

# Comenius Projekt 2012-2013

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Grundschule Bad Saarow



Nature is everywhere... At our school it starts just behind the schoolyard. We look out of the staff room window into the forest. Every day we experience different things about animals and plants or the tracks of the Ice Age which have formed our Brandenburg countryside.





This is the new gate to our garden. Here we cultivate and develop different habitats, we can study plants without being interrupted and we can watch animals and gain experience. We look forward to welcome you in this arboretum.





Half of the garden is covered in forest. On the ground there is a large variety of plants. Here we like the blue blooms of a clump of the creeping bugle.





Everything is changing in nature. Tall strong trees sometimes die like this mighty pine tree in our garden.





On a warm day in June its huge top broke and fell to the ground, without any cause like a storm or a chain saw. But the stump is still worth seeing. And nature needs old rotting wood as well. Many beetles live there and you can find toadstools too.





Our boys bring the broken pieces of wood to the right places. Working in the forest has got lots of different aspects and it is physically exhausting. But it is always fun.





In the dry Brandenburg pine forest you can build comfortable nests like our class camp made of wood and moss.





Everybody lends a hand when we built a community hut. So there is the proof: building a house is the nature of humans.( but not paying rents)





We have a little rest. Although the hut isn't finished it makes us feel safe. The more the hut grows the more we are proud of the result.





In Müllrose we have cleared the forest of rubbish and did some other forestry. This is a Brandenburg state educational institution, which our school classes quite often visit for some days. So often there are people who haven't any respect for nature and leave their rubbish everywhere. We have collected it and disposed of it in the correct way.





Here we have controlled pests with the help of fire. Later we roasted potatoes in the warm ash. They were really good.





There we learn to see something special in nature. The most interesting is this growth in an oak tree, which the forest warden has shown us.





We took of the bark off the pine logs. At the same time we got a feeling for wood, this unique and renewable material. And we got to know this old craft.





These birdhouses we have built ourselves. We used material from the forest. We think of the hole nesters which are protected like other birds. In these bird boxes the titmice feel at home and bring up their offspring.





The close contact with the wild animals of the forest is an adventure. Here we are in the Hirschau estate. Gina dares to ride on a deer's back (16 antlers) and feels like Gerda in the fairy tale 'The Snow queen'





The meeting with a group of wild boar was near our house and these curious animals were also interested in us.





Here the year 3 girls are sitting on a giant broken tree in the clay mines. From the rotten wood we obtained the colouring for our Art lessons. Let's have a look at our pictures made of natural colours.





Saarow-Pieskow am Scharmützelsee

Motiv aus den Saarower Tongruben

In these gorges which are 30 metres deep clay was mined for buildings in Berlin 100 years ago. The clay was transported by punts across the lake. This place is worth walking to. You can find rare species of plants, for example '**Bärlapp**'. It is a relic of the prehistoric times and you find it only at that place.

Nowadays you can't recognize the old mines and the forest is left to its own devices.





The boys are looking for mineral resources. They quarried some clay under the roots of an old oak like people did in the past. You can paint or make pottery with that.





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Every year we prepare thematic walks with our parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters or friends. Our ideas we always get from nature. On a herbal walk we pass our knowledge about local plants on and we taste edible plants from field or forest.





Where there is a forest today they mined coal in the past. The old workings have nearly disappeared. Only nature- researchers who are eager to learn can find the old entrance of the gallery and other signs of coal extraction.





Here we explain the former lignite mines in the Rauener Hills to our parents.





Our parents are astonished at the disused workings and the tracks of the old railroad. There is a horse chestnut tree at the old mine entrance. It tells us that there were horses fed with horse chestnuts in the past. Here nature is completely taken over.





We can see special plants in the classroom too. Here we have watched the tomatoes growing and we picked them in December.





Tomatoes have never tasted better- we have grown them ourselves!





The most beautiful river valley in the east of Brandenburg is only a few kilometres away from our home. In year 5 we walked through it. We had great experience there. This year we will go there again.



# Comenius Projekt 2012-13

- The pupils and the teachers of our school look forward to welcoming you to Bad Saarow. We would like to show you our home region that is rich in forests, water and fields. (We call it the three W's: Wald- Wasser- Wiese.)
- We really hope you will enjoy it like Maxim Gorki did as a patient at a spa. He gave our school its name.