

ENDANGERED SPECIES IN GREECE



3RD GYMNASIUM OF IRAKLION CRETE



Erasmus+

Caretta caretta (sea turtle)

The *sea turtle Caretta Caretta* lives for about 80 years, weighs approximately 90 kilos and its length is about 1 meter. It feeds on sponges, but it also eats sea anemones and jellyfish.

Sea turtles in the Mediterranean Sea live mainly on the island of Zakynthos and Crete and the Peloponnese coastline in Greece and they reproduce in Greek beaches.

Sea turtles tend to get entangled in fishing gear and such incidents may often result to injuries or drowning.

Their annual reproductive success is influenced by extreme weather conditions, possible coastal erosion, predation from wild animals and human activities. The Greek Rescue Network of “Archelon” aims at rescuing and protecting this endangered species.

The protection of sea turtle nesting beaches contributes vastly to the conservation of sea turtle populations. About 75 km of beaches with an average of 2,600 turtle nests are monitored each year by “Archelon” field teams.

They direct their efforts on the beaches so that adult females can make their nests undisturbed, nests remain safe during incubation and hatchlings emerge and reach the sea unobstructed.





Gypaetus barbatus (eagle)

The *golden eagle* is the most dominant bird of prey in Europe, having a wingspan of 185-220cm and a body length of 75-90cm. Unfortunately, the species in Greece is endangered, with only a few pairs left, mostly in Crete.

When the eagle flies, it can be noticed by its golden throat (hence the name “golden”) and its long tail. The adult birds have a characteristic golden-colored head and neck, while the body and the wings are uniformly dark below the wings. Moreover, their legs are covered with feathers.

The *Golden Eagle* flies around by making small circles at heights reaching 5000m. The wings, when viewed from the front, shape a V. It usually hunts in pairs.

The flights of the eagle before the reproductive period are a unique experience, when they try to show off their territory to their partners. They are monogamous birds and mate with the same bird for all their lifetime.

Females lay from one to four eggs in late February, and both parents incubate them for 40 to 45 days in nests located in remote cliffs. The chicks have no feathers. They stay in the nest for 11 weeks and are fed by their parents.

The golden eagle can live for many years on welfare. Indeed, in the imperial palaces of *Vienna*, in captivity conditions and with proper care, there was an eagle that lived for 100 years.





PAINTINGS CREATED BY STUDENTS FOR
THE RAISING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
ABOUT ENDANGERED SPECIES



