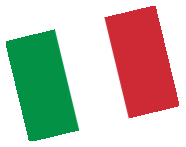


*...Ti rinvenimmo/ attraverso la squallida bocca del giorno, / rovesciata... E ora il sole allarga aride ali/ sul paese svuotato di te...*



The poet tried to raise it helped by other people who rushed there to see what had happened. He said to the birch: *...umiliata ai piedi/ miei, di me inginocchiato/ invano a alzarti come si alza il padre/ colpito*

*invano...* With all their strength they managed to raise it, and thanks to the force of nature, it continued to live.



# Advice for the Earth

Story and pictures by the 4<sup>th</sup> class  
"Papa Luciani" Primary School, Solighetto, Italy

- The vegetable garden of Solighetto primary school comes to life to give valuable advice to all of us -



Once upon a time there was a baby carrot that lived in a vegetable garden in the Veneto region. Every evening she went to bed peacefully with her friends peppers, radicchio

and fennel.

One morning she woke up leafless and tried to figure out the reason for her problem. Immediately she thought it was the caterpillar's fault because he



used to tease her. But, just before the carrot went to threaten the caterpillar, a



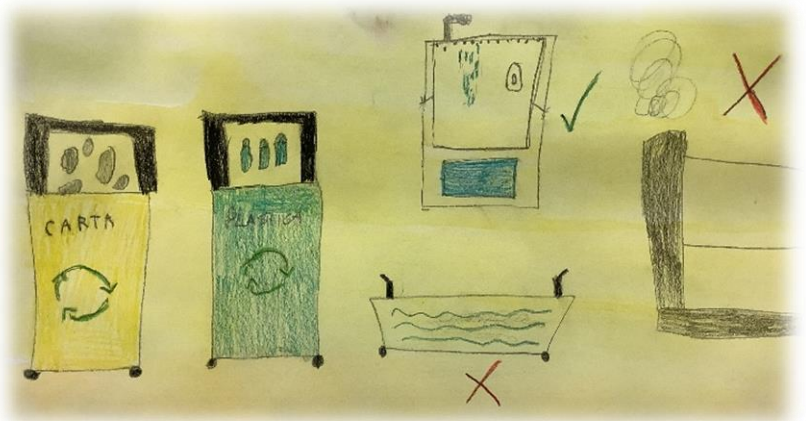
doctor passed by, Dr. Cipollino who carefully studied the crown of the carrot and thoughtfully sentenced: "Alas! It is certainly the terrible disease that is



spreading in our world: “Atmosfericus Pollution”. The carrot immediately understood that the caterpillar was innocent. She ran to warn her other vegetable friends of the danger that was

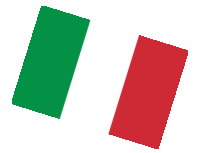
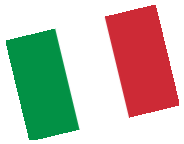
spreading: men with machines, industries and waste were contaminating the earth and the air and also their precious fruits.

There was no time to waste ... the carrot went on a journey: she wanted to ask everyone not to pollute. She suggested to use solar panels to use clean energy, to do the waste sorting, to prefer the shower to the bath in order not to waste water, to reduce the construction of factories and so on.



When she spread her message around the world, she finally returned to her vegetable garden and lived happily ever after with her friends.





# Flora Bee and the fight against pesticides

Story and pictures by the 5<sup>th</sup> class  
“Papa Luciani” Primary School, Solighetto, Italy

A bee named Flora was flying across a meadow, near a forest of acacias. It was a warm morning in late May and Flora was returning to her hive with a lot of pollen.



Her house was full of hardworking friends who were busy with different jobs.

As soon as she arrived she immediately met her friend Girasole who was cleaning, together with other sweeper bees, the cells where the new larvae would be born.

“Hi Girasole! Outside our hive it is really good and the weather is perfect for getting pollen!”, Flora said.

“In here, on the other hand, we sweat, perhaps the fan bees have taken a day off”, Girasole replied.

Flora went to lay down her precious and tasty treasure and then flew to Mimosa bee to check the nearest meadow map, where she would find the perfect flowers to pollinate.

And so she did for the whole day.

The next morning she woke up, felt a strange smell in the air and felt a bit dizzy but decided to go out anyway. Together with other foraging bees, she quietly flew to the usual meadow, near the acacia wood, and here she and her friends saw many withered flowers and heard a moan coming from under a narcissus.

It was bee Luisa who was suffering from a severe stomachache, most likely caused by the smoke coming out of a tractor sprayer.

She was writhing and crying with pain ... she could not find peace. Flora and the other bees came to help her and saw that she could not even fly.

That strange vehicle, which was driven by a farmer in a straw hat and a showy, dirty squared shirt, was emitting pesticides to kill parasites in the nearby cornfield.



The shocked and frightened bees went to help the poisoned bee and hurried back to the hive and here they went to the queen bee Elizabeth III.



Once inside, they noticed that other bees had also been affected by the same problem. The queen said: "Dearest daughters, I have to give you some bad news... the same disaster has also happened in the other hives. We must tell it

to our beekeeper Angelo, he will certainly help us. "

Flora and the bees that were still well flew towards Angelo who in the meantime

was checking the hives. The man wore a white beekeeper suit, gloves, boots and a visor; he needed this clothing to avoid being stung. He also had a blower in his hand from which smoke came out to calm the bees. As



soon as he saw his dazed bees, flying strangely, he knew immediately that something was wrong.

He looked around and felt a strange smell in the air: he saw the sprayer spraying the poison into the field, so Angelo understood what had happened.

He returned home upset and told it to his granddaughter Gaia who in turn told her classmates.

The children were worried about the future of bees because they knew that without these precious and unique insects, humans could not live long. In fact, they knew the saying: "If bees disappeared from the Earth, men would only have 4 years of life left".

The class also involved more pupils from other schools, and together they decided to hold a demonstration against this situation and also told their parents. All together they went to protest in the town square and someone even wrote an article in the local newspaper.

The farmer read the article and realized he was wrong. The next day he went to apologize to the beekeeper Angelo and promised him not to use any more poisonous products. On the contrary, he did even more, planting the seeds of the flowers that had the favourite colours of these insects.

The bees in the hives were happy to be able to return to the fields without dying or being sick and had a great party.





# Ari's tale

Story by Bîrlică Ștefan, 8<sup>th</sup> class

Picture by Ene Luca Mihail, 5<sup>th</sup> class

“Martha Bibescu” Children’s Club, Comarnic, Romania

Somewhere in Africa, at the edge of a jungle, lived Ari – a beautiful, young and imposing lion. He was sitting, distressed, in the shade of a palm tree, trying to decide whether to stay or to leave his homeland. The reason is the construction of a residential neighbourhood. He used to be a joyful and energetic lion, with plenty of friends with whom he used to go hunting. He used to be happy here, but since the construction began, his happy existence turned into a miserable and lonely one.

All his friends have left, the other animals have left too. There is no more prey for him, so survival became very difficult. He loves this place so much that he doesn’t know what to do. Hunger is tormenting him, so he decides to get up and start searching for food.

It doesn’t take much until he finds a pile of garbage and all sorts of leftovers. Struck by the unpleasant smell and disgusted by the horrendous view, he decides to leave. Suddenly, he hears someone asking for help.

Next to the pile he finds a baby lion. He is clearly hurt, so Ari asks what has happened. Ari learns that the baby has swallowed a piece of plastic discarded by the people working there. Ari can’t be neutral in front of the baby’s suffering

and, mad at the culprits, started carrying the junk back to the residential neighbourhood.

The humans, seeing this, started chasing him. That's exactly what he wanted! To show people what had happened because of their recklessness.

When they arrived near the baby lion and saw him crying in pain, they realized what they have done. They took the baby lion as quickly as possible to the vet, cleaned the mess and gave Ari something to eat.

After a few days, the baby lion healed. He and Ari started searching for their families and friends, and the humans promised to deposit their garbage in proper places, that they will take care of the jungle and that no one will ever suffer again because of them.





# The bees' dance

Story by Coman Isabela, 5<sup>th</sup> class

Picture by Sabina Sterian, 2<sup>nd</sup> class

“Martha Bibescu” Children’s Club, Comarnic, Romania



It was a sunny day during the summer time when a little bee was up to work. Her playground is the multicolored flower plain, where her duty is to pick up fresh pollen every day for her beehive. When she reaches the full capacity of her pollen bag, she goes to her "house" to show its brothers and

sisters what she has to offer.

I am not sure how many of you know about this, but in order for a bee to indicate the presence of an area with many flowers to its friends, the back of her body starts vibrating in such a way that the other bees know where to go and what to find there.

There is an important relation between bees and flowers. It is said that "bees need flowers in order to survive the same way the flowers need bees to survive and flourish". In other words, for a bee to produce its own honey, it needs the nectar that the flowers have to offer. And in exchange, the flowers that are

being visited by bees are getting the pollination that they need to bloom.

I'll present to you some facts about bees and why are they so important for our day to day life:

✓ Bees contribute to around 70% of the worldwide agriculture. In other words, 70 out of 100 foods that we eat/drink have in common the work that those bees had to submit.

✓ In order to produce a kilogram of honey, bees need to visit between 2 and 5 million flowers.

✓ The maximum speed a bee can have during her flight is around 70km/hour, but when her pollen bags are full, she can reach a maximum of 20km/hour.

✓ In order for a bee to have its pollen bags full, it can visit between 50 and 100 flowers. During this time, the bee is also storing the flower nectar in her stomach where there is a special bag serving this purpose.

✓ The distance that bees are usually able to fly in their lifetime is around 800km. During this time, a single bee can produce about half a spoon of honey.

✓ If you look in a beehive you will find social ranks. There you will meet the queen which is the most important element in their family, after that you will find the so called "workers", you can find the gatekeepers and the last element of their family are the drones.

✓ If you take a look on the percentage, in a beehive you will find 90% workers and 10% drones.

✓ Bees do not attack if they are not disturbed. Bees usually attack humans or animals only when their family is being threatened.





# What if domestic animals didn't exist?

Story by Tiberiu Mitrea, 5<sup>th</sup> class

Pictures by Năpăruș Ana-Maria, 5<sup>th</sup> class, Lia Krancevik, 4<sup>th</sup> class,  
Năpăruș Alexia, 5<sup>th</sup> class and Nicolescu Ioana, 5<sup>th</sup> class  
“Martha Bibescu” Children’s Club, Comarnic, Romania



Just imagine a world without animals.

I'm Mitrea Tiberiu and now I will present to you 'What if domestic animals didn't exist?'

So, let's take a look at food: no milk, no eggs, no meat, no cheese and much more. Farmers would be starving without their cows, sheep or pigs. Businesses such as KFC and McDonald's would be closed. And let's be honest, everyone

likes fast food.

Now think about wool. The wool from our sheep, for example. Without it there will no longer be blankets or sweaters made by dressmakers or by our grandmas.



It would also affect the entertainment of kids. How? Let's think about dogs and cats. Everyone knows how important dogs are around our houses. Without

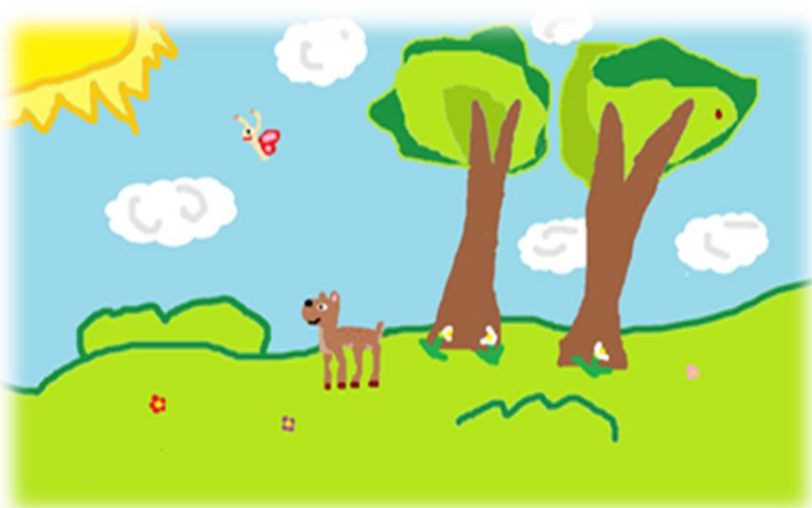


dogs, wild animals would come and destroy our vegetables. And, in the worst situation, they may even attack people. But dogs aren't always innocent, sometimes they attack people, too.

Dogs are also useful for catching prey, or they can even become therapy dogs. They have so many uses and that is why we call them "Man's best friend".

Ok, we have talked about dogs, cows, sheep and pigs, but we haven't talked about cats. They are used for entertainment, just like dogs, but they are also useful to catch mice and rats.

As you see, a world without domestic animals is just hard to imagine. We need to be respectful to them because in the absence of them we would have a hard time living.





# Coniferous forests

Story by Nistorescu Andreea, 7<sup>th</sup> class

Picture by Neaguțescu Sara, 5<sup>th</sup> class

“Martha Bibescu” Children’s Club, Comarnic, Romania

Mihai and Alina are neighbours and best friends. They are students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and have become very passionate about geography, thanks to their amazing teacher. For today’s lesson, the teacher chose to tell the kids about coniferous forests.

With a big smile and a soothing voice, she asked the children to speak about the benefits of this sort of forest. Alina quickly raised her hand, remembering that she had a discussion with her mom about it not a long time ago. “We are listening, dear Alina!”, the teacher said.

“Firstly, I know that forests give shelter to wild animals, keeping them away from humans. They also provide us with oxygen.”

Mihai is also eager to speak about an article that he has come across on the internet. The teacher gladly lets him speak.

“It’s your turn, Mihai! Tell us, what do you know about coniferous forests?”

“I’ve read that forests are protected by law against illegal logging and deforestation. If deforestation occurs, wild animals such as bears and foxes would seek shelter in our cities.”

“That is absolutely correct, my darlings! You are right! Trees provide us with oxygen that is vital for humans and animals. Even though we can’t see or feel it, we are breathing this gas the forest is offering. Forests not only give us oxygen, but it also turns the carbon dioxide that we exhale into oxygen! Forests have a crucial role in keeping an equilibrium in the ecosystem. The Earth needs constant humidity and temperature, and trees take care of this. They resemble soldiers that fight against desertification and against harming the other species on this planet. All plants and animals, regardless of their size, find the best shelter near trees, so that they can thrive. Here, the sun is not so intense, the wind is not so ruthless, the snow is not so cold and the humidity is not excessive.

Generally speaking, we very much depend on the wellbeing of the forest. The more trees and forests we have, the more stable the soil is. Landslides can be prevented by simply planting more trees and the soil is protected against erosion. Nature is offering us everything she has and only asks for RESPECT in return!”





# *The playful hedgehog*

Story by Teodora Fodac, 5<sup>th</sup> class

Picture by Chirilescu Rebeca Andreea , preparatory group  
"Martha Bibescu" Children's Club, Comarnic, Romania

In a cold autumn afternoon, by the time everyone was preparing for winter, a hedgehog was gathering food supplies.

After some time, the hedgehog decided to take a break in order to catch his breath. Suddenly a seed shell fell on his head. He looked up to see what's happening, and he saw a bunch of kids eating seeds and throwing the shells on the ground. He got very angry at the sight of all that mess, so he decided to teach those kids a lesson.

He proceeded to climb with great difficulty on the bench the five kids were sitting on.

He took advantage of the moment when one of the kids got up and sneaked onto his seat. He crouched there and waited. There was a loud and squeaky scream when the boy returned, not noticing the hedgehog and involuntarily sitting on it. The kids got up immediately, scared by their friend's scream. The hedgehog jumped straight up and talked to the kids about how important it is to care for our environment and to keep it clean.

The kids, ashamed by their ignorance, started cleaning up the place and left, promising to be more careful next time.

Since then, the boys not only keep the park clean, but they also supervise the other kids. They make sure that everyone follows their example, while also becoming friends with the hedgehog and with nature.





# The story of a bear and evil woodman

Story by Teodora Magda, 5<sup>th</sup> class

Picture by Darius Șerbulea, 5<sup>th</sup> class

“Martha Bibescu” Children’s Club, Comarnic, Romania

Lately, the village people have started talking about the fact that the nearby forest has become quite dangerous because there lives a huge and evil bear. Therefore, the woodman was sent to cut down the trees from the most dangerous forest.

Although he was afraid, he accepted the mission and went into the forest all by himself. There he started cutting down the first tree, then the second one, the third one and so on, until he reached the last tree. Suddenly, the bear appeared, but he looked very, very scared.

“Don’t be scared, I’m not going to attack you!”, the bear said.

“Then why did you come to me? Why are you scaring everyone?”, the woodman asked.

“Do you think that’s my intention? I don’t have a choice... If they come in the woods and eat our food, why wouldn’t we also eat their food? Where are we supposed to get our food from?” the bear said, revealing a small bag with money.

“What’s this? What are you doing with all that money?”

“With this money? I went to the store to buy blackberries and honey, but they didn’t let me in. They chased me away. Why? Because I’m a bear and no one thinks about the fact that I need to eat, too! They all get scared of me and don’t even consider what I truly want. If only you would let me speak... Why do you come to us?” the bear said with sadness, sitting on a fallen stump.

“And what about you, bear? How do you scrape by?”

“What do you think? It’s tough! If I come in the village in search of food, I get hunted. If I remain here, you come to me, destroy everything and hunt me! The same you did today... You cut down everything and now you’re leaving! You’re earning money and I... I’m losing my own life.”

Touched by the bear’s story and feeling deeply sorry for ruining the forest, the woodman built the bear a den, he brought him food and started replanting the trees along with the other villagers.







# Friendship of the bears

Story by Vlădilă Andra, 4<sup>th</sup> class

Picture by Codreanu Izabela Sara, preparatory group  
"Martha Bibescu" Children's Club, Comarnic, Romania

Once upon a time, during the autumn season, a little bear called Marti woke up in his "bed" in the middle of the forest. He looked around to check if his mom was around, but there was no sign of her. He thought that his mom was trying to gather something that he could eat, so he stood still and waited her for a while. He got anxious after a while, because his mom was never gone for that long.

Being very sad and hungry, he started to find another shelter and maybe something that he could eat. He knew that he might find a friend of his if he climbs the mountain.

During his journey through the woods, he heard the voice of another bear. It was a very big bear that smelled Marti and came to speak with him: "Hello little bear! What are you doing here all by yourself?"

"Hello! My name is Marti and I am so sad! My mom is missing! I am hungry but I do not know how to search for food, I really need a friend that could help me learn how to survive." "You are very lucky my little friend! I don't like to be

alone either! I invite you to my place, I could provide you some berries and explain to you why are we so important for this planet.”

Marti was very happy about his proposal, so he agreed! The old bear gave Marti a place to live, and some berries to eat. After some small talk, the old bear started to teach Marti what he needed to learn about their species:

“Marti, you really need to understand that we are very strong and clever. Our smell and hearing are top notch around here. For example, our smell helps us avoid people, find food and it is also used to find our little babies.”

“This is so interesting! This means that I was able to find you because of my nose! I am wondering if one day I will be as big and strong as you are now!”

“Of course you will! And do you want to know something else? Even though it looks like it is hard for me to walk around, when it comes to running, I am a true champion! If I need to, I could run for the whole day without being tired.”

“Well, is this because of your big paws?” “Yes! These paws help me dig my den whenever I need to, even though the land is frozen during winter. They also help me protect my self in case someone is trying to attack me!”

“That is so cool! Thank you, the berries were great! I would like to know what

else do we usually eat?” “Well, we also like acorns, apples, pears, plums, mushrooms, and our favorite dessert is: blackberries, raspberries and blueberries. And last but not least, we really enjoy eating honey. To help you with your training, I know a spot where we could find some food. We need to eat as much as possible during this time of the year, because during the winter time, we hibernate.” “Wow! Thank's a lot! You are a really good friend! You gave me the a lot of strength to go forward!”

That is how a really nice friendship was born. They both lived together for a long time and they learned a lot from each other.





# Saving the mount Castelo

Script by the 6<sup>th</sup>B

Text based on a story written by Ainara Álvarez Carral

Pictures by the 6<sup>th</sup> levels, Ceip Vista Alegre, Spain

Once upon a time, a group of boys and girls from Vista Alegre organized an outing to get to know their town better. For this excursion they had a very special guide, Maruxa, who was the grandmother of one of the pupils. Maruxa had



seen how the town had grown and changed over time and she was a great expert in natural matters. As they walked, Maruxa explained to them what the neighbouring mountains were, the trees in the area...



Already arriving at mount Castelo, they began to perceive a smell of smoke. They followed the smell to an area not suitable for barbecues but a family was calmly preparing one in the floor.

A barbecue in the floor? – The children shouted.

Everyone knew that in summer these could not be done and less in non-authorized spaces, close to trees... Begoña had explained it to them in a talk at the beginning of the school year.

The group of boys and girls approached the family and explained to them that what they were doing was very dangerous, that it was better to put out the fire and change



the location. But the family did not like it and instead of putting out the fire, they decided to keep adding firewood to make it bigger and bigger.



increased the risk of spreading. Maruxa called 112 and explained what was happening. The fire was growing quickly. While the firefighters did not arrive, the

children, who were moving away as best they could from the area, took



advantage of the water source there was to moisten their clothes and thus be



more protected against smoke and fire, and be able to breathe better.

When the firefighters arrived, everything was a chaos, and a great area was already burned. It took more than four hours to control it.

The group of children was impressed with what they saw next.

Hundreds of burned trees, injured animals: birds, roe deer...that was not the view they were used to. They decided they had to do



something to recover the beauty of that natural space. They would plant trees and they put up posters explaining the rules to protect the mountain. Since then, every year, those children who were no longer such children, continue to



visit the area, proud of their work to protect and recover nature. Castelo mount had recovered its splendour, and in it lived all kinds of trees typical of the Galician mountains. The whole town was proud of their

commitment and they called them “the Green Guard”.



# Let's save our mount Castelo!

Script by the 6<sup>th</sup>B

Text based on a story written by Jimena García Fra

Pictures by the 5<sup>th</sup> levels, Ceip Vista Alegre, Spain

As every year, when the summer comes, boys and girls from Vista Alegre celebrate the beginning of the holidays with a meeting day in mount Castelo, that special place full of trees which released oxygen from the top of the town. There were pine trees, oak trees, eucalyptus, holly tree...



They always did the same, they left school around nine and they walked until they reached the snack area. There they had their snacks whereas they enjoyed a wonderful panoramic sight of Burela.

After that, they organised themselves in groups to do a little treasure hunt with varied and funny challenges. Right at the moment they started the game, one of the groups realised that some smoke was coming from behind the chapel.



They quickly decided to approach to see what was happening, and they saw a man making a fire, which was something illegal at that time of the year since it supposed a risk of the fire spreading.

The group of kids tried to approach the man who ran out when he saw the them, leaving the fire burning and unattended.

What could we do? Would be better to put it out? Or would be better to call the emergency services? – they asked themselves.

They hadn't had time to make up



their minds when they felt a little wind picking up and how quickly the fire began to spread through the treetops.

It was time to keep out and ask for help. They called 112 and the fire brigade was not long in coming.





In a few hours they managed to control the fire. Later the firemen thanked the boys and girls for their speed in contacting them since that allowed to minimize the impact of the fire.

Even so, the boys and girls were sad because mount Castelo was a very special place for them where they kept beautiful memories, and see now that black area with many burned trees and some injured animals...filled them with sadness.



There is something more we can do! – said one of the boys.



We could also put up signs giving advice on preventing fires, following the advices that Begoña gave us in the talk one day at school. – added one of the girls.

Everyone agreed and decided to spend the rest of the day designing posters and planting trees so that mount Castelo would be the same as always.





# The goblin from the forest

Story and pictures by class 2<sup>nd</sup>A  
Ceip Vista Alegre, Spain



One quiet spring day, in a Galician forest, a goblin was walking amongst the trees. All of a sudden, he heard a noise. Scared, he had a look and...

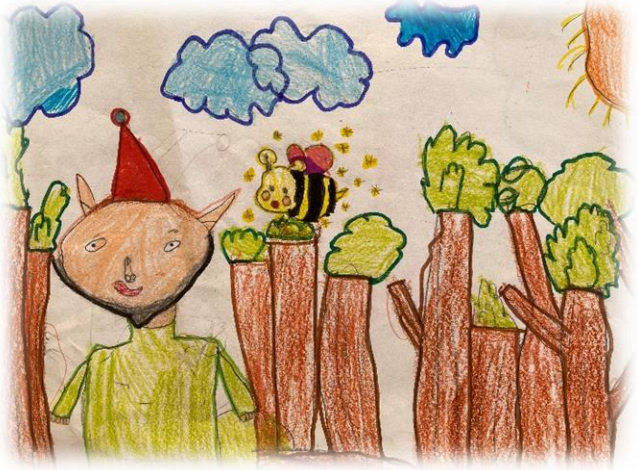
He saw big machines cutting down trees in the forest.



- No way! Animals will be homeless! I need help!

He sent his friend, the talking bee, to warn the Green Brigades in class 2A.

When they arrived to the forest, the goblin gave them a magical clover, which had the power to disappear when used by children.

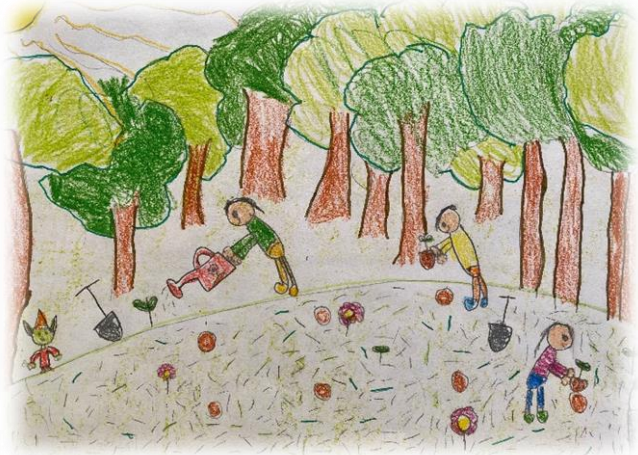


Over the machines flew the clover and the machines disappeared from the forest.

Finally, the Green Brigades could plant new trees in the forest.



And this is how everyone helped to keep the forest alive.



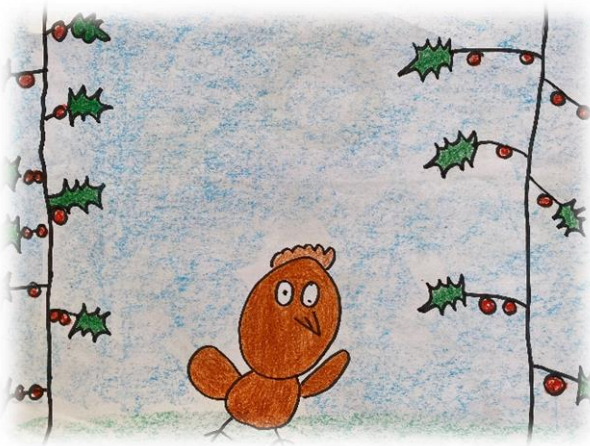
That night, they had a party!





# Valentino's trouble

Text adapted from a storytelling carried out by the Gaia monitors.  
Pictures by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade pre-primary students  
Ceip Vista Alegre, Spain

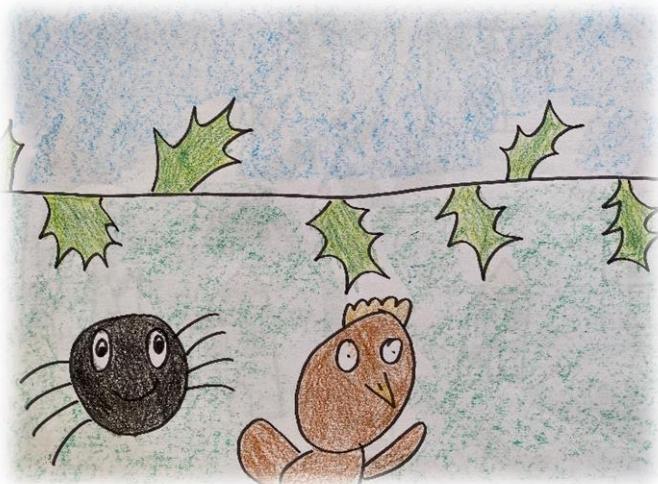
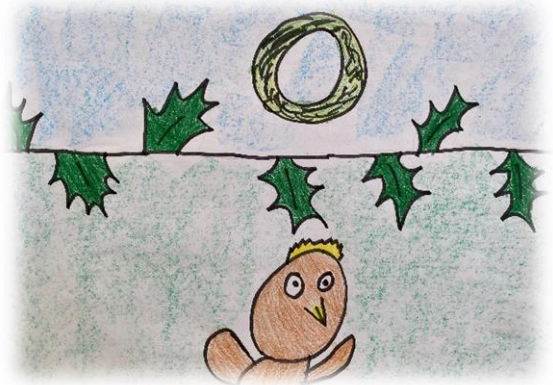


Every morning, when Valentino gets up, he goes through the forest looking for its food. His main food is fruit from a bush called holly tree. They are little red balls.

This winter is going to be tough for Valentino because his mother broke a wing

and he has to take care of collecting food by his own.

This morning, Valentino woke up and went to look for the holly tree balls to eat his mother and he.



“Twit, twit, twit. Oh, mum! There is no fruit in all the forest. No sign of the red little red balls”.

But his mother, who was sleeping soundly, did not answer.

“I am going to visit Manuela Spider, so she sure knows what happened” said Valentino.

“What happened, Valentino? You are very upset!” said Manuela.

“Today, when I went to look for the holly tree little balls in the forest, there were none. Someone took them” said Valentino.

“This sounds bad. I want to see with my own eyes the holly trees without balls.”

“How awful! Valentino, you were right. All the holly trees are without little balls”.

Manuela and Valentino went to the village together. As every Christmas all the streets were decorated with colourful lights and a large holly tree in the middle of the square.



Something called Valentino’s and Manuela’s attention, all the houses had holly bouquets hung on its doors and windows. The food from many animals from

the forest was there.

“Who came up with doing something like that? This can not be!

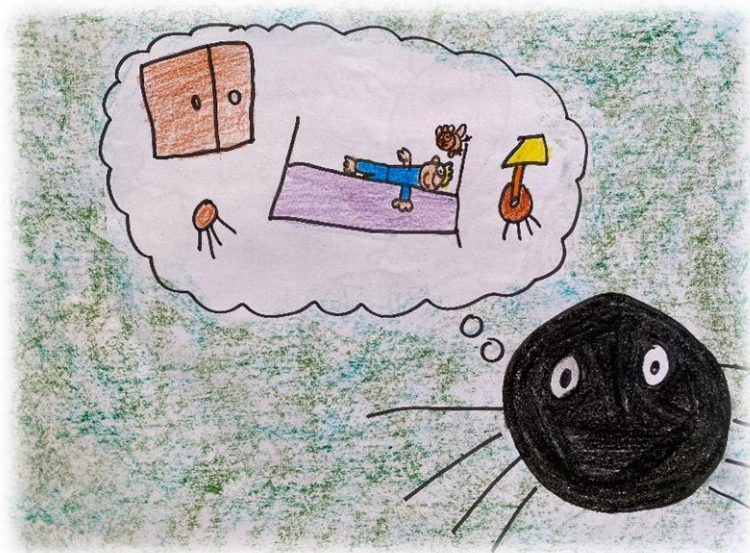
All the animals in the forest must know about this. If humans are collecting holly trees to decorate their houses in Christmas we are



running out of food and we will starve. We have to go somewhere else to look for food”.

Valentino and Manuela came back to the forest and told the other animals what was happening.

“I have got an idea! We can go and tell Ánxela what is happening. She really loves animals. When she grows up, she wants to be a vet. I am sure she will talk to all her neighbours of the town and tell them what is happening. I am sure they can find a solution!” said Manuela.



“It’s your turn, Manuela! I am a little sparrow and I can’t talk to children, they can’t understand my language” said Valentino.

“Keep calm, Valentino! There’s a way to do it” said Manuela. “We will get into their dreams, into

the children’s dreams”.

“Get into their dreams? What are you saying?” asked Valentino.

“Yes! Tonight you will go to every child’s house in the town, you will get close to them and you will whisper in their ears what people are doing to us” said Manuela.

That night, Valentino went into every single house of the town where a child was sleeping to tell them, in their dreams, that they needed help because there was no food to eat in the forest for the animals.

The following morning, Ánxela woke up very early, she went downstairs and she went to the forest to see her friends, the animals.

“Everything will be ok. This winter is too late to solve the problem but the following spring every girl and boy from the town are going to plant holly trees and nobody will take the fruit from their branches to hang up on doors and house to decorate them for Christmas”.

Indeed, people from that town raised awareness within the importance of taking care of our trees and our animals. That is why, when Christmas was getting close, holly trees were not seen anymore without their little red balls.

Valentino and his friends were really proud and happy.





# Nightmare in the forest

Story and pictures by class 2<sup>nd</sup>B,  
Ceip Vista Alegre, Spain

Once upon a time lived an evil dwarf in a hazelnut tree in Monte Castelo.

One summer evening he thought of burning the forest.



He grabbed a can of gasoline and started spilling it in the forest. Just before leaving, he dropped a match.

When he was walking down to Burela, he realised he had also burnt his house.

On his way, he found the children from Year 2 and asked for help.



The children told him it was very bad what he had done, but they would help him plant new tree in the forest. And this is how Monte Castelo was full of trees again.





# The forest in danger

Story by class 4<sup>th</sup>A  
Pictures by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class  
Ceip Vista Alegre, Spain



In a town called Burela there were four children who get on really well: Xulián, Mar, Ximena and Anxo.

One day, they went



on a trip to a forest to see different trees typical from the area.



Suddenly, during their walk, they saw very big machines cutting down all the trees.

“Oh no! It is a tragedy! They are deforesting our forest!” said Mar.

“We have to stop all this!” shouted Anxo.

The four adventurous went directly to



the workers.

“Turn off the machines! Don’t keep cutting down the trees! They are part of our natural wealth and if you cut them off, we can never enjoy them and their benefits” the four friends said firmly.

“I am so sorry guys, but we are following the Mayor’s orders. We have to urbanize this area and in order to do it, first, we need to empty it”.

Children left very dissapointed, they didn’t want to lose the beauty of that



forest. So they told their parents what was happening and together, they came up with the idea of visiting the Mayor to understand what was going on.



“Good afternoon guys! What are you going to talk to me about?” asked the Mayor.

“We want to talk about deforestation” they all answered.

The Mayor was very surprised since he

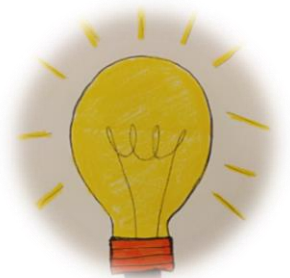


“Burela has lost a lot of population during these years and we want to build a new neighbourhood where new people can come to live in. You will see what

wonderful houses we are building there, I will even build a new funfair for you to have fun”.

“We don’t want a funfair, we prefer to enjoy our natural environment. There must be a way to bring people to our town without destroying our forest” said Mar.

In that moment, Ximena had an idea: to promote outdoor activities and ecological tourism.



The Mayor recognised it was a good idea and he orders to stop the deforestation and to turn the forest into a protected natural area where outdoor activities



could be practiced such as horseback riding trails or camping. A lot of people decided to come and visit the forest to enjoy nature and even replant the area affected by the cutting of.

Finally, Burela was a place respectful with environment and its population increased. They were really happy of living in a such natural wealthy.







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