“Flying Over Natura 2000” is a project aimed at discovering the Natura 2000 network. You can discover the Natura 2000 sites via the migrations of black storks. Every year, these birds undertake a long journey across Europe to their African wintering grounds. Their movements can be followed thanks to a radio transmitter, attached to the stork like a mini backpack and relayed by satellites.

In each of the eight participating countries, two storks are our ambassadors. Every day during their long journey, these storks send a “postcard”, or small TV clip, to television viewers. These show the places they have flown over, primarily the Natura 2000 sites (or future sites), with their characteristics, biodiversity and ongoing human activities.

http://www.flyingover.net
What is Natura 2000?

Europe covers less than 3% of the world’s land mass, yet, despite its size, it has a very rich biodiversity. From the Arctic Circle to the warm Mediterranean coastline, from the peaks of the Alps to the vast open plains of central Europe, the diversity of nature on our small continent is truly remarkable.

Natura 2000 is the most ambitious initiative ever undertaken to conserve this rich biodiversity. Involving 25 countries of the EU to work together to protect hundreds of rare species and habitats across their natural range in Europe, irrespective of national boundaries. At its heart lies the creation of an ecological network of sites known as the Natura 2000 Network. Some 18,000 sites all across Europe have been included in this network so far.

Visiting a Natura 2000 site is an ideal way to learn more about Europe’s nature.

Discovering Europe’s nature

Natura 2000 can help you to:
- Discover the different regions in Europe
- Find out about their rich wildlife and natural areas
- Learn about the threats to wildlife and how to conserve it
- Explore the countryside near you and to use the sites as outdoor classrooms for a whole range of different activities

Sources of information

The European Commission has a wealth of information tools and material available for teachers and schools on Europe’s nature and Natura 2000.

- A youth corner on the Commission’s website where pupils can learn more about the different ecosystems and species in Europe, the threats they face and the different ways to address them. Pupils can also test their knowledge about nature and participate in some of the group activities and projects proposed. Go to http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/youth/index_en.html
- A series of brochures and posters on nature in Europe and Natura 2000, which are freely available to schools, teachers and pupils. These are available from the nature website of the Commission under http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/home.htm together with more information on Natura 2000 and European legislation.