

GREECE | LATVIA | ITALY | POLAND | TURKEY | ROMANIA | HUNGARY | PORTUGAL

# The Amazing Trip on Earth



## Rolling stone

Traveler in the environment  
with geomythology viewing sustainability



# The Amazing Trip on Earth

# **Rolling stone** 2016-2019

Traveler in the environment  
with geom mythology viewing sustainability

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More information about our project: <https://blogs.sch.gr/4dimlamias>

4 th PRIMARY SCHOOL OF LAMIA  
**GREECE**

BALOZU VIDUSSKOLA  
**LATVIA**

ISTITUTO COMPENSIVO A. LEONORI  
**ITALIA**

SpoleczneGimnazjumJezykowe LTO  
**POLAND**

ADANA TABIPLER ODASI PRIMARY SCHOOL  
**TURKEY**

SCOALA GIMNAZIALA CU CLASELE I-VII DENSUSIANU  
**ROMANIA**

JASZSAGI APPONYI ALBERT ALTALANOS ISKOLA Es MUVESZETI ISCOLA  
**HUNGARY**

AGRUPAMENTO DE ESCOLAS DE BARCELOS  
**PORTUGAL**



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Since AI landed in Earth, an amazing trip begun.

It lasted 3 years.

Eight schools, eight countries joined together to work in a special subject.  
GEOMYTHOLOGY

AI, students and teachers rolled and strolled across Europe.

And when AI left for other destinations....maybe for an asteroid to visit  
LITTLE PRINCE, partners also left for their homes.

AI will remember them forever. A piece in his alien heart will always have these amazing moments. And they will never forget AI for teaching them to share love and experience, to hug and care for each other. And from now and on, each time they will stare at the stars they will wave to AI and they will feel special and unique.

As they say in the Space...

"Important things can only be seen with the heart not the eyes"

Katerina Karkali  
Coordinator



# LATVIA



BALOZU VIDUSSKOLA  
LATVIA





Erasmus+

Rolling stone

*"The amazing trip to the Earth"*



Greece



Romania



Latvia



Italy



Portugal



Poland



Turkey



Hungary



*It all starts in Latvia...*



We live in Latvia, it is one of the Baltic States. There are 76 cities in Latvia. Our capital city is Riga.



In Latvia live about two million people. We live in Baloži and there live about 6400 people. We learn new things every day at Baložu Secondary school. By the way.. “Baloži” in English means pigeons. That’s a little bit funny, when we explain it. At our school every day lessons take about 660 pupils.

One day happened something really weird, scary and also very exciting at the same time. Everyone heard a big crash...BOOOOOOOM!!!!!! That was a meteorite, which fell in the woods next to our school. Some kids, who were playing there, ran to the meteorite. They thought it was a rock, but it glowed, so they changed their mind. It was glowing yellow. That ‘rock’ was really weird.



Kids brought it in the school. When they came to the hall it started to glow even brighter. And then... a little green, friendly alien jumped out the 'rock'. Pupils were really scared and excited at the same time.

He talked to the kids English very well. That was pretty spectacular, because he was from Mars.

He said: "I want to see this world, but first - where am I?" The kids told him that he is on planet Earth - in Latvia! Then he told them:

"I would love to see your school - will you show me?"

Kids answered:

"Yes, of course - we will show you our school!" And so the journey started!

First they went to the basement. Kids showed him the wardrobe and three basement classrooms. Then they went upstairs to the first floor, to show some more classrooms and the principal's office. Then they went upstairs to see more classrooms.

The next place where they went, was the canteen. They ate tasty lunch, which we have at school every day.







After lunch they went to the sports hall and kids showed the new part of the school, which has got two floors, and it was built in 2012, when the principal cut the red ribbon and officially opened the new part of the school.







Kids brought him to the stadium outside, where we can play volleyball, football, basketball, and there is also a place for long jumping.



Kids told him about the kindergarten in the new part of the school. Outside the school is a playground for the little kids from our kindergarten.







At our school we have a lot of afterschool activities like: ceramics, chess, folk dances, badminton, table tennis, basketball and floorball...



Every year we organize a color week, for example if it's Monday- we dress red, on Tuesday- yellow, and so on. Every year we make a small celebration - dancing and singing party- when somebody can act his/her favorite singer or dancer. We enjoy this event really much.





We organize thematic parties, for example disco party for Halloween.

It is a tradition to have a thematic Christmas concert, before Christmas break. We sing, dance, read poems, etc. We organize this event at least for two months. Everyone gets so excited about it and do his/her best.



Usually day after Christmas concert (last day before winter break) we have ceremony, where our Headmistress gives out the silver and gold attestations.

The alien said: "Ok, I have learned a lot about your school! What about your city, can you show and tell me a little bit about your city?"

Kids answered: "Ok! No problem!"





Our city is Baloži – small town in Latvia. Baloži is just 12 km away from our capital city Riga, so it is really close.

Baloži was founded soon after the Second World War, as a village at that time, it was developed for the nearby peat factory workers. Oldest part of the town is built in Stalinist style. During 1970s territory of the village was expanded towards A7 highway. During 1980s this part was built as a modern residential district and called Titurga. In 1991 Baloži received town rights. After Latvian administrative territorial reform of 2009 Baloži became part of Ķekava Municipality and thus becoming one of the few Latvian towns which are not municipal center.

In our city we have a bakery “Mario”, where bakers bake bread, cakes, cupcakes and other good stuff. We usually go there after lessons.



We also have a kindergarten “Avotiņš”, where a lot of us went when we were little.

As we said before, we have a big forest near to our school. It is really beautiful.

Kids said: “Okay, now we are going to tell you about Riga and other big cities.”

As you already realized, Riga is the biggest city of Latvia. It’s our capital city. This year it’s going to turn 816 years old.

Riga is a really beautiful and romantic place. There is a wonderful old town.





There are a lot of different types of restaurants, cafeterias and hotels. In an old town, there is a statue of Liberty, which is really important for our country and citizens.



Now we will tell you about different and interesting places in and old city.



The first place is "Centrāltirgus" (central market). This is a place where people can buy and sell healthy food right from their garden. It's a very famous place, because in 1930 this market was the biggest and modern in all the Europe.

The next place is "Vērmānes dārzs". It is something similar to some kind of park or garden. "Vērmānes dārzs" is one of the most beautiful parks in Riga. It was built by donations.

Park was available to citizens in 1817.

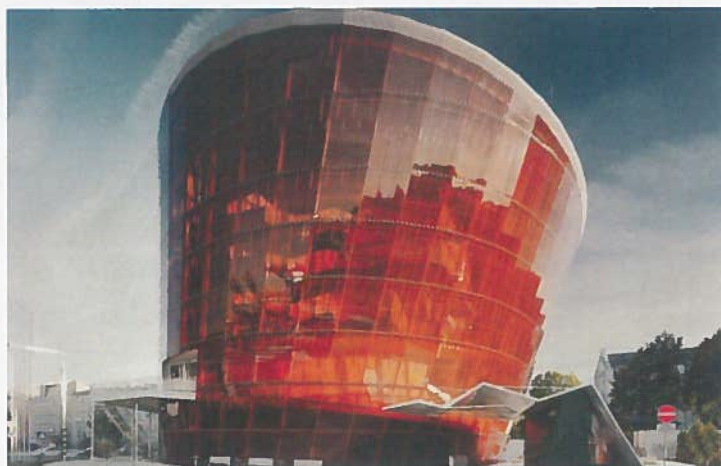






The alien said: "I really love your capital city, but can you tell me more, please?" "All right," kids answered.

Our beautiful city Liepāja is one of the biggest cities in Latvia. It is near to the Baltic Sea. In Liepāja you can see the famous concert hall "Dzintars". It is very big.



The next city is Sigulda. There is a bobsleigh track. It is spectacular. There is an adventure park "Tarzāns". "It is really cool," kids said.

In Sigulda there is a beautiful forest. During autumn time it is even more beautiful and colorful.



"It is a very little information about Latvia" One of the kids said.

"Yeah.. That's all for now," other kids said.

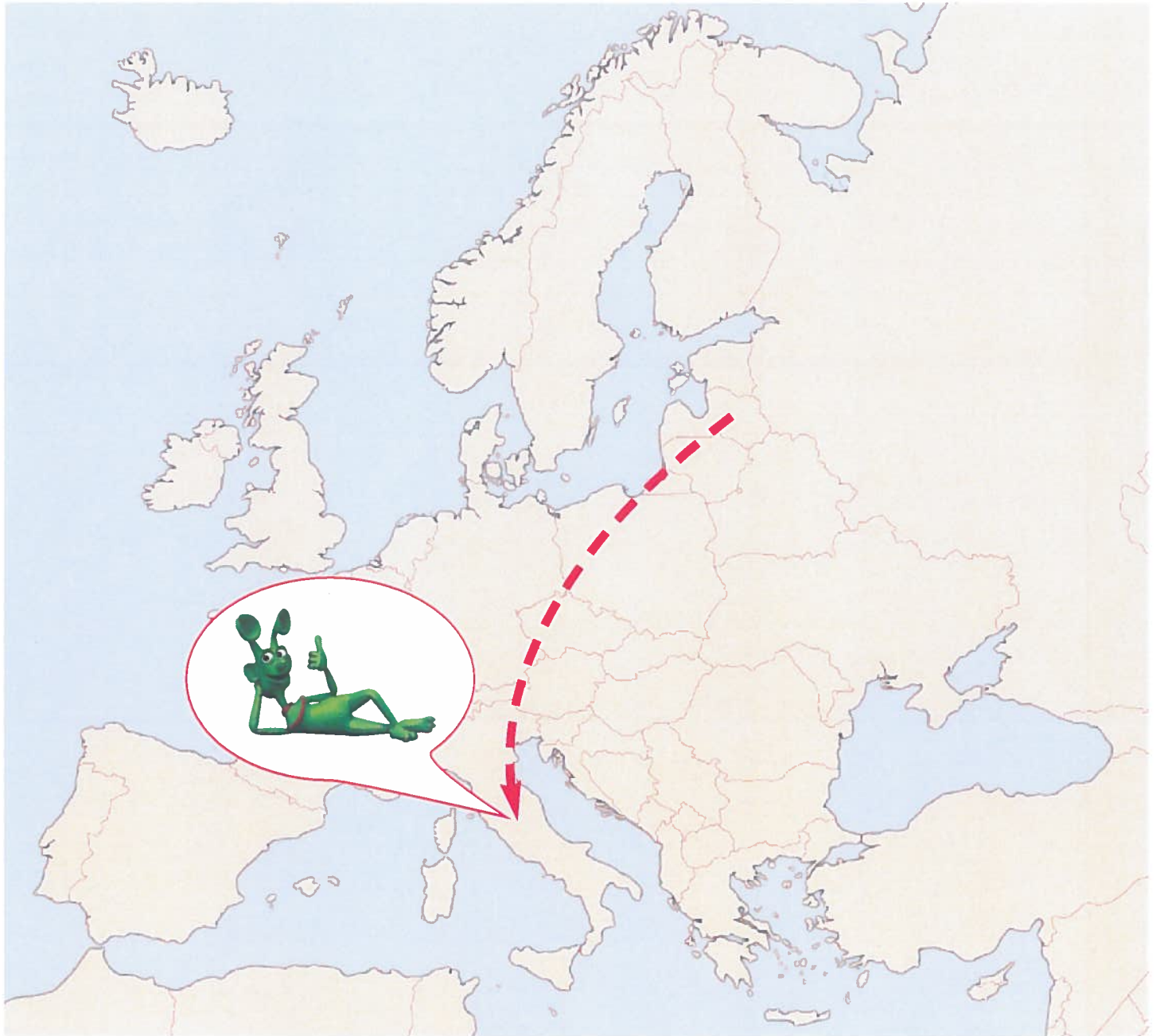
"Well thank you very much," friendly little green alien said, "I really enjoyed your story. I hope that one day I would see all of these places, but I can't do it now, because I need to visit other countries.."

The kids said: "Okay...that is really sad, because we liked you and perhaps we will see you again."

"Don't worry, I will come here again, because I really liked this time and your school, city and country, but I have to go now.. To see some other countries.. Ok, but now bye."

"Bye," said little, friendly, green Alien.

# ITALY



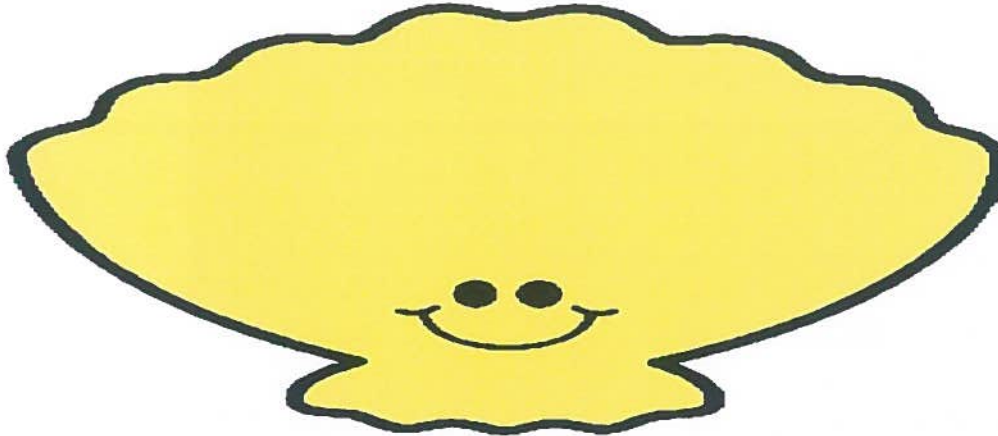
ISTITUTO  
COMPENSIVO  
A. LEONORI  
ITALIA





**.....FROM LATVIA TO ITALY.....**

A really big and golden shell



floated among the waves when two playful dolphins started to push the shell like a ball



“ Ehiiii stop it” screamed a voice from the interior of the shell.  
“Who are you?” “Where am I?” “What a wonderful swinging and rolling is this?!” the voice said .

The dolphins were scared and jumped over the waves. “ Please don’t go, help me” continued the voice. Aries, the younger dolphin came back to the shell and said “Hello, we are dolphins and we live free into the sea, around a beautiful, small Island called Ponza ...



Not far from a very ancient but also modern city, Rome capital of Italy, a country in the southern part of Europe...”,



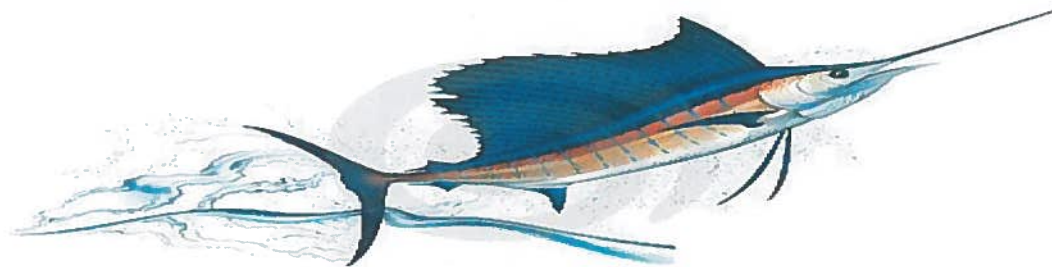
“Wait, wait, wait! How many things you know dear Dolphin. I don’t know anything about Rome, Italy and now... a lot of water around me and so salty! How can I get to this ancient town... Rome? “

Pegasus, the other Dolphin came closer to the shell

and pushed it on his back and said “if you tell me who you are and where you come from I promise that you ‘ll see Rome and more!”

"I'm a meteorite from Mars! I'm on your planet to see how you live, how you take care of your world and if I like it, maybe ,I can stay here forever. I'm an alien I can change shape depending on where I am. I fell down in a very nice place called Latvia. There I met really pretty kids and I learnt a lot about their country. They told me to come to see another beautiful country but now... I'm here so far from that land! I've never seen the sea, the dolphins like you! Please I need your help to reach Rome" replied the alien.

"Wowww" the two Dolphins said "That's an amazing story!!! Don't worry we'll help you, we are your friends and we'll bring you to Rome in a while, let 's call, our friends Neptune, the sailfish -he is the fastest in the whole sea!-"



"...and Fenix, the seagull, princess of the sky!"



Suddenly the two dolphins started to scream, a long and high pitched sound and soon Neptune appeared from the deepest



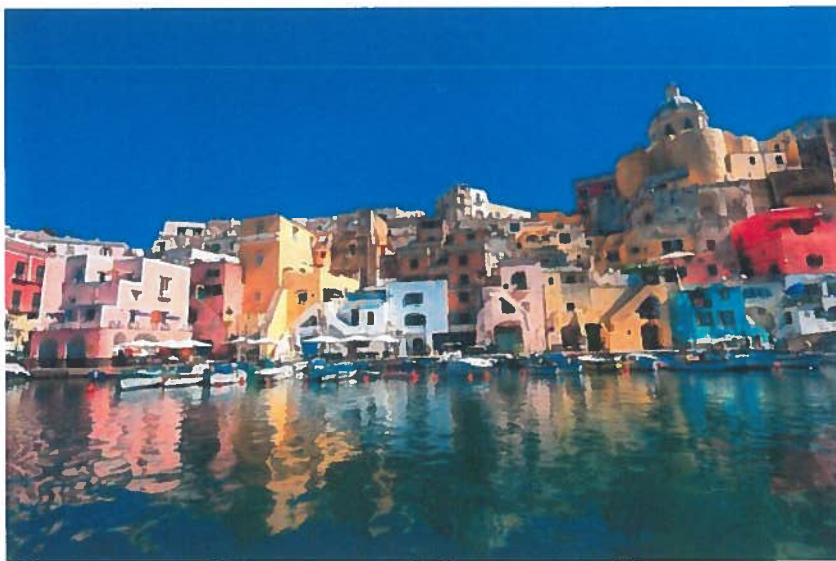
blue sea with a colorful dorsal fin on his back and after a little Fenix ,the seagull flew over their heads on the sea.

“We have to help our friend Al (Alien) from Mars to reach Rome, so dear Neptune and Fenix,” said Aries, “we trust you! Take care of him!”

“Byee and good luck with your search Al!” the two dolphins said

So Al started to travel carried on Neptune’s back while Fenix showed the route from above.

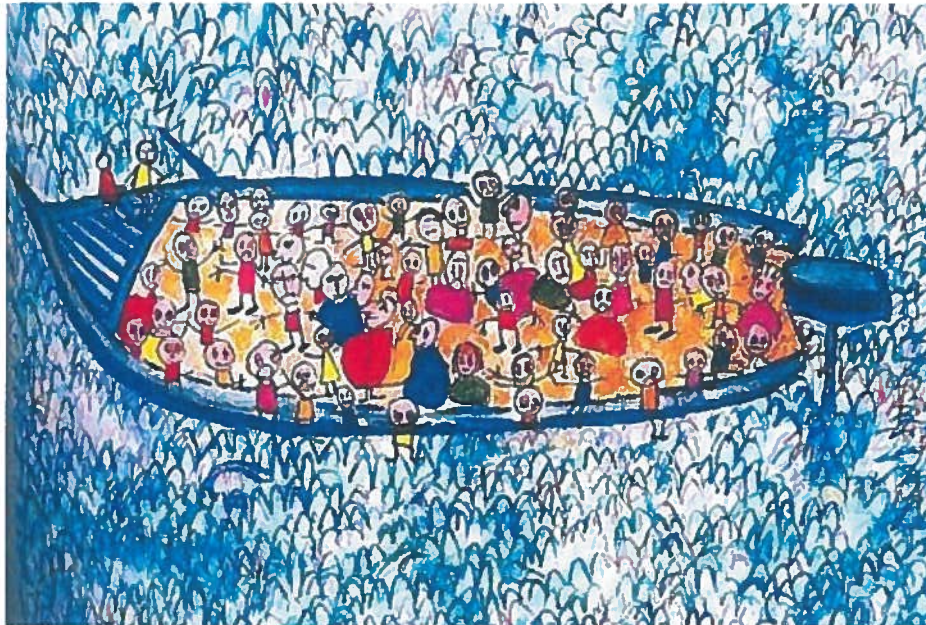
Al liked the blue sea and the island of Ponza with so many caves and small colorful villages on it.



“What a wonderful view!” he said. “Yes! You are lucky! You are going to see beautiful natural and historical places nearby!” said Neptune.

“Please stop! What is that? I can hear a lot of voices over there” said Al. Fenix stopped on a rock in the middle of the sea and Neptune followed him, hiding among the waves.

Meanwhile a big boat with lots of men, women, and children came closer to them..

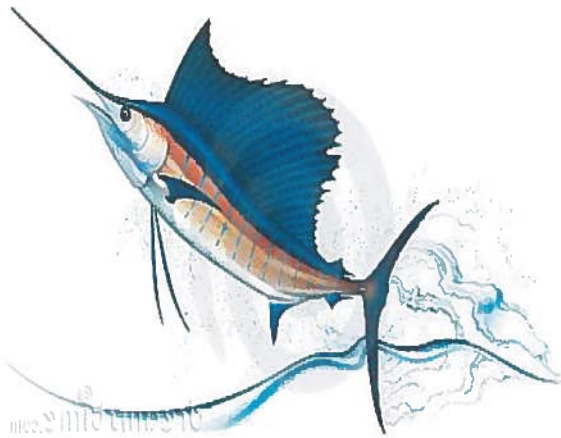


Fenix explained that they were people coming from other countries searching new homes, new lives with no documents so it was difficult for them to land on the coast. He told Alien that he was lucky he didn't need documents to travel or to reach new countries because he had magic friends helping him.

Al didn't like what he had seen, those people didn't seem happy and healthy.

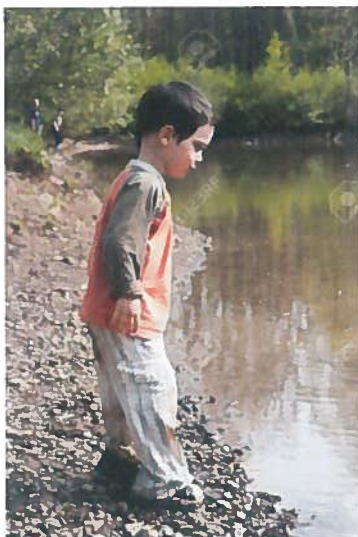
"That is one of the greatest problem of the humans, they make wars and create misery forcing a lot of people to leave their homes and seek fortune abroad far away from their homelands. But dear Al don't be sad, humans make beautiful things too and you'll see a lot of happy people around here soon. Now we have to continue our travel." Neptune said.

After a long journey they arrived at the mouth of Tiber river and Neptune, the sailfish, and Fenix, the seagull left Al (still in the shape of a shell) on the shore of the river. "If you need help or wish to travel more just use this magic whistle to call us and we will come and get you dear Al!"



"Magic friends thank you so much for your help! You are lovable creatures of this planet. I never forget you and the brothers Dolphins! For now I will continue this journey on my own to understand better this world."

Meanwhile, Alberto, a student of Leonori school, class 1B, was on the Tiber shores looking for shells and stones for a Science homework...



"What a special shell is this!!" he said lifting Al, and suddenly the shell became the smiling green Alien from Mars.





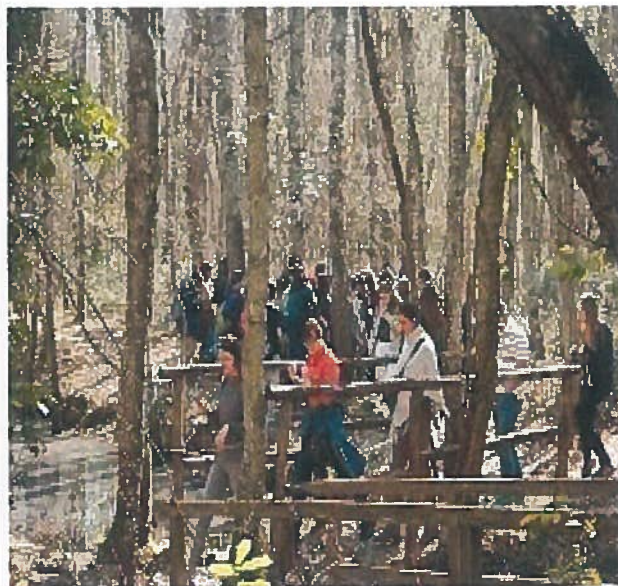
"Hello! I'm Al and I am looking for new friends to help me discover planet earth!"

Alberto which was fond of aliens and outerspace creatures couldn't believe his eyes and screamed in happiness: "I was waiting for you!! Please come with me to my school and meet my friends they will be all happy to see you!"

When they arrived Al saw a lot of people outside the school: children, women, men with a lot of colorful flags.



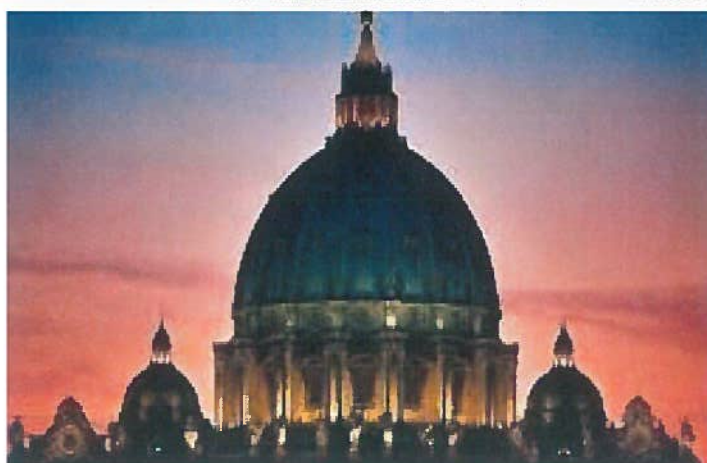
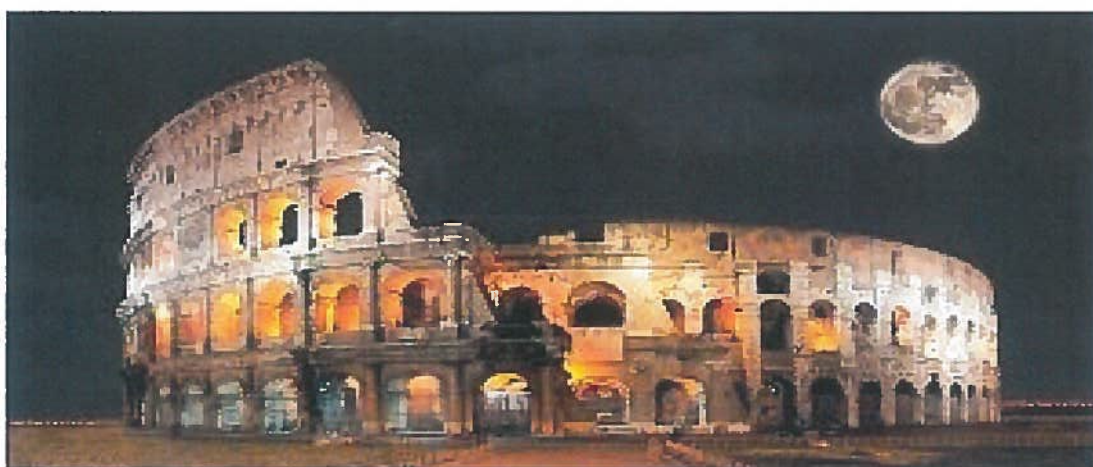
They looked happy, some of them were hugging and some were walking hand in hand."I like it" Al said. "Yes! It's nice, we are welcoming friends from 7 European countries. They are here just like you to see Rome and make new experiences for a Project. Join us we will visit some interesting places around the city!"

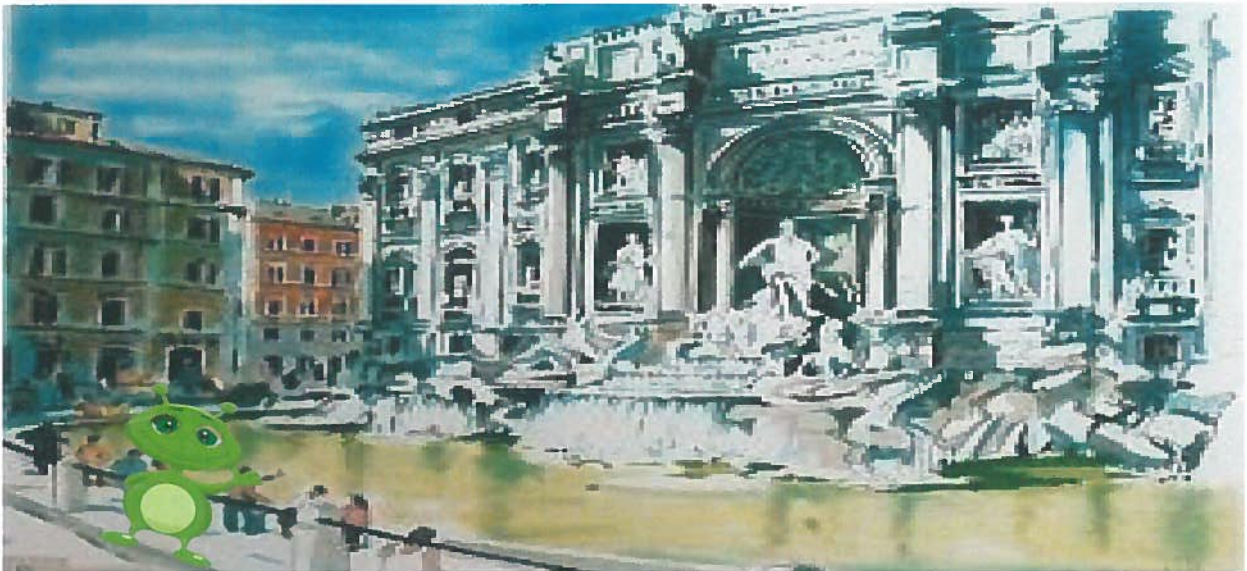


So for 3 days AI stayed with the group. He was so excited about Colosseo and all the wonderful squares and monuments.









"I would like to stay here more time, maybe forever, to enjoy Italian people and their monuments rich of history, traditions and good food but as you know I have to continue to travel dear Alberto! Thank you so much for bringing me with you and your friends, I hope will meet again soon..." Al said, and made a long sound with the magic whistle to call Fenix.

"Goodbye Al, I wish you a fantastic adventure!" said Alberto while Al was flying away on Fenix back, now in the shape of a small grasshopper hanging tight on the white feathers.

"Dear Fenix let me fly with you across the Adriatic sea to discover new ancient lands..." said Al while they disappeared in the horizon.



Written by class 1B

Speaker : Sofia De Rosa 2B



# GREECE



4 th PRIMARY SCHOOL  
OF LAMIA  
GREECE



## FROM ITALY TO GREECE

Aeolus, the god of the winds, blew strongly and two big clouds above Rome began their journey towards the Mediterranean Sea. Passing over the Adriatic Sea they met Phoenix who had Al on his back. Al got very impressed by the shapes the clouds formed and asked Phoenix to follow them.

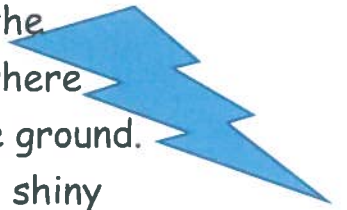
When they reached Greece they were charmed by the view of some tiny green islands called "Lichades" and they stopped to admire them.



That moment Zeus, the leader of the 12 Gods of Olympus, got mad of Aeolus, because he had darkened the place with the clouds and the pupils of the 4<sup>th</sup> Primary School of Lamia who were there couldn't work on their Environmental project about the Geomythology



So, he sent out a thunderbolt which penetrated the clouds and fell on a bushy tall pine tree. That incident attracted the pupil's attention. They went immediately to the place where the thunderbolt had fallen and they saw a crack on the ground. When they went closer they saw, in amazement, a round shiny blue stone.



-What is this round stone? The pupils asked their teacher. And then they saw a strange creature coming out of the stone, AN ALIEN. It was Al who had been transformed into a round stone when he fell from the clouds...

-Who are you and where have you come from? The kids asked him

-I 'm Al and have come from the planet Mars to get to know your planet. I 've already travelled to 2 countries, Latvia and Italy and now I'm here. But tell me exactly where I am?

- You are in Greece, at Lichades islands. We are pupils from Lamia and we are working on our project about Geomythology.

-Geomythoooooooo.....ology ? What's this ?, Al asked.

-It's the science which takes the myths and tries to explain the geological phenomena and, as our teacher says, BEHIND EACH MYTH THERE IS A TRUTH, Natalia answered.

-And are you on these strange tiny islands about some myth now? Al asked again.

-Exactly, Hercules, answered. These islands were created by the eruption of a volcano, that's why the ground is considered of volcanic rocks. According to the Greek mythology these islands were created by Lichas' body which Hercules -not me the ancient hero and demigod - said the boy whose name was Hercules as well- threw into Maliakos Gulf, right here at this place. The legend says that Lichas gave Hercules a tunic soaked



in the poison of Centaur Nessus to wear. When Hercules put it on, he felt terrible pains so he grabbed Lichas and threw him into the sea. If you notice these islands looks like a head since it round and the other one looks like a body.

-I liked this legend very much, said Al. Tell more about your area.

-We also have a lot of heroes, like Achilles for example, continued Stathis. This legend says that he was invulnerable because his mother had sunk him into the immortal water except his heel when he was a baby. But Paris during the Trojan war knew this secret about his heel so he killed him with a poisoned arrow targeting at his heel.



-In our area there are a lot of thermal springs, Sophia continued. These are warm or hot waters which are good for many illnesses. Here for example Hercules used to take a bath every time he had finished one of his 12 labors.



-Our Municipality is also famous about Thermopylae, Irene continued. There, the famous battle of Thermopylae took place in 480 B.C. between the Greeks and the Persians. The Persians wanted to conquer our country so they came here with numerous army. But the 300 Spartians along with their king Leonidas and 700 men from Thespies (a town near today's Thiva) stayed there and fought until they were all dead for the Greeks' freedom. Thermopyles is considered today as a universal symbol of self sacrifice and freedom.



- Battle, army, war...? What are all these things? asked Al with curiosity.

-Unfortunately people fight with each other and many times they take the guns and they kill each other. But we, the kids, don't like these things. We want peace to prevail everywhere and those who rule us to find other ways to solve the problems, not wars, Dimitris answered.

-You are right, said Al. It's not good for people to kill each other, that's why, you kids must learn from this young age to solve your differences through conversation. But ... you haven't told me anything about your town yet.



-That moment they heard the teacher's whistle.

-We don't have time now because our boat is leaving, said Simon. But we can host you, if you wish, so you will learn a lot of things.

-Thank you very much for your friendly mood

So, Al together with the pupils arrived to Lamia. As they explained to him, Lamia is a very old town and it is known since 400 B.C. Today it has about 70.000 inhabitants. It is built between two hills and on the top of one of these hills is situated the Castle of Lamia where we can see the Archaeological Museum of the town.



For the next days Al and the pupils visited the Municipal Library, the Municipal Art Gallery and the Folklore Museum. They strolled around the central squares and the pedestrian walkways of the town and Al tasted tzatziki and other local foods.

They also visited the historical bridge of Gorgopotamos where in 1942, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, the Greek guerilla soldiers blew up this bridge thus delaying the Nazis from invading the USSR



But Al hadn't been satisfied enough yet. He wanted to learn more about this country with this great history. So the kids took him to their school where they showed him through books and projections whatever he wanted to know.

Kostis told him about Olympia which is the cradle of the Olympic Games. There, in ancient times the Greeks used to organize games every 4 years, such as running, javelin throwing, chariot races, wrestling and other games. The Olympic games still organized today every 4 years but in a different country each time.



Then Lina told him about Delfi and the oracle of Apollo where people used to find out about their future from Pythia.



Thanos told him about Athens, the capital of Greece. He told him that Athens today has a population of about 4 million people and took its name after Goddess Athena, the goddess of wisdom. On the top of the hill you can see the Acropolis of Athens (acropolis means "citadel") and in the center of Acropolis you can see the PARTHENON, a temple dedicated to goddess Athena.





It's a classical symbol and the top achievement of the ancient greek architecture of the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. At that point Thanos faltered for a while.

-What's the matter Thanos? Why did you get sad? Al asked

-Because, unfortunately , most of the marbles of the Parthenon are not here, in our country, but in British Museum in London. A British Lord stole them and unfortunately, they were never returned. He also took a Karyatis which is a statue picturing a womanish figure. The legend says that every night the rest of the Karyatides (her sisters) cry for her who become a refugee...

-This is not fair, said Al. Something has to be done about this.

-Well, some efforts are being done for the marbles to be returned... we hope that someday we'll have them back, here in the modern Museum of Acropolis.

-Hey kids, Apostolos said, I think we should change our mood. What do you think, shall we show Al syrtaki?



-Yes, yes, all the kids replied happily and they formed a circle and started dancing. Al was looking with his mouth and eyes wide open. He joined the dance immediately and although he didn't know the steps he became the best dancer. Their mood now was really high and all of them having lots of fun. George who was in front, shouted:

-This is the way we have fun here in Greece, dancing and singing...OPA!!!

Always having a great time. But then a question crossed his mind.

-so, is this the way you spend your time here in Greece?

-Greeks had always been like this, Billy answered. They love music, dancing and having fun.

-You can't imagine what happens during the summers in our islands, Fotis continued. We have so beautiful islands which in combination with the sun and the sea provide people their best holidays.



-Islands like Santorini, Mykonos, Crete, Kerkyra (Corfu) and Rhodes are known world widely, said Panos. People from all over the world come to spend their vacations here.

The days were passing and Al was so happy that he wanted to stay more. However there was another surprise for him. Those days 24 teachers from other countries visited 4<sup>th</sup> Primary School of Lamia for a project. Al was very impressed about how the pupils had welcomed the foreign visitors. He followed them everywhere. These days were the best of his life, one better than the other..



But then the farewell moment came, unfortunately. Al told the kids that he had to leave. But the kids didn't want to let him go. They were having such a great time together. He explained to them that he had come for a mission, to meet new countries, learn about their history and make friends. That's why he had to leave





-But, he had to find a way to go. Phoenix had gone back to Italy so he had to think about some other way of leaving. The kids helped him at this point. They suggested him to leave with the foreigners but without understanding him. So Al was transformed to a .....He looked around and between the partners, he saw a tall, joyful and smiling man who was shooting a video with his mobile phone. He took the chance and hid into his bag.

-We have a lot of hours until reaching Poland, Al heard the man saying. Let's wish to have a good flight.

So al flew north of Europe for new adventures...



# POLAND



SpoleczneGimnazjum-  
Językowe LTO  
POLAND





## ***From Greece to Poland ...***

*Magda from class 2b, the Language High School in Lębork, didn't immediately realize that she was dealing with a visitor from another planet. On the surface, he looked quite ordinary, though he looked at her as if he knew exactly what he was told. A huge cat basking under the windows of the school ... Magda had seen him there for several months, no one knows where he came from. It would seem - an ordinary stray cat. At least until the first time he spoke ...*

*It was Al - an alien wandering in Europe, who fell to Latvia together with a meteorite. A long way past him: he visited Latvia, Italy and Greece. In Poland he got out of a backpack brought from Greece by teachers and in the form of an animal he noticed first, he perched on the school's courtyard. He sat under the windows of the school classes, listened to the conversations of students who were unaware of this silent witness. He learned language and customs. At the beginning he did not intend to reveal that he is not an ordinary cat, because he was afraid that the children would not behave naturally and would not know the truth about the country and school in which he landed. However, the students' behavior was so bizarre that he was afraid he would never understand them unless he asked about their causes. He chose Magda ...*

*Magda, after the first shock of talking to a cat, became his guide. The school was boiling with preparations for the arrival of guests from abroad. The Rolling Stone project had a stop in Poland !!! Magda was supposed to host a friend from Hungary at home, so she was also very excited. And here was such a surprise - an inquisitive Spaceman cat! Al wanted to know everything: what the school and class looked like inside, what happened in the lessons until noon*



*and afternoon classes. The school was tiny, so visiting her took Magda and Al one day. He particularly liked the library in the attic, where he fell asleep between bookshelves, and the sun of late summer warmed his cat's bones.*

*The children loved the cat at first sight. During each break they came running to the library to talk to him. And Al undertook a very important task - together with Magda, they prepared a plan to stay in Poland for guests from seven European countries. To play the role of the host he became interested in the country in which he stopped. Here's what he found out:*

*Poland is a country located in Central Europe. In terms of its surface, it occupies 63rd place on Earth. It neighbors with Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Russia. This location has and affects a rich history. Numerous battles and all politics about the territory of power, the struggle for independence when Poland for more than a century disappeared from the map of Europe and the largest migration of people from east to west after World War II - this is how the historical background could be described.*

## Europe



*The shape of the surface is equally rich. From mountain ranges with the highest peak Rysy (2499 m above sea level) through highlands, lowlands, lakes, depression in Żuławy Wiślane (1.8 m above sea level) to the Baltic Sea. Two of the largest rivers, the Vistula and the Oder, pass into the Baltic.*

*Water in Poland is also numerous lakes - the largest of them Śniardwy, and the deepest Hańcza. On the rivers there are remarkable cities such as Krakow, Warsaw, Wrocław, Poznań, Gdańsk, and Szczecin. Administratively, Poland has been divided into 16 provinces. However, the division into regions - Podhale, Kaszuby, Masuria, Śląsk, Pomorze, etc. is more popular. Each of them has its own culture and its own legends and myths.*



*The important day arrived - the day of arrival of guests. Both - Al and Magda were very excited. Magda packed Al into a backpack and went to greet the guests.*

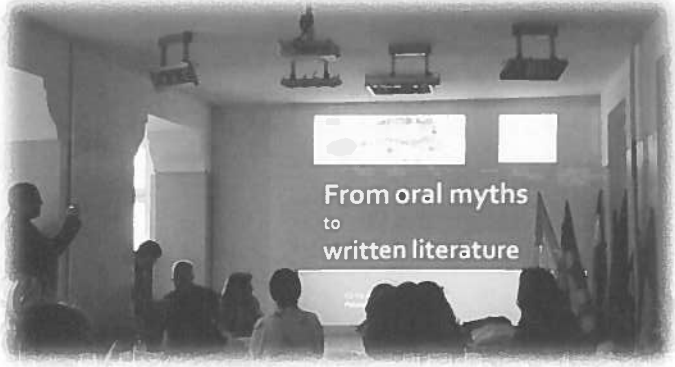
*The first day was a bit stressful for Magda. She had a newcomer friend at home and a lot was going on. The inquisitive cat hidden in a backpack wanted her to tell her about everything. It looked weird at least ... Because only the kids knew that the cat was speaking in a human voice.*

*- Where are we going now? Who is this? What will happen now? - these were the most frequent questions of Al.*

*Magda patiently reported on the events. She was most afraid that Al might escape from the backpack while visiting the Mayor of the City of Lębork in the City Hall. But both in the office and during the presentation of the myths of each country after lunch, Al was very polite.*



*In the evening he overwhelmed*



*Magda and Dora with a hail of questions:*

*- Is it true that Julius Paul Gotlieb Nipkow, called the "creator of television" was born in your city? - his ears stood like antennas.*

*- Yes Al, thanks to his discoveries, we can now watch TV! Magda replied proudly*

*- Łęborg lies in the valley of the Łeba River, right? At the level of approx. 20 m above sea level? - Al remembered what the children were saying during the trip around Łęborg.*

*Magda began to tell:*

*Łęborg covers the area of 18 km<sup>2</sup>, inhabited by approx. 35 thousand residents. From our town, it is less than 30 km to the seaside Łeba with its port and yacht marina as well as to the Słowiński National Park with unique dunes in Europe. The Tricity starts at 65 km to the east. The nearest seagoing port in Gdynia is approx. 60 km., And to the airport in Gdansk about 80 km.*





*The city has unquestionable landscape and natural values. From the north and the south, Lębork is surrounded by partly forested slopes of moraine hills with a strongly undulating sculpture. Forests occupy about 20% of the city's area. Due to the varied terrain, the Lębork area has extremely attractive conditions, for example for cycling. There are also water sportsmen here. About 4 km east of Lębork lies the Lubowidzkie Lake, surrounded by forests, and the Łeba River with a tributary called Okalica flows through the city itself.*

*- What about history? It is true that Lębork has been a German territory for a long time? - Al asked*



*- Yes. The history of Lębork is closely related to the history of Poland and Germany - for centuries passed from hand to hand. Lębork impresses with*

*monuments from these turbulent times: Sanctuary of St. Jakub, Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Poland, walls and defensive towers, Teutonic Castle, Town Hall, Mill and Miller's House, townspeople ... - the girl could still enumerate the monuments if it were not surprised by strange noises. Al and Dora slept soundly snoring softly ...*

*Magda wanted to tell about the famous Pomeranian Way of St. Jakub (the Camino Trail), which leads through Lębork and ends in Spain in Santiago de Compostela, but said she would tell them tomorrow.*

*The next days passed very quickly. They were full of attractions, there was always something going on. On the second day, Polish guests and students were in Grodzisk Owidz - an old Slavonic settlement and the Museum of Slavic Mythology. The girls were sticking clay balls and Al was watching them from the backpack.*



*The next day was the Słowiński National Park on the Baltic Sea - a long, exhausting hike and unforgettable views. The Rocket Launcher Museum triggered an*

*avalanche of questions in Alu, so Magda whispered about the history of Pomerania during World War II.*





*Gdańsk, Sopot and the Amber Museum were a great treat for an alien.  
- Can amber be found on my planet? - Al was feverish. Magda could not answer  
that question, so Al took a few ambers just in case.*





*The last day of the project was a workshop of beautiful handwriting in the Youth Culture Center and Foreign Language Day at school. And in the afternoon the participants were to receive certificates of participation in the project. Al very much regretted that he did not get his certificate, so Magda thought it would be necessary to fix this omission quickly ...*







*Al was more and more pensive and sad. He knew that his time of visiting Poland was slowly coming to an end. On the one hand, he was very curious about new countries and next adventures in great Europe, but on the other hand he made friends with children from the school in Łęborg. And the warm library suited him best. .. He thought, thought and sorted it out! He overheard the teachers' conversations that the next meeting of friends was in Turkey.*

*- So why travel alone through the whole of Europe - thought a lazy alien cat - I will wait here in the winter. How ? - I'll think about it later.*



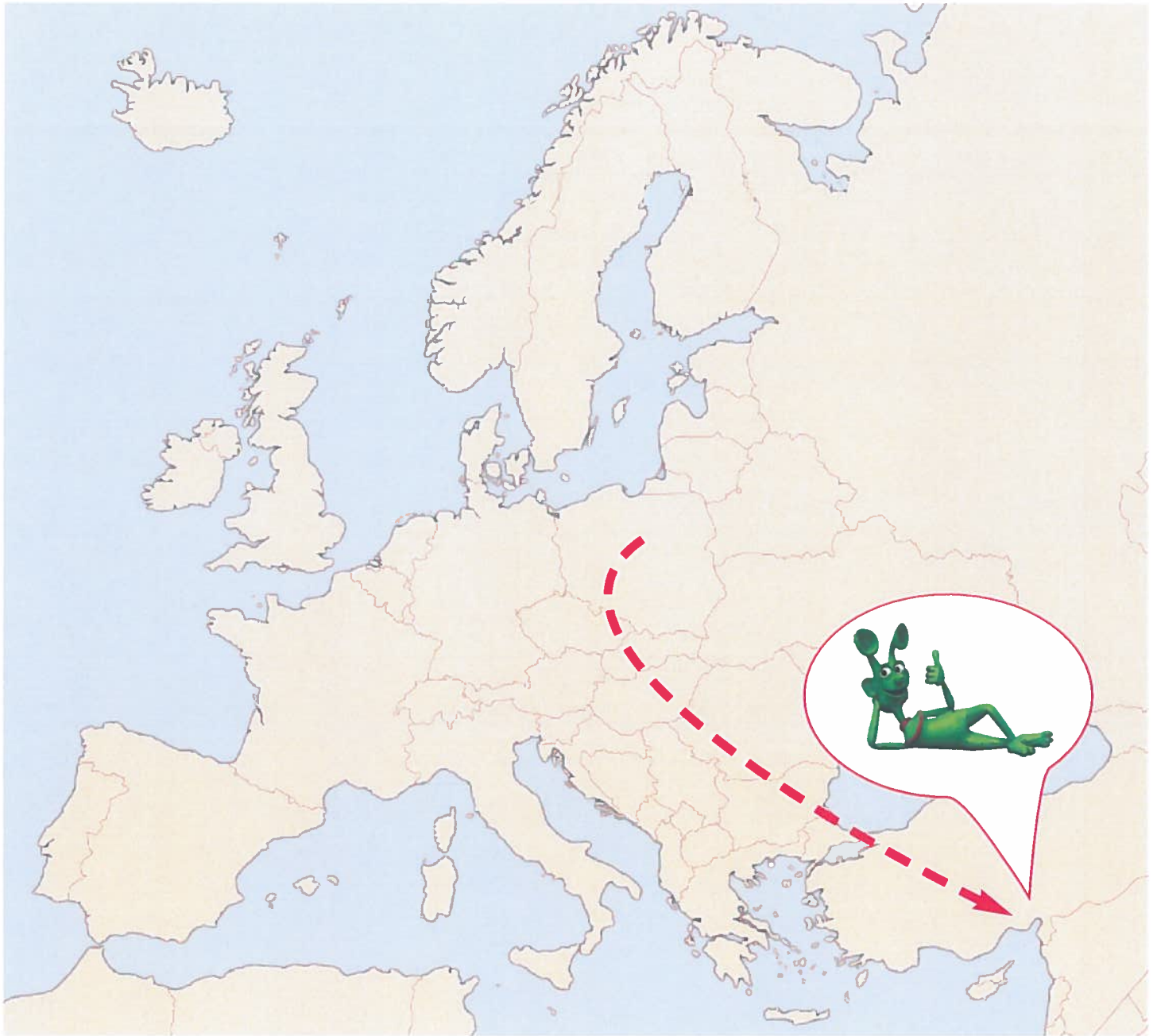


*Al spent all winter in Poland. He visited a lot with Magda and her family. He met people, learned their language and customs. But when it started to get warmer, he was thinking more and more about the further journey. One day he just disappeared. And Magda read an inscription on his lair, made of feline karma - see you!*





# TURKEY



ADANA TABIPLER  
ODASI PRIMARY  
SCHOOL  
TURKEY



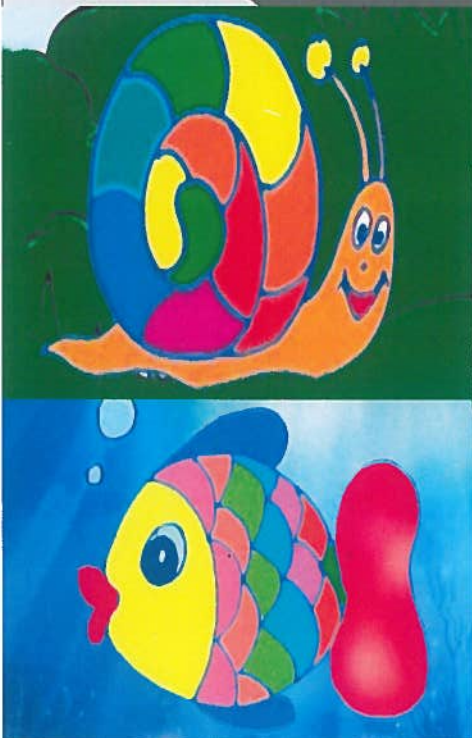


# THE LEGEND IS GROWING IN TURKEY



ADANA TABİPLER ODASI  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

The little fish meets The  
ROLLING STONE



Little Fish may be small but he has big questions and a determination to find answers to them.

While his fellow fish are too scared to do anything different from their set routine Little Fish swims over the edge of the pool into the stream and river which will show him much more of the world.

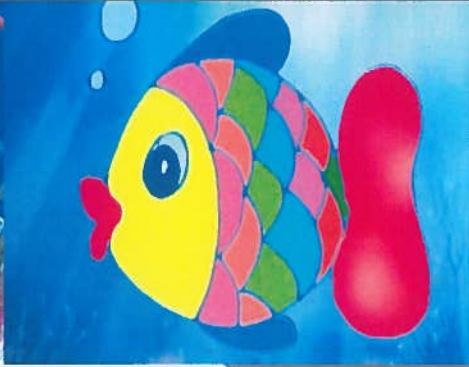
He meets wonders and adventures dangers and beauty.

He makes it all the way to the sea and finds his answers.

Even though he doesn't survive to tell his own story here it is being told to another generation and the inspiration of it is passed on.



# LITTLE FISH



- ⦿ Grandma fish tells the story of little fish.
- ⦿ Little fish tells her mother that she is bored living in a small stream.
- ⦿ She tells the snail that she wants to go and see the other world.
- ⦿ Her mother lets her go and she starts her adventures.
- ⦿ The Curious Red Fish meets the dolphin and learns a lot about the Rolling Stone



- ⦿ **THE DOLPHIN:** Hey! The red fish.Hello! my name is'Dolphin'I am a wanderer.How about you?who are you?Why are you awake?
- ⦿ **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** I am called as' curious fish'.Learning something is very amusing.Please tell me about the places you went and saw.
- ⦿ **THE DOLPHIN:** It goes well with me too.We travelers love telling about our adventures we had.
- ⦿ **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** In fact,I wonder about this rock.What are those things on it?
- ⦿ **THE DOLPHIN:** It's name is 'Rolling Stone'It has a very special story.





- ◉ **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** Really? My curiosity has increased, please tell me about it. Look, I lost my sleep as well.
- ◉ **THE DOLPHIN:** One day somewhere in the north, while I was wandering along the coasts of the Baltic Sea, suddenly I saw it. It was carrying various scents of different countries. I loved it.
- ◉ **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** Hmm! Very interesting. Please go on.
- ◉ **THE DOLPHIN:** I had a pleasant trip in the Atlantic Ocean.
- ◉ **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** Ocean?? What is it?
- ◉ **THE DOLPHIN:** Oceans are bigger than seas. There are two more oceans besides this, the Indian Ocean and the Great Ocean, which is as huge as its name.



- ◉ **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** and then?
- ◉ **THE DOLPHIN:** After a long trip I found myself in the Mediterranean Sea and visited Rome. There, I had a chance to see the Colosseum and many beautiful places. I chatted with fishes, sea stars, and octopuses. Also, they knew this stone. They said so...
- ◉ **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** Wow!... It must be very precious.





- **THE DOLPHIN:** I swam from Rome to Greece. The coasts of Lamia were so wonderful that I couldn't understand how fast time passed. I met very valuable friends. It was hard for me to leave them. The next stop was Lebnork in Poland. The walking Dune and Tricity charmed me there.
- **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** Oooh! I see. You are in Turkey now, and then what is the next stop?
- **THE DOLPHIN:** To Hateg in Romania. My friend Pelican will fly me in his mouth.



- **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** there are flags of them on this stone.
- **THE DOLPHIN :** Because it symbolizes their cultures
- **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** They are colorful and very special.
- **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** I know these countries' capital cities.
- **THE DOLPHIN:** Tell me then! where is the capital city of Latvia?
- **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** Riga.
- **THE DOLPHIN:** and Italy's?
- **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** Rome.





- **THE DOLPHIN:** What about Greece's?
- **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** Athens.
- **THE DOLPHIN:** Poland's and Romania's?
- **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** Warsaw and Bucharest.
- **THE DOLPHIN:** Portugal?
- **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** Lisboa.
- **THE DOLPHIN:** What about Turkey's capital?
- **THE CURIOUS RED FISH:** It's Ankara. Where will the next trip be after Romania?

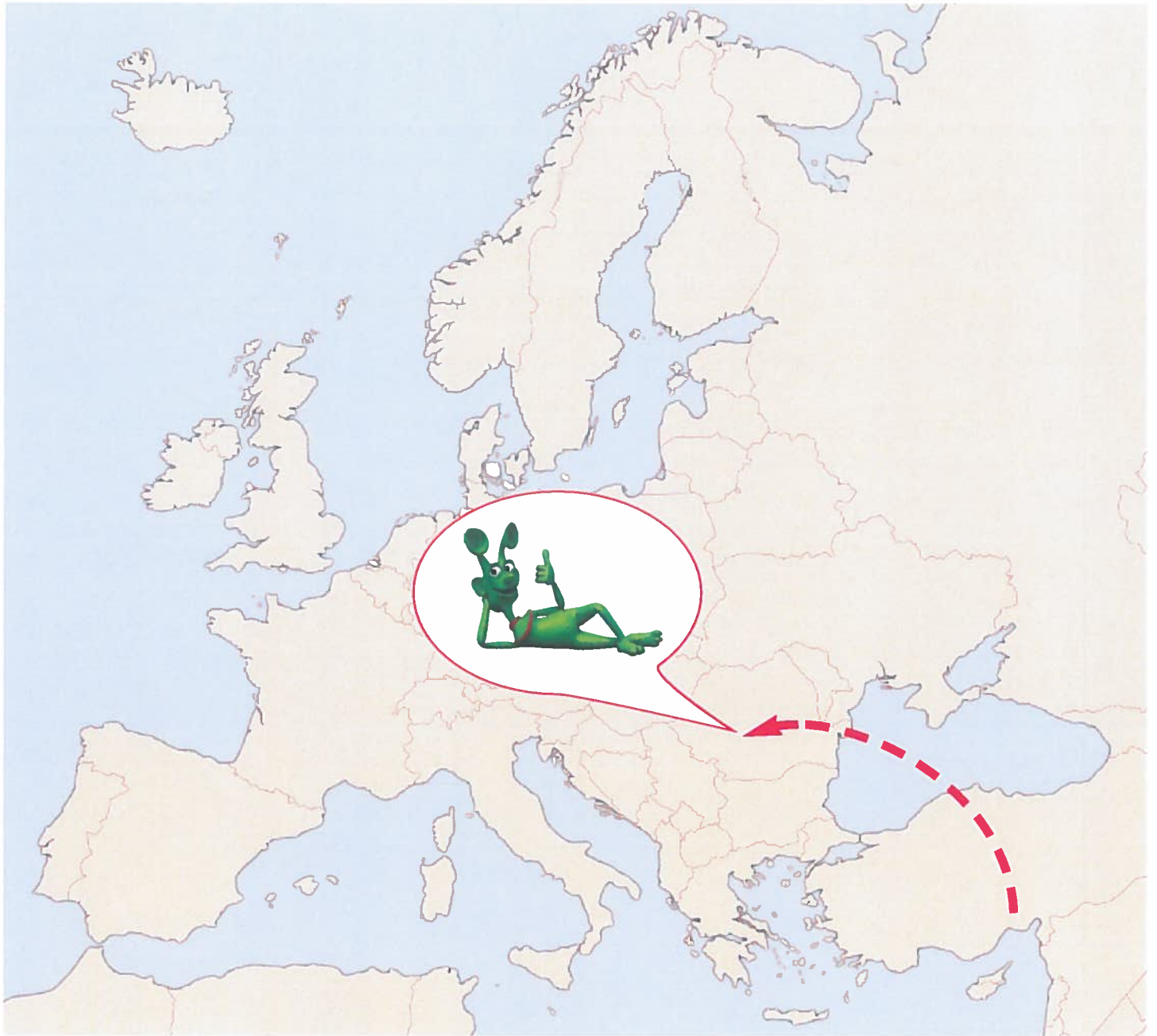


- **THE DOLPHIN:** After Romania ,I'll visit Hungary. And the last stop will be Portugal. We will dive into the Atlantic ocean towards new friendships and new cultures. Every time we meet one more window towards the world's peace has been opening up.
- **'what a great happiness for us'**
- **See you in Hateg Romania**





# ROMANIA



SCOALA GIMNAZIALA  
CU CLASELE I-VII  
DENSUSIANU  
ROMANIA





## FROM TURKEY TO ROMANIA

Although I was having great fun with my friends I decided it was time for my next adventures. The voyage across the Black Sea was amazing. My friends, the sea animals, swam across the sea with me. I finally arrived in Constanta, a very nice port of the Black Sea. Here I met my friend, Al, who was so happy to see me.

- Hello, Al! It's so nice to see you again!
- Hello, dolphin! Did you enjoy your adventures?
- Oh, yes, very much. I was very impressed by every place I have

visited so far. I couldn't even imagine what a nice experience I would have and how many useful things I'd learn in each country. I'm sure you'll feel the same. Now it's turn to go on with the next adventures.

- I have to go now, dolphin! I don't want to miss the plane!
- Of course! Enjoy your trip! See you soon! Bye, Al!
- Bye, dolphin! I'll send you a letter to tell you about my

adventures.

While I was flying above this country, Romania, I was amazed by the colours and shapes unfolding before my eyes. The flight was long and despite the fact that I was a little tired, I was excited that I finally landed on Henri Coanda airport in Bucharest thinking about the trip I was going to have. When I went out of the airport I met a group of students and they volunteered to show us the city. I accepted, of course.



### The Palace of the Parliament

First, we got to the Palace of the Parliament and I found out that it is the second largest administrative building , the most expensive building and also the heaviest building in the world. Then we got to the Arch of Triumph which commemorates Romanian's victory in the First World War.



The Arch of Triumph

Last but not least it was the Romanian Athenaeum that left me speechless.





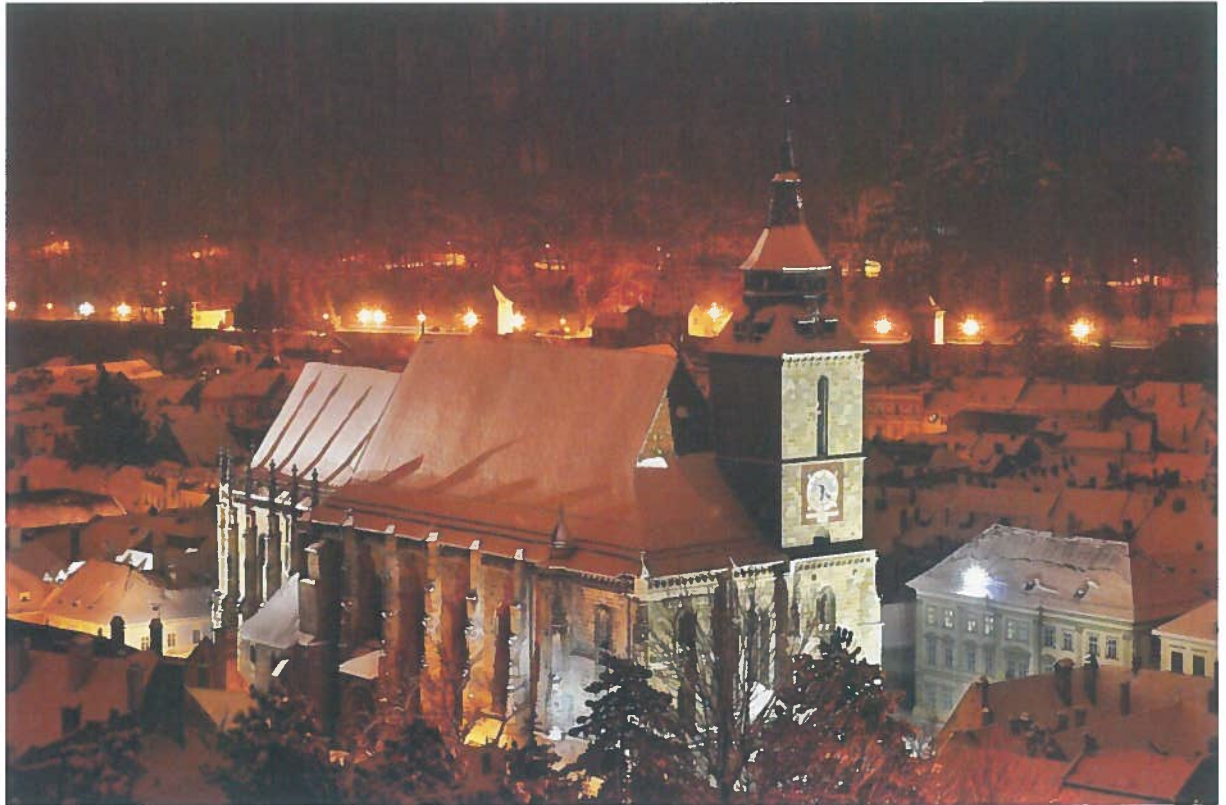
The Romanian Athenaeum

In the end, after a long bus ride, I got to Herastrau Park and I went boating on the lake.



Herăstrău park

That walk and the day spent with my new friends were unforgettable, but, the next day I left to another destination: Brasov-An ancient city but a very beautiful city. So, I left to see this city, too. I started with The Black Church ( This is a church built by the German community of the city and stands as the main Gothic style of the city and of the country and at the same time it is the most important Lutheran places of worship in the region).



The Black Church - Brasov

While I was walking down the streets of the city I found about two big and beautiful castles in this Region: The Bran Castle and the Peles Castle, two castles full of stories and mysteries.





The Peleş Castle - Sinaia



The Bran Castle

After visiting Bucharest I had to go to another city because this trip was going to continue till my final destination in this country: Hateg. So, after leaving Brasov, I went to Sibiu ( Sibiu is one of the most important cultural centers of Romania and it was designated the European Capital of Culture for the year 2007.). I visited the Radu Stanca National Theatre and some people told me that is one of the leading Romanian theatres. I was very happy in these two days while I was walking down the streets of these beautiful cities.



Sibiu

But let's not forget about my final destination : The Aron Densusianu School in Hateg. I flew by a plane from Sibiu to Hateg and I was completely amazed to see this country from the clouds.



I landed in Hateg at the school where the children and the teachers were waiting for me. Everybody was kind and friendly and the first

thing I asked was about the name of the school. They told me that Aron Densusianu was a literary historian, poet, folklorist and member of the Romanian Academy since 1877. The school was called like that because he was born in a village nearby this city named Densus.

After I found out about the school, I wanted to find out about the things nearby, so we went to Dinosaurs' Geopark in Hateg and found out that here children can volunteer and do many interesting activities. They were polite and interesting people. I even met two dinosaurs. They called themselves the Bondoc Dragon and Zalmoxes Robustus. We became friends and we talked about our trips for an hour.







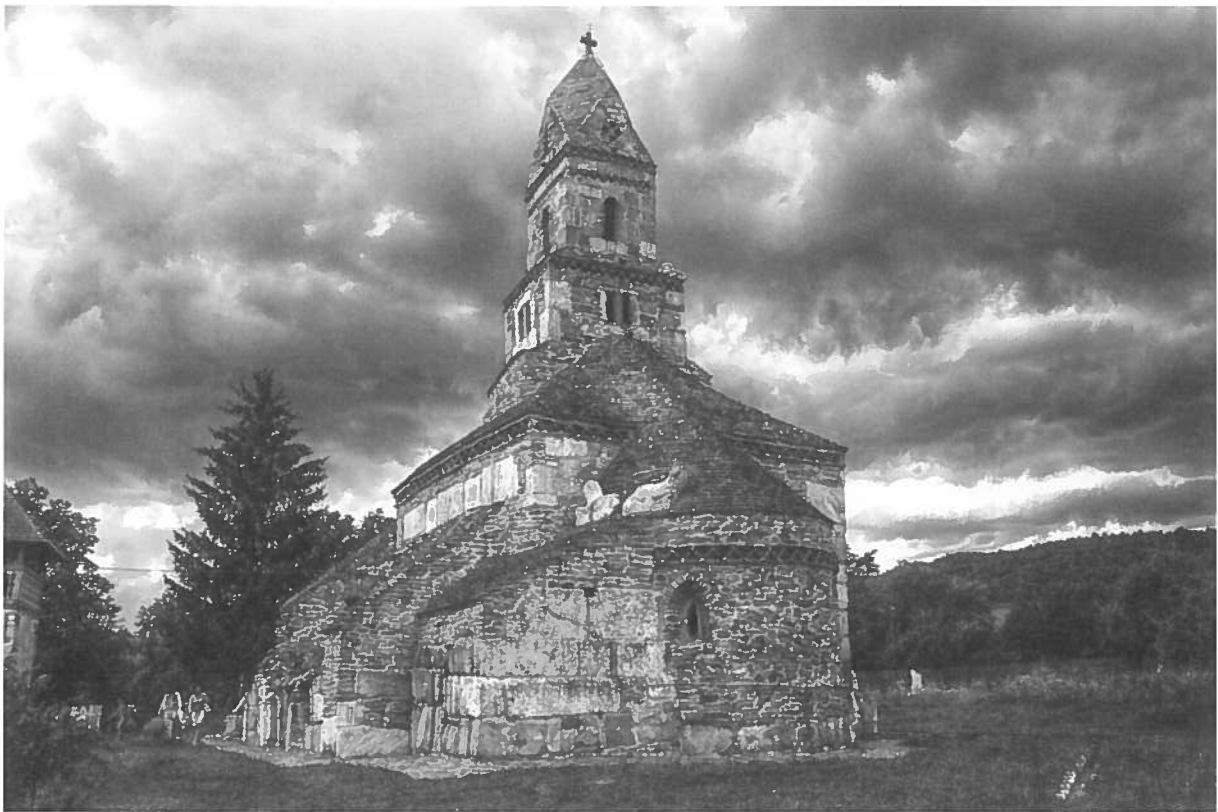
ZalmoxesRobustus



The Bondoc Dragon

But this was not the only thing I did that day! I visited so many places, one of them was Densus, where I saw a church and they told

me that was one of the oldest Romanian churches still standing. It was built in the 7<sup>th</sup> century with additions made in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Inside the church there are 15<sup>th</sup> century mural paintings that show Jesus wearing Romanian traditional clothes. I was completely amazed about that!!



Densus church

But that wasn't the only place we visited, we also visited the Prislop church and a historic place called Sarmizegetusa Regia which was the capital and the most important military, religious and political centre of Dacians. It should not be confused with Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, the Roman capital of Dacia built by the Roman Emperor Trajan.



Sarmizegetusa Regia

All these habits, these villagers had made me want to learn more so we went to the Museum of Hateg Country and saw costumes adorned with all kinds of jewelry, sculptures made in different ways and old tools used in the kitchen.



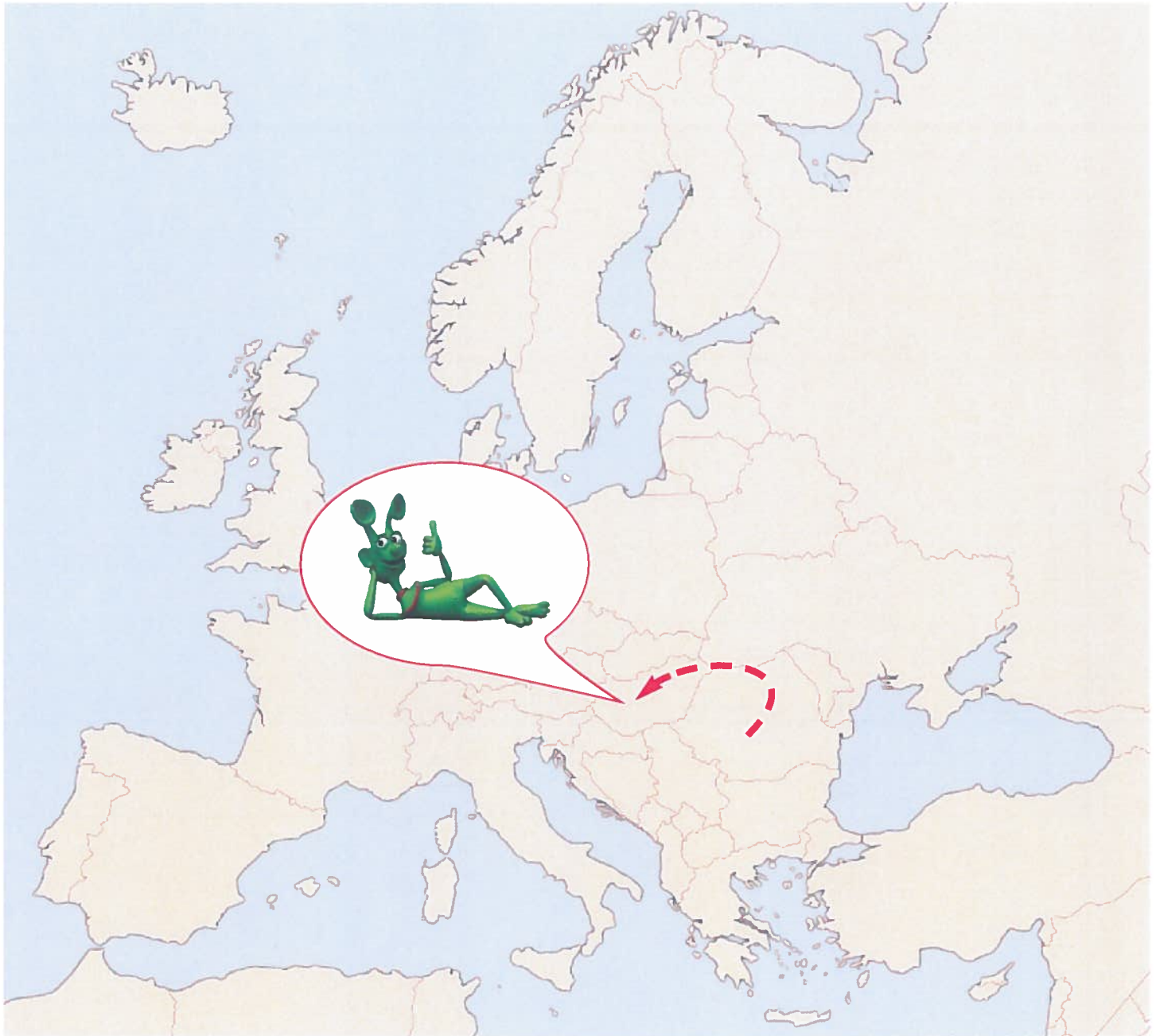


Romanian Clothes

During this trip I learned so many beautiful and amazing things, I met so many beautiful and nice people (and dinosaurs!), I saw so many places and learned about so many traditions. I need to say that a piece of my heart will always be at this school, in these cities and in the hands of the people I met. Right now, I am in the plane that takes me to Hungary, thinking about all the things I've done in this country.



# HUNGARY



JASZSAGI APPONYI  
ALBERT ALTALANOS  
ISKOLA Es  
MUVESZETI ISCOLA  
HUNGARY





## HUNGARY

As I was sitting on the airplane flying toward my next destination, Budapest, I was wondering if I would ever be able to leave behind this beautiful planet, the planet its inhabitants call Earth. How can I say good-bye to a wonderful place, which is so full of breathtaking scenery, colors, images, flavors and fragrances? Suddenly I felt being overcome by emotions that my extraterrestrial body had never experienced before. I was overwhelmed by the beauty I had encountered so far and could not imagine that it can be any further amplified. I was looking forward to my trip in yet another amazing country and felt more and more saddened from the thought that I will have to leave this Earth behind one day. As I was gazing out the window of the plane, I felt some warm, salty drops of liquid rolling down my cheeks. Suddenly an old woman sitting next to me put her hand on mine and said:

"Why are you crying, Dear?"

"Crying? I'm not crying.... I'm actually quite happy" said I, surprised.

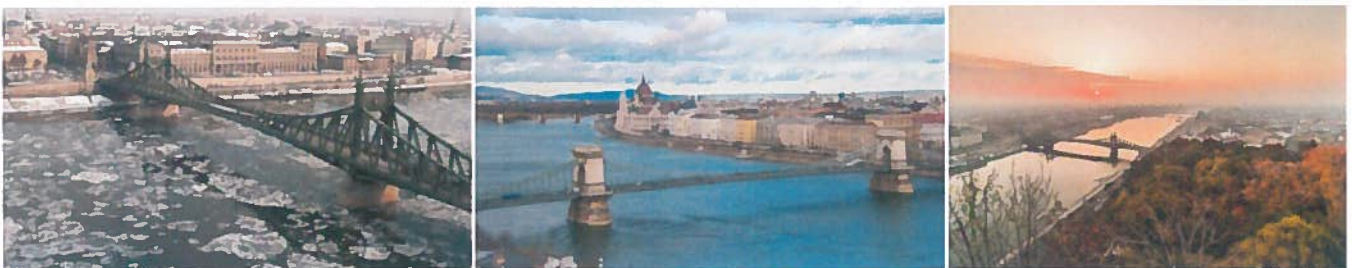
"Oh, you must be crying happy tears, then. We do that sometimes... here on Earth." And then she gave me a big grin.

"How did you know I was not from here?" I asked her astonished. I had decided to take on the form of a young boy to hide my differences so, naturally, I was shocked at her ability to see through me.

"Oh, I knew it as soon as I saw you, dear. Even though you look like an ordinary boy at first sight, your behavior, your innocent marveling at every detail gave you away. Not to mention those green suction cup finger tips. You really need to work on those, Honey." And again, she smiled at me and I knew right away that I made another good friend. I don't know who she was or where she came from, but I felt a strong connection to Emília, or Emi, as she liked me to call her. After I told her about my mission, she offered to be my companion during my journey in Hungary.

I normally have no problem learning the language of a new country but, boy oh boy! Hungarian took my processors a full five minutes to download and install! All those strange inflections, cases and conjugations... I'm still not sure I managed to master it completely. Emi told me that "Magyar" is a unique and ancient language that's different from all the other Indo-European languages. The speakers of it are proud of its uniqueness just as much as they are proud of the history and culture of their country. While exploring the city, I was chanting the longest and silliest Hungarian word I learned from her. Just for fun! *Elkelkáposztásítalaníthatatlanítottatok. El-ke-ká-posz-tá-sí-ta-lan-ít-ha-tat-lan-í-tot-tá-tok*. Simple as that. ☺

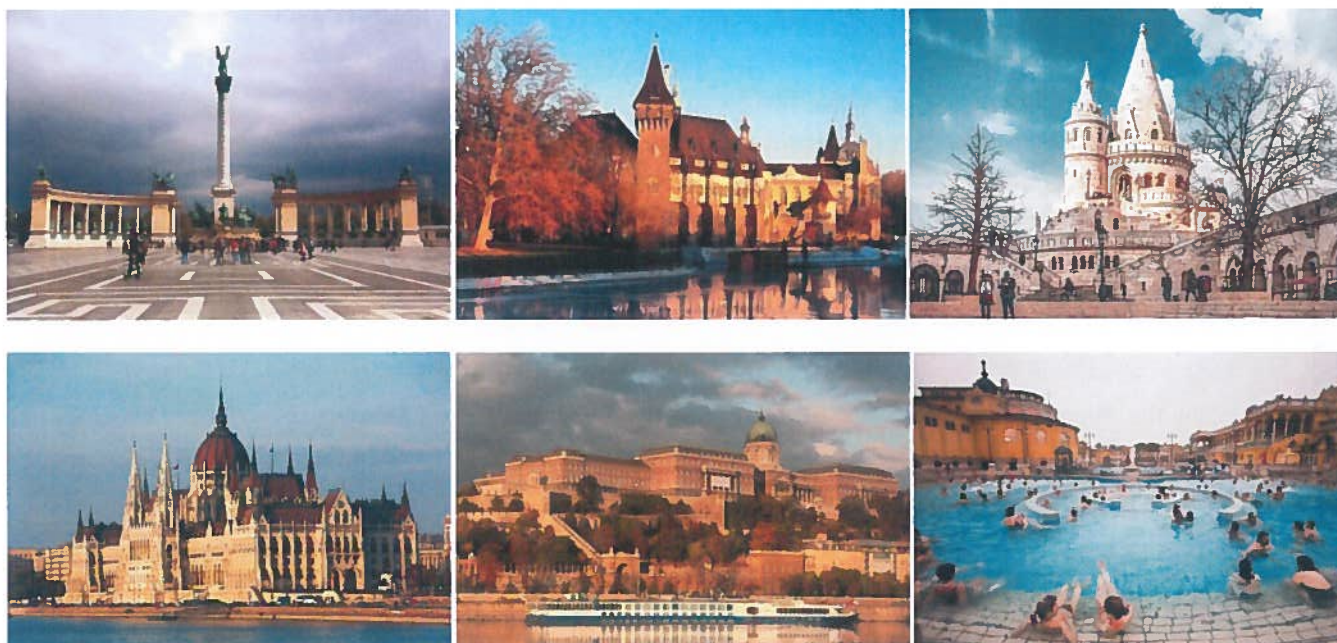
The Hungarian capital, **Budapest**, was full of fantastic architectural and historic surprises. The city is divided by the river Danube into two equally beautiful but very different parts. Pest is a more cosmopolitan, busy area with lots of shopping and business opportunities, while Buda with its green rolling hills and gorgeous castle district offers a breathtaking view of the surrounding area.



I noticed that there were many cars in the city, not just here but in the cities I had visited before, as well. Emi and I discussed the disadvantages of them and the harmful effects of their CO<sub>2</sub> emission, and agreed that we must choose a more eco-friendly way of travelling. Luckily, Budapest has a fantastic underground system, which is, in fact, the oldest subway line in continental Europe. So we travelled by Metro from place to place. What's more, I was excited to find out that there is also an environmentally friendly, quick and convenient alternative in urban transport: Budapest's new public bike sharing scheme. It's called MolBuBi and has over 79 bicycle docking stations around the city center.



We explored the entire city. We saw the *Millenium Monuments* on *Heroes' Square* and the *Vajdahunyad Castle*, which is actually a smaller version of the castle I had seen in Hunedoara, Romania. We visited several outstanding museums, entered the exquisite *Parliament* building, the *Buda Castle* and *Fishermen's Bastion*. I learnt that Budapest is also called the "city of baths" due to its abundance of hot springs. After long days of sightseeing, we soaked our tired bodies in the mineral rich waters of Europe's largest medical public bath, the *Széchenyi Medicinal Bath*.



However much I loved the big city, I felt being drawn to the countryside. I really wanted to see into the heart of how people live their lives in rural Hungary. So Emi and I took a bus to a small town called *Jászberény*. Just as we arrived, we found that in the *Bercsényi Miklós Elementary School* an



international conference was being held. Teachers and students from 8 different countries were discussing an interesting topic called geomythology. I heard words like myths, legends, nature, geological formations, sustainability, environmental consciousness, and so on. I was impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment these people showed for the cause of saving their planet. There and then I realized that it takes the mutual effort of the young and old generations together to sustain this wonderful world. They were sharing their past so rich of mythical stories and seemed to perfectly understand the importance of their present role in creating a bright, livable future.

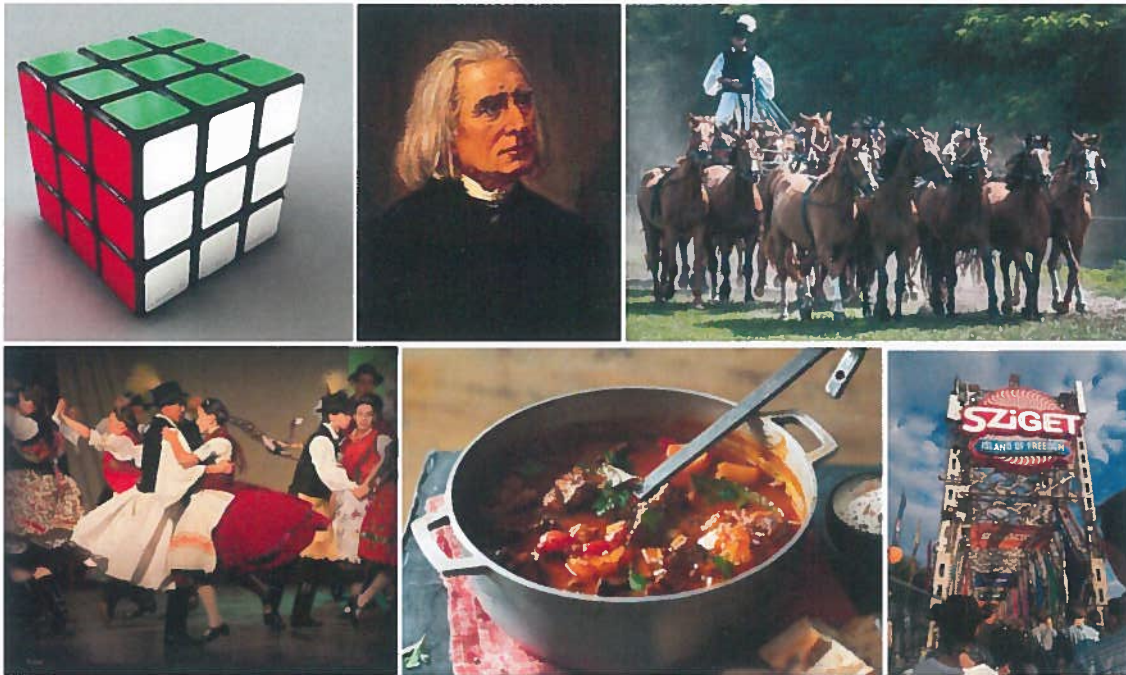
As the group explored the town of Jászberény, we decided to accompany them. We walked along the banks of their small river *Zagyva*, visited the parks, the zoo and even had some fun ice skating in their new covered ice rink. In the *Jász Museum* we learned about the legend of the town's symbol: the historic *Horn of Lehel*, and we saw evidence of how people used to live there centuries ago. I really liked the baroque church and the old buildings of the high-school, the *Town Hall* and the *Court House*.



It was difficult to leave this warm and a peaceful town but Emi urged me to see some other parts of her small yet beautiful country. Together we traveled to **Lake Balaton**, the largest freshwater lake in central Europe. On the train toward it Emi and I played with a fascinating toy called *Rubic's cube*. Looking out of the window of the train, I saw green meadows, fields flowing with yellow rapeseed flowers, captivating forests and lakes.

Emi was a great story teller who taught me a lot about this country. I found out that, founded in 896, Hungary is one of the oldest countries in Europe. Around 1000 CE, Hungary was among the largest and richest states on the old continent. Later it became one of the two "eagle heads" of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The country fell under communist rule during World War II but in 1989, Hungary was the first one in the eastern block to peacefully end communism and become a parliamentary republic.

Emi's eyes lit up when she spoke about the long tradition of classical music Hungarians cherish, with famous composers like *Béla Bartók*, *Zoltán Kodály* and *Franz Liszt*. We listened to folk music from the various regions of the country and I even learned a few simple dance steps. She told me about all the different music and cultural festivals that are held in Hungary, starting with the *Sziget festival* for young people looking for rock and roll, to the *Budapest Spring Festival* for those who prefer classical music. Just before we reached the „Hungarian Sea”, I found out that the country even has cowboys. Can you believe it? The *Csikós* or Hungarian cowboys are brilliant riders who display the talents of the Magyars, the proud group of people that rode their horses from central Asia to settle in this land.



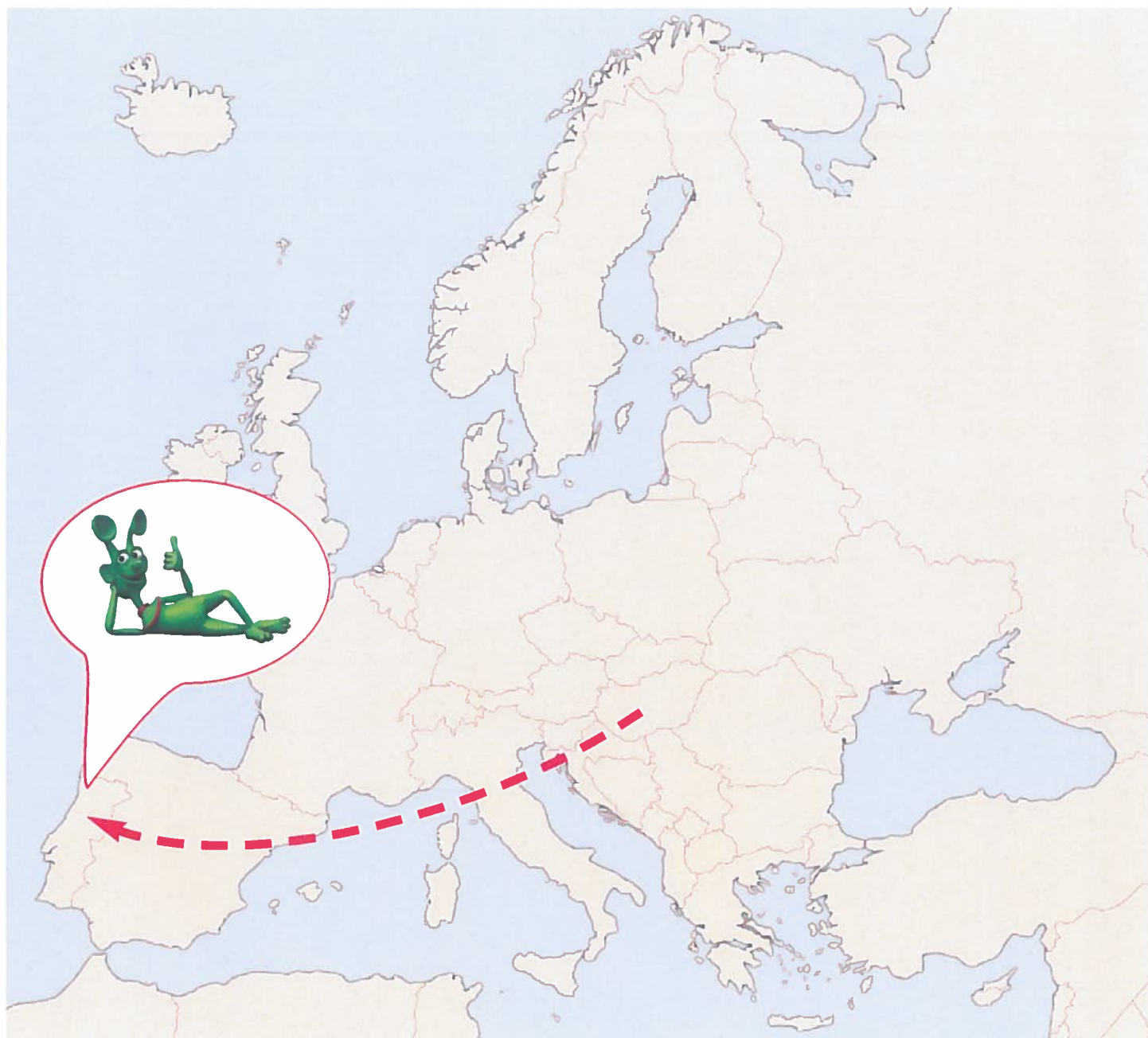
At Lake Balaton I had a chance to sample the famous Hungarian cuisine. I tasted beef gulash, had some really good stuffed cabbage, and enjoyed *lángos*, dumplings and pancakes, as well. We sailed the turquoise water, and alongside the lake shores we visited towns like *Tihany*, *Keszthely* and *Siófok*. In the end I tasted the exquisite wines of the Badacsony region, too.



It is with a heavy heart that I leave this beautiful country with its scenic views and charming cities. Not to mention my faithful companion, Emi. With her help I got a glimpse into the lives and culture of Hungarians and the beauty of its geography. I know that I will have to come back some day to experience it more fully. However it is time for me to continue my journey toward the westernmost shores of mainland Europe, to the wonderful country of Portugal.



# PORTUGAL



AGRUPAMENTO  
DE ESCOLAS  
DE BARCELOS  
PORTUGAL





## FROM HUNGARY TO PORTUGAL

After a long journey Al finally was arriving to Portugal. A little country in the south eastern part of Europe with a population of 10,31 million inhabitants.

His time on planet Earth was about to end and he was wondering what this last destination would look like. All the places he had been before were so amazing! He had already observed spectacular places! His last visit to Hungary left him breathless. Budapest, as well as the countryside, were places to always remember.

Looking out from the window of the plane he noticed the contrast of the beautiful line in the coast against the immense blue of the Atlantic Ocean. The long beaches, rocky hills and the green in the north of this country made that place stand out.



His flight was calm and now he was about to reach Escola Secundária de Barcelos, located in the city of Barcelos. As he walked to the school, the faces waiting for him and the rest of the European team were rather familiar. Diogo, Catarina and Daniela were waving in the sidewalk.

Diogo: "Hey, Al! Welcome to our school and town!"

"Al, we were already missing you!", said Catarina and Daniela smiling happily.

Big human hugs surrounded Al's skinny neck, something he got used to. After all, he had learned that humans like to show their emotions and feelings in a very physical way. And he also found out that the southern European peoples were the most extrovert of all and the ones with the most effusive style. "I know I'll miss this too", thought Al, feeling a bit sad, or as the Portuguese say (he would learn days after), with "saudade" - this untranslatable Portuguese term that refers to the melancholic longing or yearning.

The school, comprising more than 1,200 students, had been rebuilt a few years ago and the buildings looked very modern with lots of glass from bottom to the upper parts, open spaces, a lake and an amazing garden. Later, one of the teachers would explain that the green areas surrounding the school were part of the awarded "Arboretum of Barcelos", a special garden created in 1986 with all the botanic species that exist in Portugal.



Barcelos city, famous for its handmade pottery, was particularly characterized with traces of antiquity and others of modernity. The group of students and teachers from other countries was ready to leave, but Al was behind because a symbol on the wall would have drawn his attention.

Al did not know it, but this symbol was the most relevant symbol in town. This symbol would have originated in the interesting popular legend that transports Barcelos to the medieval times. Diogo explained: *"One day, the inhabitants of Barcelos were alarmed by a crime. The criminal who had committed it had not yet been discovered. One day a*



*Galician appeared and became suspicious. The authorities decided to arrest him, despite his oaths of innocence, which was only passing through on a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, in fulfilment of a promise. Condemned to the gallows, the man asked to be taken to the presence of the judge who had condemned him. Once the authorization was granted, they took him to the magistrate's residence, which at that time was feasting with some friends. The Galician returned to affirm his innocence and, faced with the incredulity of those present, pointed to a roast rooster that was on the table and exclaimed: - "It is so certain that I am innocent, as it is certain that this cock crows*

*when I am hanged! The judge pushed the plate aside and ignored the appeal, but when the pilgrim was being hanged, the roast rooster stood on the table and sang. Understanding his error, the judge ran to the gallows and discovered that the Galician had been saved thanks to a bad knot. The man was immediately released and sent off in peace."*

"Really?", asked Al. "Do you believe that, Daniela?"

"Well, is this symbol part of a great mystery? No one knows. But it's definitely a story we like to tell to visitors", she answered.

Without wasting more time they joined the group and left the school. Shortly after leaving, the team of visitors began to ask questions about all the fantastic monuments they saw.

The first one that they saw was impossible to ignore. This monument was named *Paço dos Duques*. The monument survived a few years since it was built (15th century), but now it was just ruins of a Gothic style. In front of this magnificent building is a Roman bridge made up of five unequal arches, the largest and highest cover the middle of the river Cávado. The purpose of this bridge was the passage of the pilgrims that passed by and for the great fairs that were held since the High Middle Ages.





After, they were taken to the centre of the city where they visited the City Hall and several monuments and churches, but what mostly caught the attention of Al was the enormous contemporary "Pop Galo" (Pop Rooster) that stood in front of the round church "Senhor Bom Jesus da Cruz". It is a monumental public art work by the artist Joana Vasconcelos, who was inspired by the Rooster of Barcelos.



Al recognized the symbol he had found on the wall at school.

On the cock's base he found another flower-like symbol and without wasting time he asked if there was anything in Barcelos related to flowers.



He was told that there was something called "Battle of Flowers", an event that happened every year during the local Festival of the Crosses.



Catarina explained: "Al, this battle always happens on the 1st May and it is characterized by throwing flowers to people. It's really funny and very beautiful to see."

"But that's the day after tomorrow!", noticed Al, and his little eyes opened widely. The week in Portugal looked promising, thought Al.

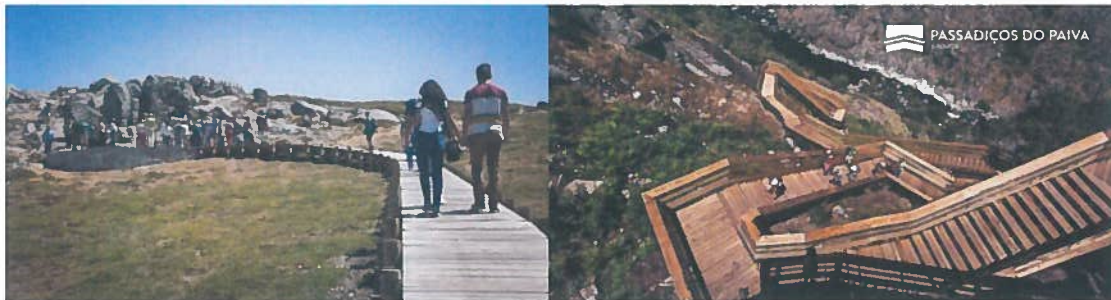
The next day the whole group went to the Geopark of Arouca. Al showed his interest for this geological site in his last visit on planet Earth.

"Al, what would you say if suddenly you were presented with a live book telling the history of the Earth represented on the rocky landscape, the rivers running in a hurry, the green of the landscape, and the silence of the mountain?", asked Daniela.

"That would be fantastic! That's why I came here too! To understand your planet origin and how it is evolving. Is that possible?"

Daniela continued: "Yes, here it is possible to travel in space and time."

In fact, 41 geosites (geological points of interest) stand out by their uniqueness and outstanding value from a scientific point of view, didactic and/or tourism. It covers a total of 328 km<sup>2</sup> protected area recognized by UNESCO as a Geological Heritage of Humanity. Highlights are, for example, the 20 km long "Walkways" that provide a walk through unique untouched beautiful landscapes, in an authentic natural sanctuary and the *Castanheira* Nodular Granite where the famous *Pedras Parideiras* can be seen.



"*Pedras parideiras*, what is that?", asked Al.

"That is a geological phenomenon: it's a big stone that gives birth to smaller stones, like baby stones", explained Catarina.

"No way!", cried Al!

"Believe me, it's true!", replied Diogo.

And he continued: "Every year we have school trips here to study and learn about Geology. There's even a geomyth of fertility associated to it. The myth says that if young women put one of these stones under their pillow when they go to sleep, they're more likely to get pregnant."

"You humans are impossible with these funny, fascinating myths! I really like your folk tales!", concluded Al with an amused smile.

They all visited the park, walked a lot and had a natural interesting experience, including tasted geofood. Al observed attentively the human behaviour and was touched by the effort that has been made to preserve nature and respect this little planet. He had gathered so much information to take with him to his planet, so far away.

The day was exhausting and they felt they needed a rest.

On the next morning, back in Barcelos they saw the magnificent flower carpets in the church Bom Jesus da Cruz. After, they got ready for the battle. Al was caught in the middle of hundreds of people throwing colorful petals to each other.



"This is spectacular!", Al was amazed by the abundance of colours. "And what are those handmade "arches" in the background?"

He was told that each of the 63 parishes exhibits one to represent the local culture and economic activities. One of the teachers clarified that the Festival of the Crosses is one of the most important events of Minho. It's the first major pilgrimage in the region and it offers to locals and thousands of visitors, many cultural, sporting, religious and ludic events. The two-week program is based on tradition that meets the popular taste and desires to captivate younger audiences. The historical importance of Barcelos makes the Festival of the Crosses a moment of identity and status of the county and, therefore, motivates the interest and curiosity of a vast public, national and international.

The day was sunny and hot and everybody was smiling and laughing. Al recognized, on the other side, a group of Portuguese, Polish and Italian students. He got a few petals from the basket and threw them into the boys and girls' heads.



"But why is it called Crosses Festival?", Al wanted to know.

Catarina, who was always into history and culture explained: "The celebration has its origin in the 16th century and is based on another legend. According to this story, a black cross marked on the ground was seen and the people thought it was a divine sign. More crosses appeared in the years to come and so, the "miracle of the crosses" originated a strong form of popular devotion."

Al replied: "Oh, oh, again the legends! You humans are so strange!"

"Yeah, yeah, don't get us wrong!" exclaimed Catarina, who had already pink and yellow petals in her hair.

Diogo: "You know, Al, all this is to keep traditions. Of course, we are aware that these stories don't seem real but everywhere on Earth humans use these moments to honour their past." Al nodded showing he understood.

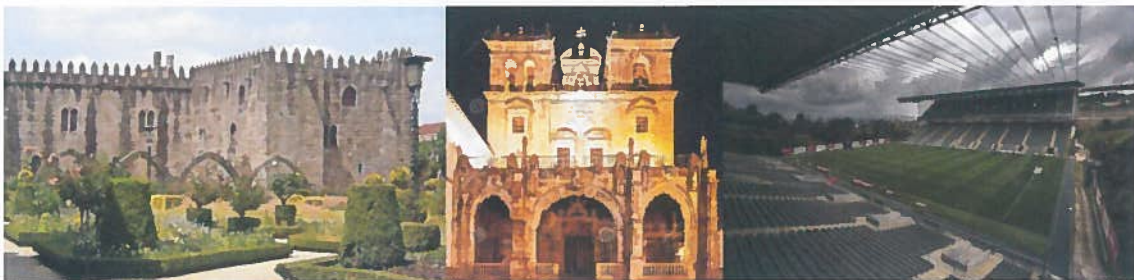
As it was already too much adventure for one day the whole group rested and prepared for the next day: a visit to the city of Braga, capital of the north district, more or less 23km away from Barcelos.

The Braga Diocese is the oldest in Portugal and, in the Middle Ages, the city even competed with Santiago de Compostela in power and importance. One of the "Camiños de Santiago" passed through here, when this pilgrimage cult grew with the Christian reconquest and the foundation of Portugal.





It is a lively city, one of the oldest in the country, known as the "Portuguese Rome" for its concentration of religious architecture. In the most recent years is teeming with young people who study at its universities and has become the 3<sup>rd</sup> most important in Portugal. Built more than 2,000 years ago, "Bracara Augusta" was, as the name indicates, founded by Augustus; it was located on one of the main Roman roads in the Iberian Peninsula, since it was the administrative seat of the Empire.



In Braga, Al and his friends visited the Cathedral, the Sé Museum and also the Braga Stadium, built on a rocky mountain and designed by the famous Portuguese architect Souto Moura.



But one of the best parts of this fantastic city **was** a hill known as "Bom Jesus". This magic and holy place has, on its top a stunning 18th-century sanctuary site where pilgrims ascend by a series of punishing stairs or by a water funicular.

In the evening they listened to "Fado", the soul of Portuguese music and Al went to bed with an unusual feeling he couldn't identify. It was probably because he knew his trip was about to finish. A group of students were talking about the last day of the visit and Al asked his Portuguese friends where the next stop would be.



"Tomorrow we will visit Porto, the second most important city in Portugal", they said.

Al was confused because he had learnt that "port" means a harbor near the sea, to take ships and boats.

"That's right", said Catarina, "Porto is located on the coastline of the Atlantic Ocean. It has a big harbor and the river Douro was used to carry the famous Port wine, one of Portugal's most famous exports. The erection dates back many centuries. The combined Celtic-Latin name, Portus Cale, has been referred to as the origin of the name "Portugal."

Al got confused again: "Port city? Port wine? Portus Cale? I don't get it!"

Diogo laughed: "It's the same name, Al! The wine is named after Porto, because the cellars are on the other side of the city, in Vila Nova de Gaia. You'll see tomorrow."

The next day, Al arrived at school 30 minutes ahead of everyone because he was so excited and looking forward to visiting the popular city, proclaimed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996 and elected The Best European Destination by the Best European Destinations Agency in 2012, 2014 and 2017.

And so, 30 minutes later the students were leaving for the last of their fantastic trips. Al was fascinated by everything he saw. The trip on the boat was incredible with the view to both sides of the river: the fantastic historic centre of Ribeira on Porto side and the wine cellars on the other. In one of the cellars Al wanted to taste Port wine.



"Are you sure, Al?", asked Diogo laughing. "We don't want to carry you on our shoulders afterwards."

Al wasn't even listening. He already had a small glass in his hand. He loved the blue and green of the river and the six bridges, especially the one called D. Luís I.





He admired the blue glazed tiles in S. Bento train station, the typical boats on the river; the magnificent Art Nouveau styled Majestic Café; the Clérigos Tower, built in the first half of the 18th century; the wonderful Lello bookshop, one of the world's most beautiful bookstores, which is over 100 years old and a rumored inspiration behind J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the colorful houses on the river banks.



There was still a little more time left, and Al wanted to use every minute he could to gain knowledge of that city so he asked one of the teachers to take them to see the sea that followed the river mouth. After a few minutes of seeing the waves crashing into the sand and rocks, Al had to leave, and then, with a salty farewell, he left the city of Porto and returned to Barcelos.

Half an hour had passed when, on the way, the same teacher asked the bus driver to stop at a small city named Esposende so that the students could observe the amazing Atlantic Ocean and also the Natural Park of the North Coast.

The Natural Park emerged with the objective of reconciliation between sustainable development and conservation of Natural Resources. It is not intended to interdict the



use of this territory, but rather to establish the rules and mechanisms for its correct use. This park, which is stretched for 16km, is beautiful, but what amazed AI the most was its landscapes made up of dunes and preserved plants so that all its beauty could be protected.



They were about to continue their journey until AI heard a voice coming from the vegetation. He went in search of the sound that was entering his tall pointed ears and looked astonished to a natural preserved plant of that park (*Ammophila arenaria*) known as dune builder.

"AI, can I tell you something very important?", the plant asked.

AI had established conversations with humans but not with the flora. Well... not yet!

"Of course, what is it?", answered AI, with a puzzled voice.

"Oh, let me introduce me first. I'm "Estorno", one of the plants here in the protected coastal zone."

"Hello", said AI, "None of the other plants has ever tried to communicate with me before!"

"Yes, I know! We agreed to let you see our home first. And now, that you are about to leave, we decided to exchange a few ideas with you. All the animals and plants have heard about you for months. The Erasmus+ project "Rolling Stone" has spread your journey on planet Earth."

More and more baffled, AI replied: "But... but... nobody has told me that!"

"Of course not! We don't speak to humans! But we can understand them! And we agreed on asking you for a last mission before you leave for good. You are from another place in the universe and so maybe they will listen to you. Can you help us?"

"I guess I can try. What is it?"

"Estorno" continued: "Do not let people pollute places like these that save species and preserve natural resources! Some humans are doing their best to keep our home but it isn't enough. People's actions are destroying the world and soon it will be too late. You may well be the last visitor from another planet able to see life on this round blue globe!"

And then, all the plants and birds and other animals in the area approached. In a very short time, they managed to describe AI the fragile situation of the world – the endangered species, pollution and global climate change.

AI realized that although he had seen, for three years, so many good examples and ways of preserving nature, sorting waste or inventing non-polluting devices, it was time for humankind to do more.

AI, felt moved by the words of the plant and realized that his mission wasn't over yet.

As an alien who had seen so many other places in the universe, maybe humans would pay more attention to what he had to say. He would warn for the consequences and tell humans how to act and how to change their bad habits.

From that day on he began his new plan to help humanity to improve life of Nature and encourage them to have a more pro-environmental behaviour. Now that he had seen areas of preservation of natural species and realized their importance, he would have to continue his journey on Earth and so he did.

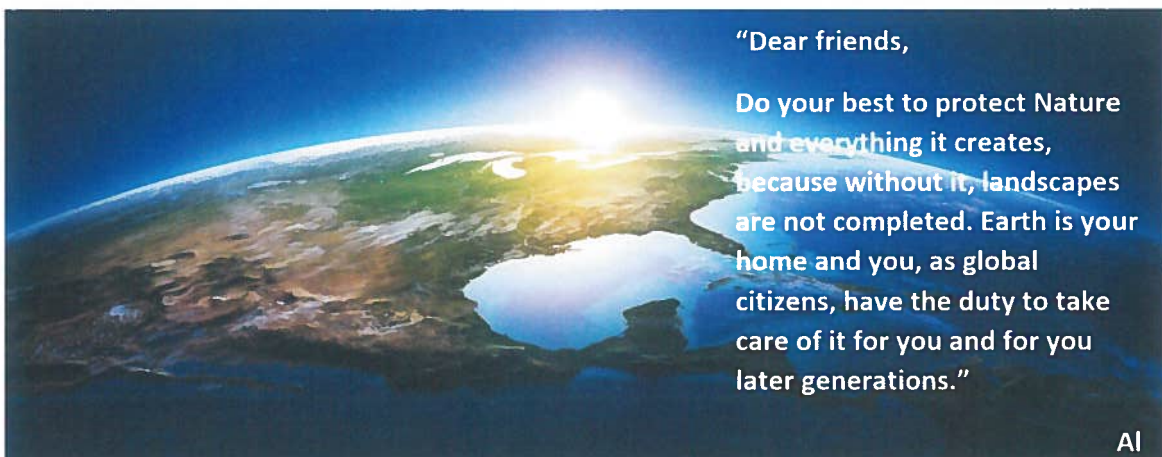
AI's trip with the "Rolling Stone" group seemed to be ending. He had to say goodbye and that was difficult. Students from the countries he had visited gathered around him to hug and kiss AI for the last time.

AI reassured them: "Your planet is so amazing that I've decided to stay for a little longer to help you."

"Really? We're so happy! So, we'll see each other again!", they all shouted.

And he explained his purposes: to prove humankind that what gives beauty to the landscapes is what people destroy without thinking of the consequences. And that is **NATURE**, that is the planet **EARTH**.

Before leaving for a new country, he left his message to the group on their mobile phones:



"Dear friends,

Do your best to protect Nature and everything it creates, because without it, landscapes are not completed. Earth is your home and you, as global citizens, have the duty to take care of it for you and for you later generations."

AI

## THE END