

The logo for 'ATAO animation' features the word 'ATAO' in a stylized, rounded, black font. Below it is a thick black horizontal line. Underneath the line are two stylized black acorns with white grid patterns on their caps. Below the acorns, the word 'animation' is written in a lowercase, black, serif font.

ATAO
animation

presents

“ATAÔ THE LITTLE OAK”

- Animation TV series
- The 5 first scripts
- Educational program



the little oak

Animation TV series

26 épisodes x 5 mn

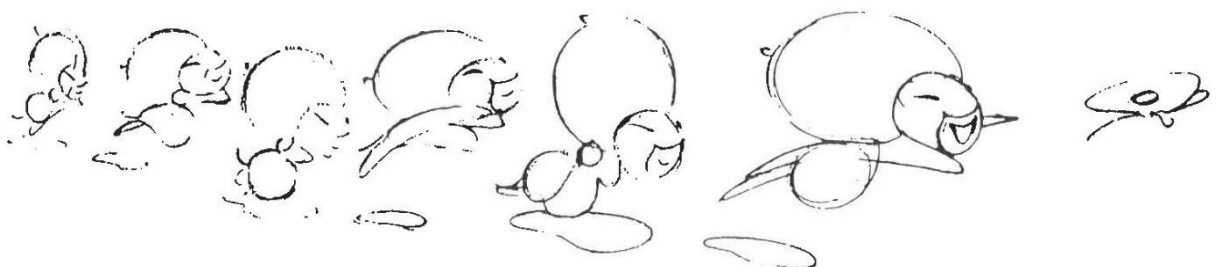


Ataô / Concept

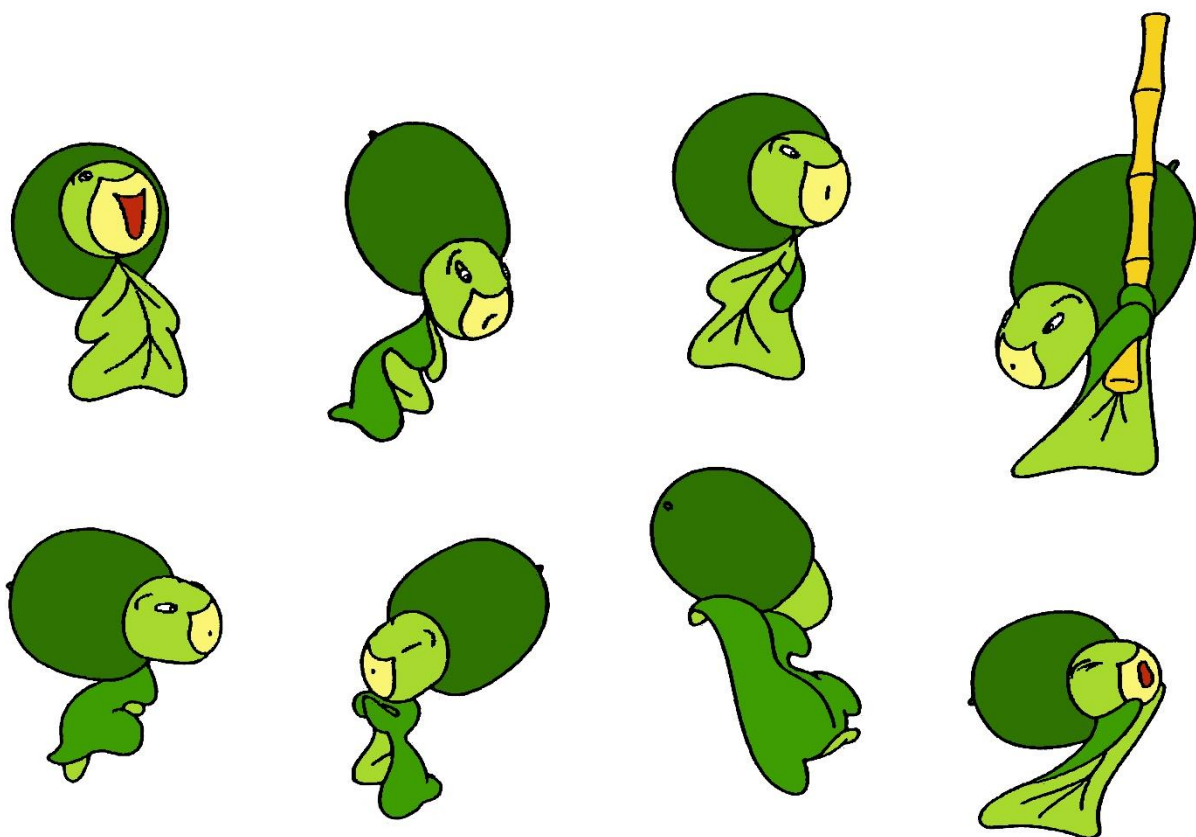
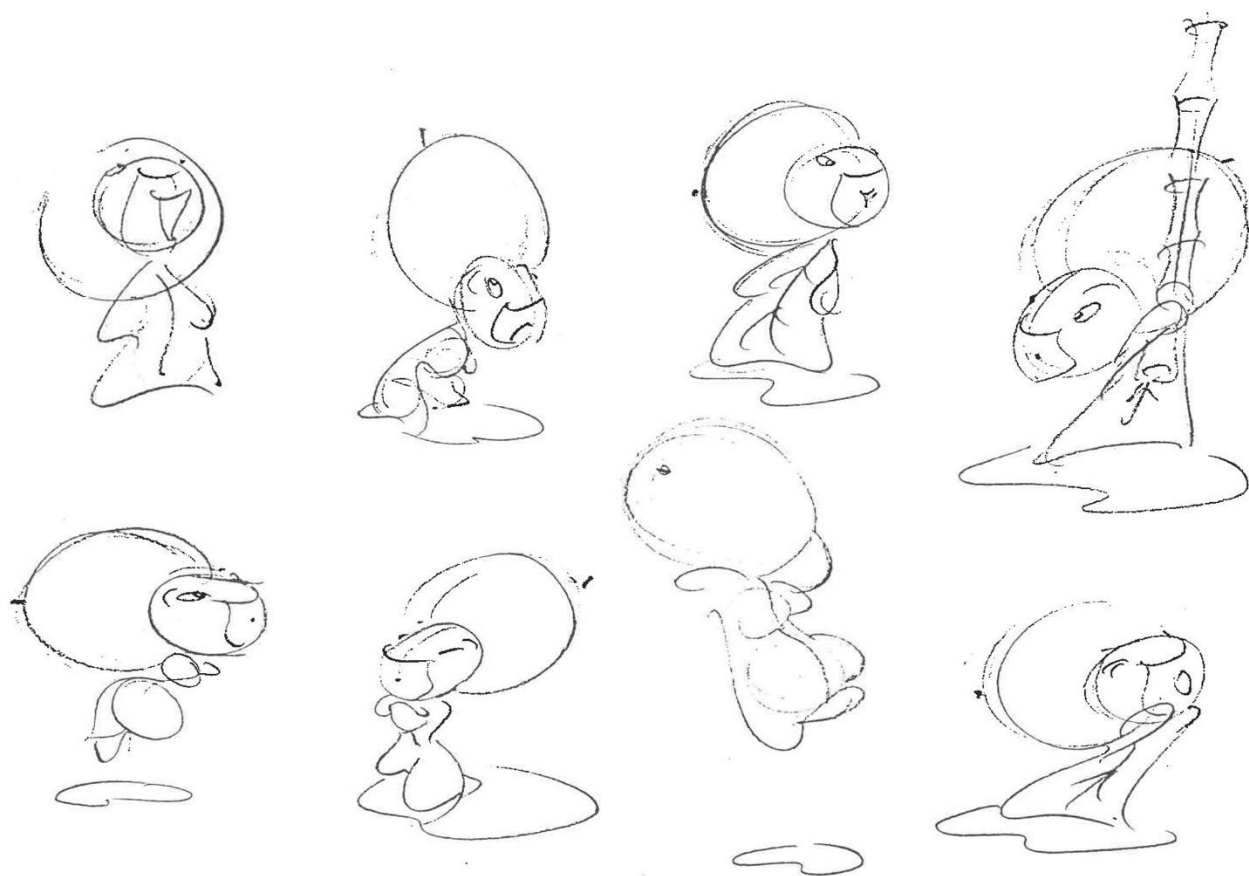


the little oak

The "Ataô the little oak" animation TV series presents the adventures of a cute character with an acorn for a head and an oak leaf for a body. His name is "Ataô" and his curiosity drives him to discover animal species on all continents of planet Earth and in all kind of environments from forests to oceans, and from the artic to jungles and deserts. No place lacks an animal which will trigger Ataô's desire to know all about its life. Being curious goes with living with risk, yet Ataô the little oak always gets his way to inform himself (and his young audiences worldwide) on every beautiful facets of the animal's nature. This rich content of every adventure appeals to both kindergarten and primary schools pupils as they learn a lot while being entertained by classical drawn animation.



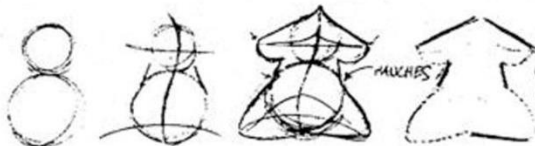
Ataô rough and colored models.



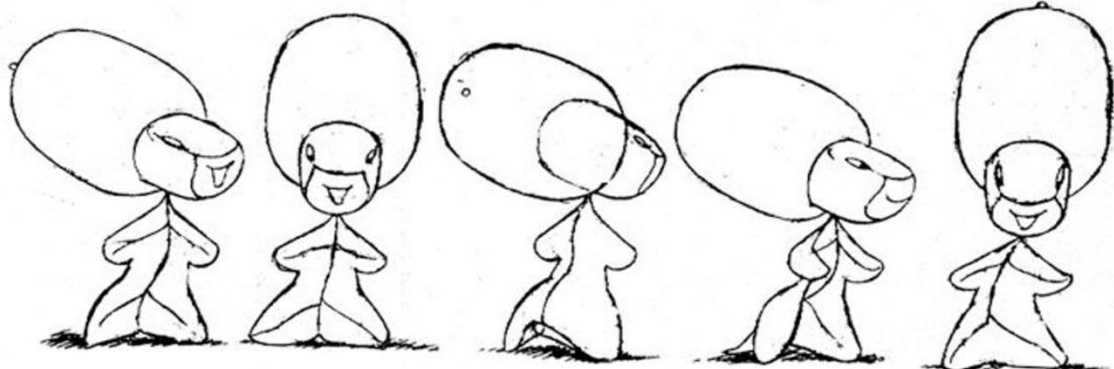


MODÈLE.

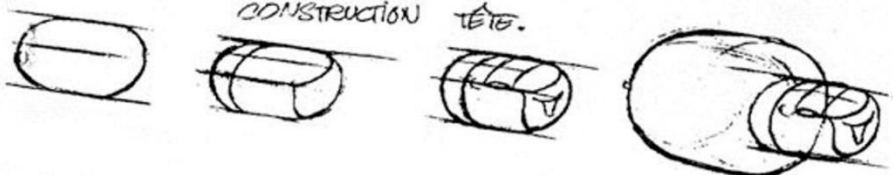
CONSTRUCTION DU CORPS



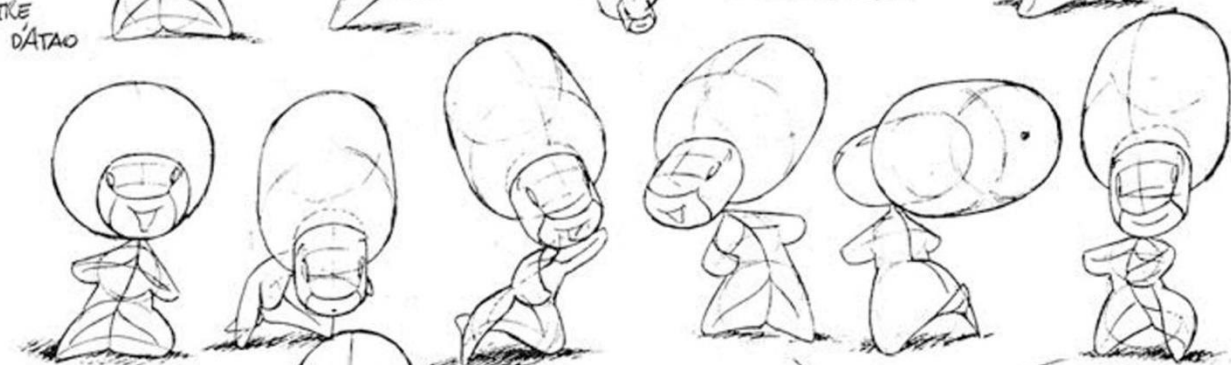
UTILISER L'ALTERNANCE DROITE/COURBE POUR DYNAMISER LES POSES.



CONSTRUCTION TÊTE.



POUR LE CHÂPEAU SE FIER AUX PROPORTIONS DE L'AUTRE MODÈLE D'ATAO



MODÈLE CONSTRUCTIONS ATTITUDES



STRETCH

SQUASH



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Through dynamic adventures, the animated series "Ataô the little oak" reveals major characteristics of animals belonging to endangered species.

By its simplicity the design of the characters allows an animation of high quality that highlights the study of movement and permits a fast execution respecting the proper budgets for such productions.

The music, studied at the story board stage by the composer with the animators, the music assures the synchronisation of the image and the sound. Therefore, the rhythmic quality of traditional animation is enhanced.

The 26 episodes of the "Ataô the little oak" series are as much little ballet documentaries where suspense, humour and poetry combine.

STRUCTURE OF EACH EPISODE

Each episode comprises chronologically :

- Opening credits. 10 s

- An introduction. 30 s

Ataô the old oak invites his many young offspring to gather deep in the centre of his trunk. Atao depicts an encounter that he had a very long time ago.

- Story development (the old oak's story) 3 mn 30 s

Flashback to where young Atao meets an animal in its natural environment and where he is faced with a problem concerning the nature of the animal itself before finding a way out either deliberately or unintentionally.

Voice over : Ataô the old oak.

- Conclusion 30 s

Back to Ataô the old oak who explains to his enthusiastic offspring the threat that weighs on this species and asks the young oaks to respect the endangered species and their environment.

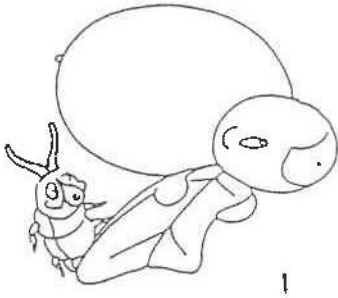
The little oaks take up these ideas in singing and dancing around their ancestral tree.

- Closing credits. 20 s

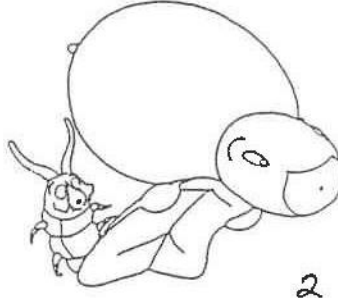
TOTAL

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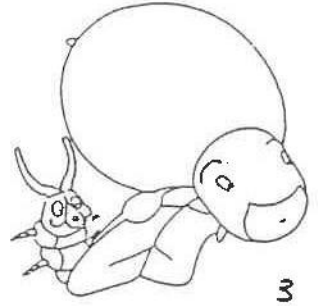
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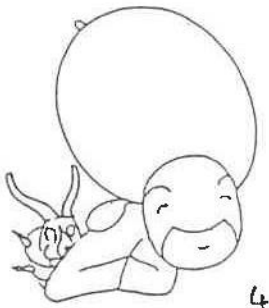
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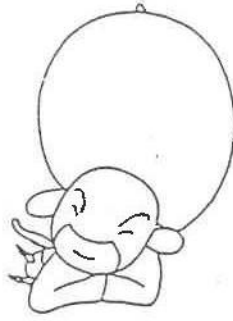
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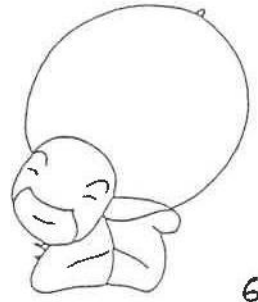
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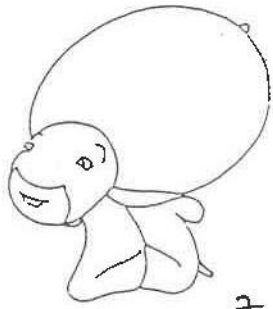
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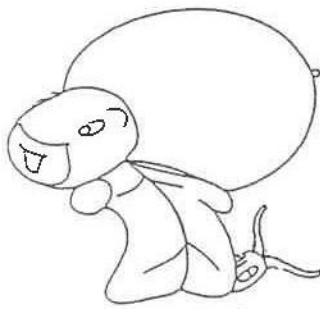
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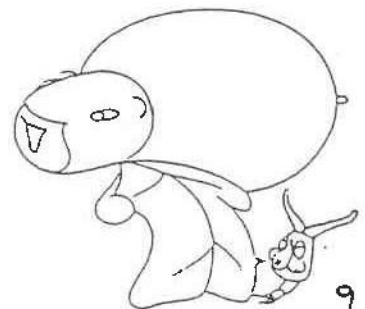
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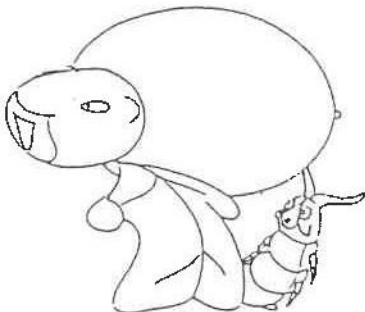
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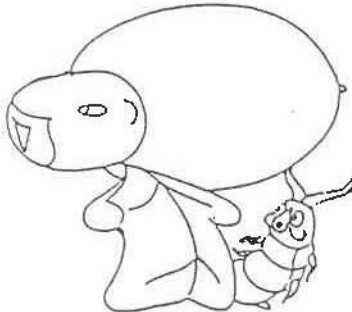
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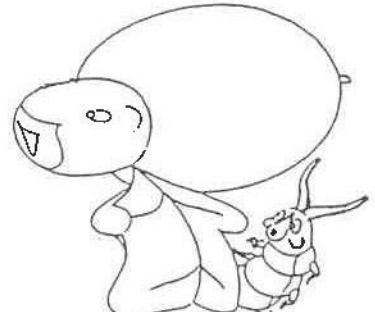
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10



11



12

ATAO'S STORY

What is it about? :

Ataô the gigantic oak tells his numerous progeny (little green beings with an acorn for a head and an oak leaf for a body) how he discovered, in his far away youth, animals which are today endangered species.

Place of action :

10) Place where Ataô, the old oak, recounts his adventures :

In the light of the full moon stands the mighty oak. Underneath his enormous roots, openings allow access to a magnificent room - the heart of Ataô - A moonbeam sheds its light down a passage through the thick bark and lights up a floor of velvety moss where little flowers rival each other in beauty. Around the room are a great number of seats all facing a large rock, one side of which is flat, rectangular and covered in mica.

20) Place where Ataô, the young oak, experiences his adventures :

Young Ataô, with an acorn for his head and an oak leaf for his body, in each episode, moves in the world of the animal's environment.

What happens there :

On the night of every fullmoon, Ataô, the father of all oaks, gathers his last born. He welcomes them to the heart of his trunk, through all his arterial entrances and exits. When everyone is seated, the ancestral voice is heard, first solemn then more paternal. It tells of the time when Ataô, still an "oak seed", met and lived with many animals which today are in danger of extinction.

Each evening corresponds to one story : the discovery of an animal and its environment.

When the story is about to start, the moonbeam which lights up the heart of Ataô, strikes a big rock covered in mica. Everyone, at first dazzled, sees images of young Ataô and the story of his adventure unfolds. It shows the little oak in the animal's natural environment, the animal "going about his business" while Ataô observes, approaches ... and sometimes touches it!

He discovers many "facets" of the animal, (about reproduction, food, physical aspect, etc...) which offer poetic, comic and sometimes dramatic situations.

Even though the adventure reveals aggressive and predatory behaviour in animals, it highlights events that are also evidence that animals have an emotional complement to their natures. Whatever the nature of the animal is, this does not play any part in Ataô's resolution of the trouble he finds himself in. The young oak eventually finds his way out of his trouble as a result of the natural chain of events which are directly linked to the animal's different "facets".

Depending on the episode, one of two endings concludes the story :

-the little oak's spectacular escape.

OR

-a scene establishing his friendship with the animal.

Both endings, however, lead to reactions of joy and admiration amongst the young ones, acclaiming Ataô's success. After this wave of enthusiasm, Ataô's voice gently summons everyone's attention. He explains how the animal presented is victim of a certain threat and that only an attitude full of respect vis à vis "Mother Nature" can save this species as well as others.

The grand patriarch's hopeful words are taken up in chorus by the mass of little oaks who, in the light of the moon, sing and dance around Ataô.



Ataô and the pheasant.



Ataô and the sea turtle.

ATAO, THE OLD OAK

The archetypal patriarch, Ataô is an old oak with mighty roots and whose branches touch the skys.

His knowledge of natural science is great and he sees to it that each adventure consists of a lot of rational information about food, habits or even reproduction of the species.

So Ataô spreads his knowledge throughout the story before finishing with a philosophical touch about the hows and whys of the imbalance and its correction.

ATAO, THE YOUNG OAK

Cheerful, curious, a dreamer but nevertheless determined, Ataô the young oak, wants to learn, understand and know about the animal species.

Armed with an obvious innocence when he approaches the animals, Ataô always puts himself in danger and owes his survival to this very same innocence which is often synonymous with self confidence.

THE LITTLE OAKS

Reacting as a single body, this joyous and responsive mass, maintains perfect attention as they listen and follow Ataô's adventures with the animals.

THE ANIMALS

Ataô observes the animals in their natural habitat. Either by force or voluntarily they interact with the little oak, but their lives are governed by the laws of nature and their actions fulfil their instincts : Nature's contract.

Therefore the imaginary world of Ataô blends with the real world of the animal kingdom.



the little oak

The 5 first scripts

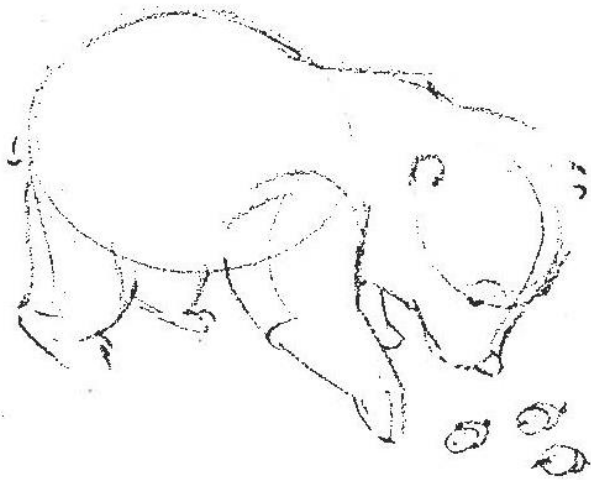
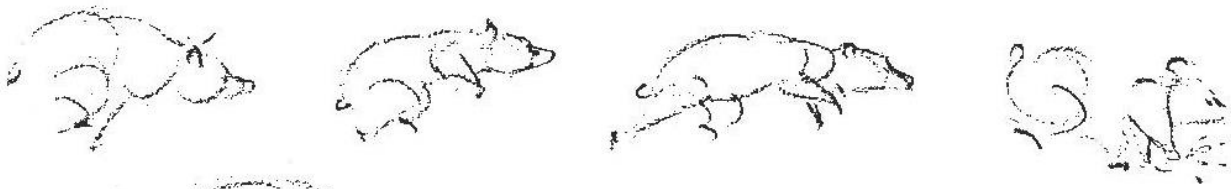
ATAO AND THE BEARS OF THE PYRENEES

There's a full moon and all the little oaks come running to the foot of the gigantic oak, Ataô. Deep in the heart of the great patriarch everyone settles down as one great attentive mass. A moonbeam lights up the scene.

Silence reigns. Ataô's voice is heard, solemn then fatherly as he recounts the story that happened a long time ago... his meeting with the Bears of the Pyrénées.

At that moment, the moonbeam caressingly lights up the mica covered rock in the centre of the room. The image of Ataô the younger appears there and the audience of little oaks is plunged into a new world.

On this day in late Autumn, Ataô is skipping about merrily in a pine forest when an intense buzzing interrupts his playing. Curiously, he climbs the tree from where the noise is coming. While reaching out for a branch a swarm of bees in full flight nearly make him fall. Having almost regained his balance the bees suddenly whizz back, their buzzing rising to a roar. Frightened, Ataô hides behind a pine cone. Slowly he peeps his head around to find the cause of the uproar : a gigantic bear is cheerfully digging out honey from a beehive. His big paw peacefully moves back and forth between the torn open hive and his snout as he greedily licks the honey. Around him, the incensed bees, renew their attack on the enemy. They bravely defend themselves as the bear, groaning with pain, tries to crush them with his paws. Abandoning his hiding place, Ataô approaches the bear, in the act of spitting in his direction, a rather tenacious bee. It is hurled right into the little curious oak's hat. Losing his balance, Ataô falls face down and lands on the end of a branch. Sitting astride his support, now calm, he watches the scene. The bear, who can no longer stand the beestings rushes to the water to take refuge and dives completely into it. Suddenly, the tree Ataô is sitting in is violently shaken. Unable to withstand the shaking he



falls ; cushioned by the thick red fur of another bear. The animal raises his muzzle and sniffs the air, seeming worried and anxious. Winter is coming and already a few white snow flakes are floating in the suddenly colder air. It's time to return to the retreat. Ataô enjoys the ride. They now come to a cave, its floor covered in moss, dry grass and branches. The bear sits down, watchful and attentive. Ataô seizes the moment to get off the bear's back. Outside, the snow falls thick and fast transforming the forest environment. Ataô considers leaving but decides to wait for a lull in the weather. Alas, the weather worsens. Soon the entrance to the bear's cave is completely blocked. The bear succumbs to a heavy torpor and, lying in a ball, falls to sleep. Ataô, resigning himself to the turn of events, does the same, curling up in a little nook of moss.

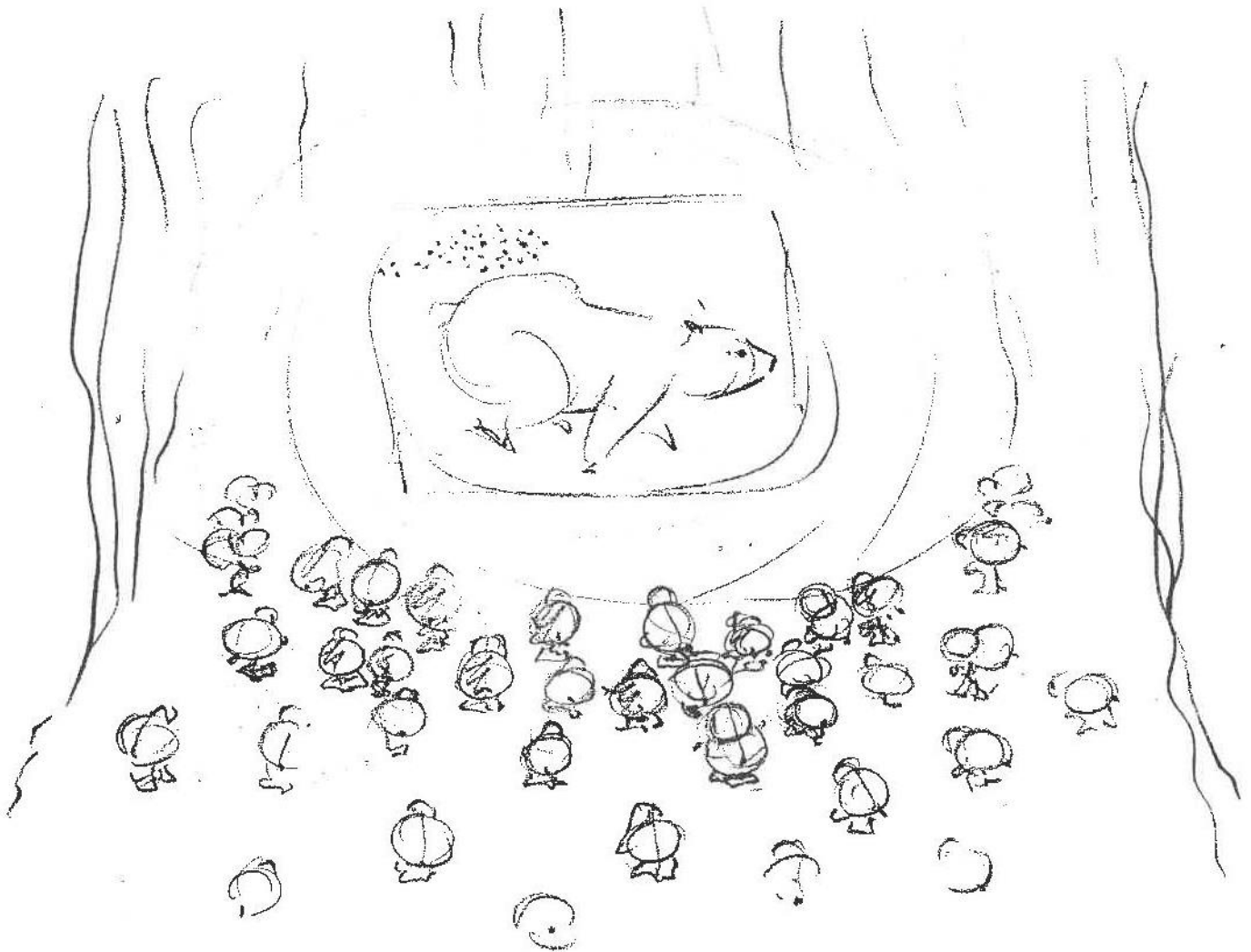
Spring has arrived. Ataô, woken by a ray of sunlight, sees that the snow still blocks a part of the entrance to the cave though the thaw has well and truly started : Ataô watches the tiny drops of water form beads along the walls of the rocky cave.

Happy now that he is free, Ataô gets ready to leave. He takes a last look at the bear and realizes that it was a mother bear. Next to her, born during the hibernation, two cubs are playfully rolling about on the ground. The mother intervenes their play to clean one of the little cubs : with each lick of her tongue she smooths down his fur and Ataô is moved. Meanwhile, the other little cub, who has turned up a small corner of the ground and discovered a fresh reserve of food, attracts Atao's attention. While the little cub is delighting in his discovery, Ataô moves closer to the scene when ...(Horror!) he finds that this meal consists almost entirely of acorns!!!

Backing out in retreat, Ataô, once out of danger, runs for his life. Not even daring to look back, his form soon disappears into the forest now thickly dotted with flowers.

The moonbeam finishes its course on the rock, the scenes from the past fade away, the mica glitters for a while and the light goes out. So ends the old oak's story and the assembly of little oaks cheers and applauds. In a gentle voice, Ataô the great patriarch, entreats each one to respect this endangered animal and its environment.

Full of hope, all the little oaks take up these ideas while singing and dancing. In the light of the moon, they launch into a farandole which soon forms a circle around the great Ataô.



ATAO AND THE ROYAL EAGLE

There's a full moon and all the little oaks come running to the foot of the gigantic oak, Ataô. Deep in the heart of the great patriarch everyone settles down as one great attentive mass. A moonbeam lights up the scene.

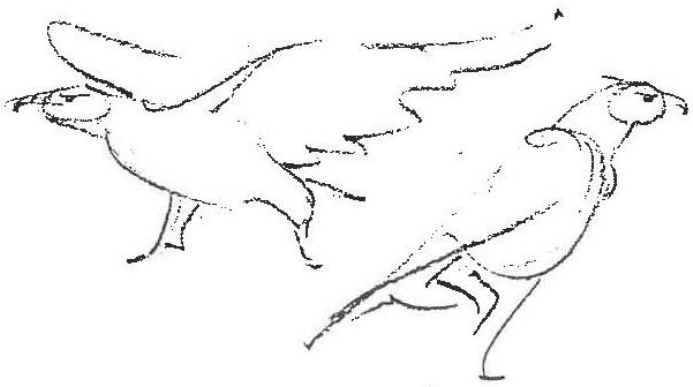
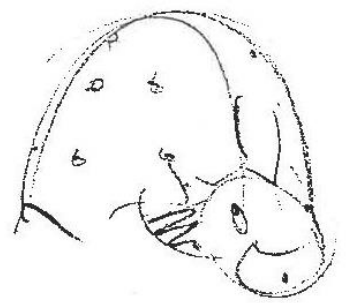
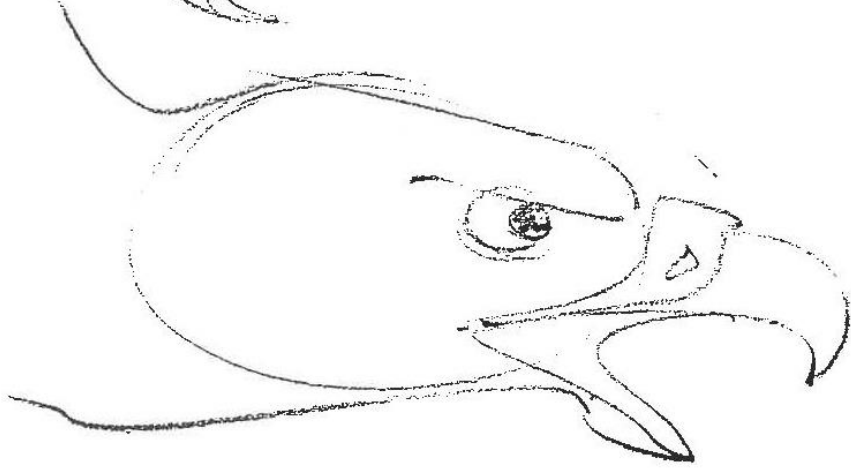
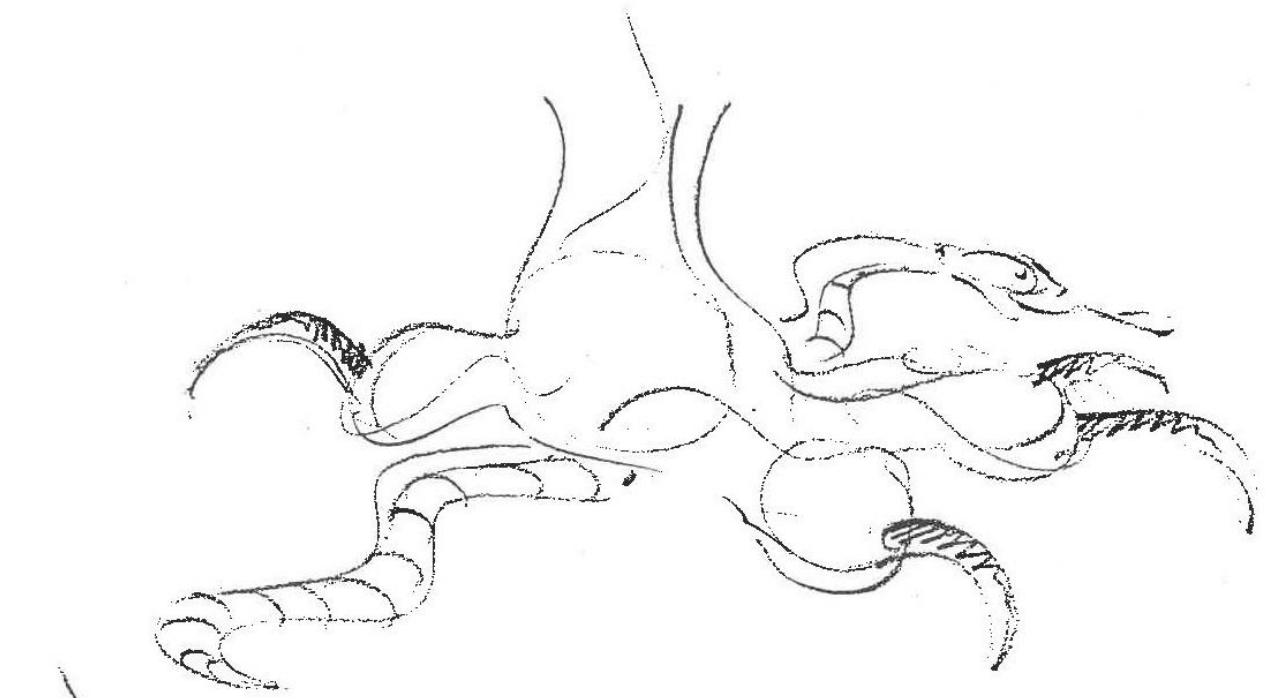
Silence reigns. Ataô's voice is heard, solemn then fatherly as he recounts the story that happened a long time ago....his meeting with the Royal Eagle.

At that very moment, the moonbeam caressingly lights up the mica covered rock in the centre of the room. The image of Ataô the younger appears there and the audience of little oaks acorns is plunged into a new world.

There, the little hero of the evening is wandering along when a noise of flapping wings surprises him. Seeing some green branches, he leaves the path and climbs one. Suddenly, a shadow covers Ataô and again the flapping of wings whips the air, and he and the little branch are carried off into the air! Ataô raises his eyes and sees above him, two gigantic talons, immense wings and a head with a hooked beak : a Royal Eagle flying towards the mountain heights carrying the twig to finish off his eyrie.

Landing on a mountain peak, Ataô notices many branches...the eagle adding to them the one he is holding in his talons and Ataô is now prisoner of this massive structure.

The eagle has already dived back into the valley and Ataô watches the predator's elegant form whose wings are stretched out to their limits. After soaring around, the eagle traces a large spiral in the air then, brutally, draws up his wings and falls into a nose dive. Ataô tries to follow its prodigious speed but eventually tall bushes block his view of the bird's course. At this time the little observer hears a regular tapping noise, coming from behind him. One of the two large white eggs with orange-brown speckles starts up a "tap, tap, tap".



Fascinated, Ataô goes and puts his ear against the shell. Just as he does this the shell begins to crack. The young oak retreats back into the branches from where he admires the hatching. A living thing covered in white down and with a hooked beak (already!) appears. A few moments later and the eaglet lurches out into the free air. He attempts his first step, tumbles on his back and with all his force he tries to pull himself around onto his stomach. Ataô decides to turn him over and after an enormous effort, he manages to succeed.

The little oak is beaming with pride when the shadow of the great predator suddenly covers the nest. In panic Ataô stumbles and falls in a half broken shell which hides him. The eagle, having scented his presence, fixes his gaze on Ataô's hiding place, which moves warily towards the branches. The predator is about to strike this "moving shell" and just as he is raising his beak a cheeping grabs his attention! The eagle attends to his young one. Ataô raises the shell to analyse the situation. He sees the prey that has been brought back by the predator : a snake. With a strike of his beak the eagle tears off a piece of flesh and lovingly places it into the eaglet's beak. Ataô is moved by the sight of this tender moment when, as quick as lightning, the eagle stikes him with a menacing gaze. The shell bursts apart under the blow of the eagle's beak and Ataô, just in the nick of time, dives amongst the branches. Mercilessly, the eagle stabs his beak to the left and right of the little oak, who badly shaken about and cramped in a corner, finally finds a way out of the nest...but horror! he is standing on a precipice. The eagle attacks even more furiously and Ataô, thrown off his balance while dodging the eagle's stabbing blows, falls into the void!! By chance, a large, white, fluffy feather is floating in the wind, onto which the little oak falls and, well ballasted, begins a more direct fall...the eagle, perplexed, watches him for a few moments more before getting back to his family. Ataô relieved at being left in peace, eventually touches

ground and after a final look at the mountain heights, turns on his merry way, majestically wearing the feather in his hat.

The moonbeam finishes its course on the rock, the scenes from the past fade away, the mica glitters for a while and the light goes out. So ends the old oak's story and the assembly of little oaks cheer and applaud. In a gentle voice, Ataô the great patriarch, entreats each one to respect this endangered animal and its environment.

Full of hope, all the little oaks take up these ideas while singing and dancing. In the light of the moon, they launch into a farandole which soon forms a circle around the great Ataô.

ATAO AND THE TURTLE

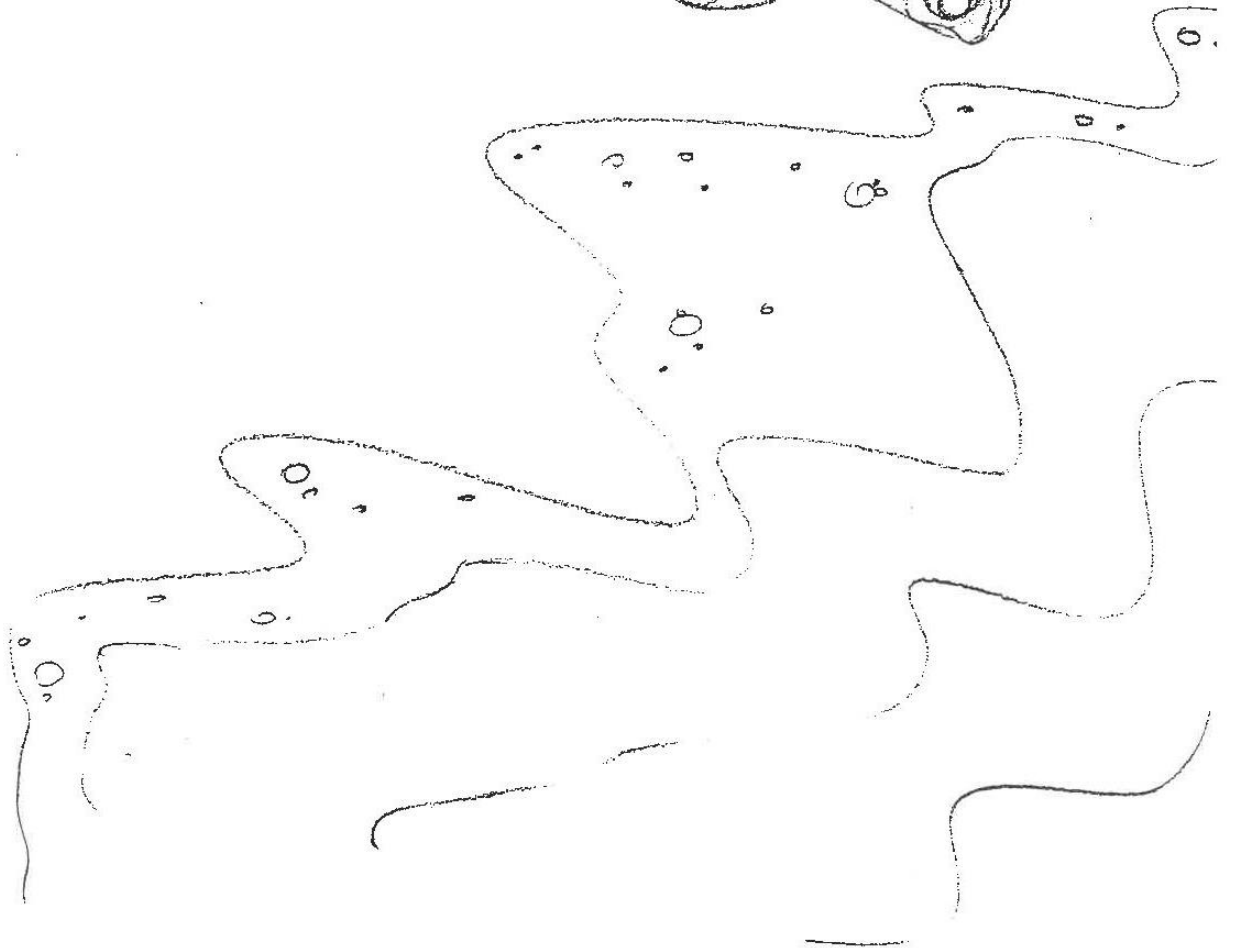
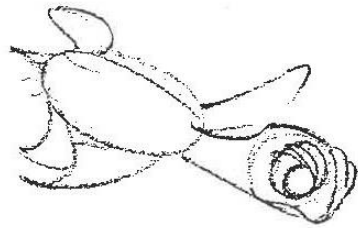
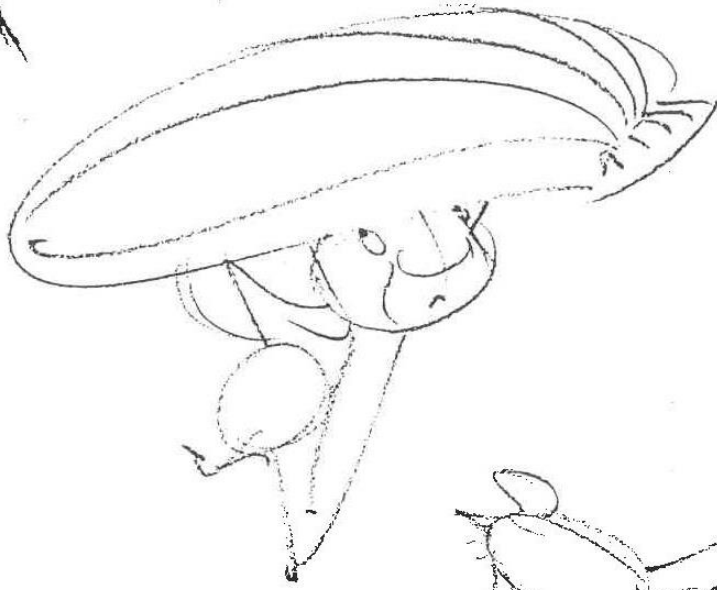
There's a full moon and all the little oaks come running to the foot of the gigantic oak, Ataô. Deep in the heart of the great patriarch everyone settles down to one great attentive mass. A moonbeam lights up the scene.

Silence reigns . Ataô's voice is heard, solemn then fatherly as he recounts the story that happened a long time ago...his meeting with the Turtle.

At that very moment the moonbeam caressingly lights up the mica covered rock in the centre of the room. The image of Ataô appears there and the audience of little baby acorns is plunged into a new world.

A full moon beams its light over a beach where Ataô is merrily walking along. A dull noise attracts his attention. Carefully, he moves closer to the source of the sound and as he does so a spray of sand is hurled in his direction. He dodges it then observes the cause : a turtle is busily constructing her nest. The scene looks overly dramatic because of the sand which irritates her eyes and makes her cry. The enormous hole in the sand behind the turtle intrigues Ataô who comes closer to get a better look. While he is musing over the purpose of all this, a large, white sphere rolls into the hollow of the nest. Surprised, the little oak looks up in the direction of the turtle and sees, coming from beneath her, one..., two..., three eggs rolling out to join the first one. Fascinated by such an abundance of eggs, Ataô spends the night counting them : more than 100!

As soon as the first rays of sunlight appear, the reptile covers them with sand. Ataô, who in the meantime, has dropped off to sleep, soon after lifts his head...the hole has disappeared ! and the turtle as well !!! The numerous trails left on the sand stop Ataô from finding the place where the eggs were hatched. He turns towards the sea and notices her massive form moving laboriously across the sand.



Quickly, Ataô catches up to her and pushes her from behind with all his force. At first, his pushing is completely out of sync with the turtle's movements and he almost gets himself squashed. Then Ataô, more carefully this time, produces a push in time with the turtle's movement. Convinced of being responsible for the mighty movement, he displays his pride as the animal reaches the sea. However, a wave submerges Ataô who, in one quick movement, grabs hold of the turtle's tail. The animal, now finally in his element, breaks into an aquatic ballet.

After having swum some graceful figures, the turtle freezes, then, in a panic, dives into a coral reef. Surprised, Ataô lets go of his grip and swims up to a branch of coral....Soon a threatening and immense shadow covers the scene. The shadow, in the shape of a shark's fin - and which closes in on Ataô now frightened to death - foretells the terrible danger the turtle is in : that of a shark.

The shadow now gone, Ataô leaves the turtle to his worries and climbs back up the rock to the surface and on to the beach.

Two months later, Ataô returns to the sight where he presided an entire night. The sand is strewn with broken, off-white, shells. The numerous trails heading towards the sea are a sign, and Ataô has well understood, that he has arrived too late : the little turtles did not wait for him before joining their sea world ! The young oak is showing his disappointment when some tall grass, bordering a sandhill " waves to him". Ataô rushes over to find the cause of such agitation : it is a little, lost turtle having confused the cool temperature of the nearby swamp with that of the sea ! Taking the animal in his arms , Ataô lifts him and gathering all his strength makes for the sea. He soon passes the summit of a large sand dune, the last obstacle before reaching the white foam, now very near.

Just as they are beginning to descend, a whistling, rising in crescendo to a roar, dives upon them. Ataô falls flat on the ground and avoids a predator's strike of its beak. With no time to lose, the little turtle dashes in a frenzy towards the sea. Still sensing danger about, Ataô grabs a large shell. Carrying it at arms length above his head, he runs towards the turtle to protect him with his ad hoc shield. He has hardly caught up with him when the dome protector is hit with a violent shock. Once... twice... three times Ataô beats off the enemy thus allowing the turtle to join the emerald waters.

The predator, a frigate bird, flies away in quest of something new and the proud stance of the little oak is proof of his double satisfaction of having saved the mother and the child as well !

The moonbeam finishes its course on the rock, the scenes from the past fade away, the mica glitters for a while and the light goes out. So ends the old oak's story and the assembly of little oaks cheers and applauds. In a gentle voice, Ataô the great patriarch, entreats each one to respect this endangered animal and its environment.

Full of hope, all the little oaks take up these ideas while singing and dancing. In the light of the moon, they launch into a farandole which soon forms a circle around the great Ataô.

ATAO AND THE PANDA

There's a full moon and all the little oaks come running to the foot of the gigantic oak, Ataô. Deep in the heart of the great patriarch everyone settles down to one great attentive mass. A moonbeam lights up the scene.

Silence reigns. Ataô's voice is heard, solemn then fatherly as he recounts the story that happened a long time ago... his meeting with the Panda.

At that moment, the moonbeam caressingly lights up the mica covered rock in the centre of the room. The image of Ataô the younger appears there and the audience of little oaks is plunged into a new world.

During a walk on a fine Spring day in the Wolong Valley in China, Ataô nears a bamboo forest. Before entering it, he notices a tree trunk, stripped of its bark and bearing thick, deep gashes. Once in the forest he notices that it is composed of sparse shoots soaring skywards. The other shoots having been torn up from the ground, stripped apart and left lying there abandoned. Ataô studies them then advances towards the still intact shoots. He decorates his hat with a few bamboo leaves - which gives him an Indian look - and then grabs the most beautiful shoot. Brandishing it like a banner he proudly charges into the thin, cloudy vapours of mist which float just above the ground.

While he is walking, Ataô hears a dry snap and notices that his bamboo shoot is a little shorter ! The same phenomena happens again until the little oak is raised by small steps into the air. After several jolts Ataô lifts his head... terror ! A gigantic white ball, staring at him with masked eyes, is chewing, section by section, the shoot that the little oak is clinging to. He is mortified ! The great Panda, peaceful master of this vast land, places him in his palm, comes closer for a better look ... and licks him. Ataô loses all his bamboo costume. Happy, the Panda settles him on the ground and is about to go back into the dense forest



when strange cries - a mixture of a cow's mooing, a dog's barking and a pig's grunting - echo in the valley... Immediately, the panda runs towards the direction of the sound and Ataô follows close on his tracks ! Having lost sight of him, the little oak tries to find his way by listening to the sounds.

Soon silence falls...After having scoured this dark universe, Ataô sinks down with exhaustion and rests against some thick black moss. He is dozing off to sleep when a yawn vibrates his comfortable resting place. Surprised, Ataô straightens up and discovers that he was leaning against two pandas lying side by side, looking content with what they have just accomplished. Respecting the two mammals' private life, the young oak moves away on tip toe.

A few months later, towards the end of summer, Ataô is wandering through the same bamboo forest. Soon he rediscovers the tree stripped of its bark, turns around it and notices that it is hollow. There a perfect nest, lined with bits of wood, pieces of trees and minuscule fir trees scraped from around the place, seems to have been only recently made....

When Ataô enters this place, a theatre of happy events, a shadow covers the scene ! A peaceful body approaches... Quickly, the little oak hides behind a fir tree. Recognising the greedy panda from last Spring, he smiles with relief. However the massive animal blocks the entrance and Ataô now trapped, resigns himself to doing the same thing as his companion : the contemplation of the kingdom of clouds and rain....

After a long moment of "panda meditation", Ataô notices that the bear seems distracted - the little curious oak skirts around the inner wall of the tree to discover the object of the bear's new concentration : it's a baby panda !! It is tiny, like a little pink rat and the happy mother holds it tightly to her body, in the hollow of its paw. Astounded by

such tenderness, Ataô leaves by the opening which is now unblocked.

With a last look on this touching scene, the little oak merrily goes back on his way, thinking that one day he too will be an imposing and peaceful being like the great panda.

The moonbeam finishes its course on the rock, the scenes from the past fade away, the mica glitters for a while and the light goes out. so ends the old oak's story and the assembly of little oaks cheers and applauds. In a gentle voice, Ataô the great patriarch, entreats each one to respect this endangered animal and its environment.

Full of hope, all the little oaks take up these ideas while singing and dancing. In the light of the moon, they launch into a farandole which soon forms a circle around the great Ataô.

ATAO AND THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT

There's a full moon and all the little oaks come running to the foot of the gigantic oak, Ataô. Deep in the heart of the great patriarch everyone settles down to one great attentive mass. A moonbeam lights up the scene.

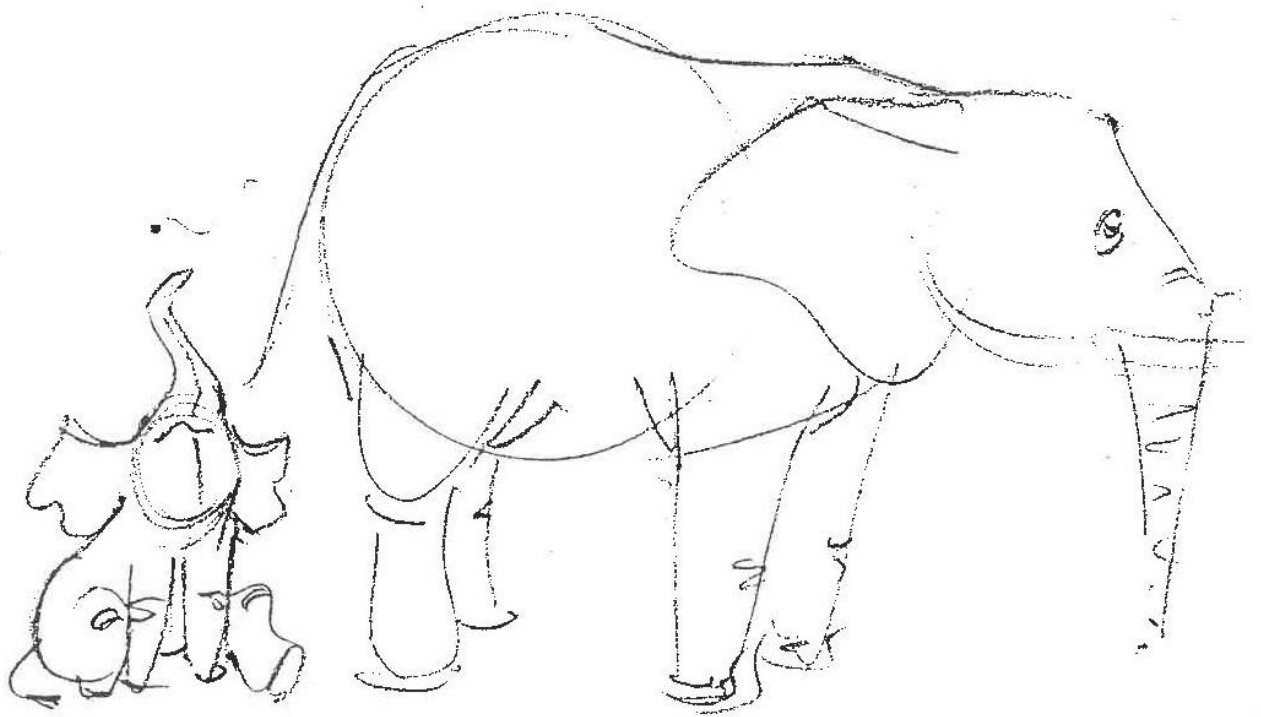
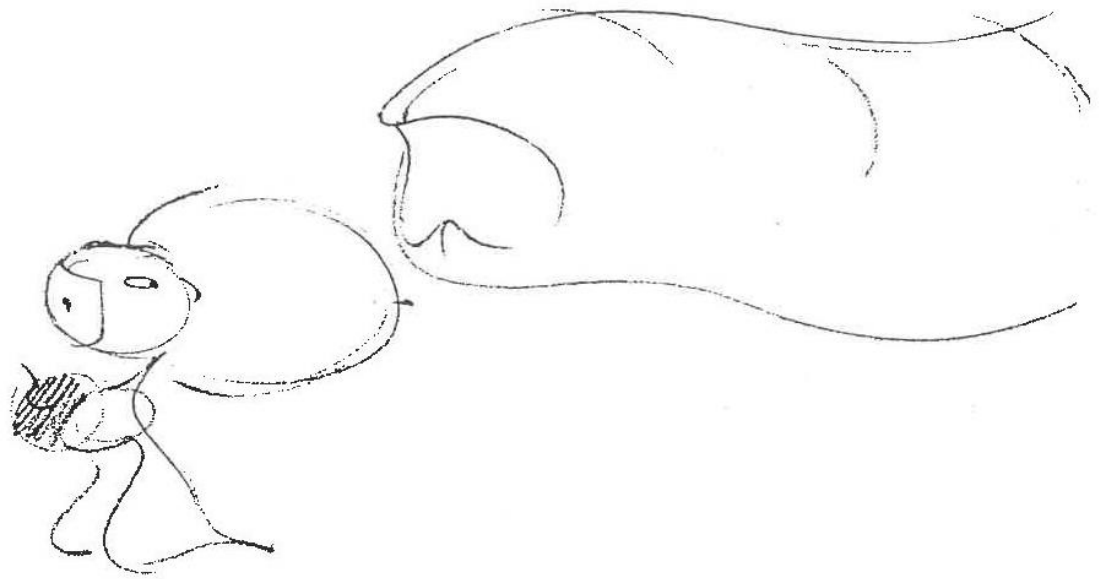
Silence reigns. Ataô's voice is heard, solemn then fatherly as he recounts the story that happened a long time ago... his meeting with the African Elephant.

At that moment, the moonbeam caressingly lights up the mica covered rock in the centre of the room. The image of Ataô the younger appears there and the audience of little oaks is plunged into a new world.

On a warm sunny day in Tanzania Ataô is walking in the shadow of a huge Baobab tree. Turning around the tall plant, he notices a great stretch of water : the Manyara Lake. Jumping with joy he runs towards it and throws himself in. He is floating on his back enjoying the cool water when a current sweeps him along. Unable to swim against it with his modest strength, Ataô, now distressed, disappears into the opening of a long grey tunnel. He is cramped in a narrow space and is considering going towards the light he sees at the end of the tunnel when a rumbling is heard : it's an enormous mass of water which crashes over Ataô. With it, he is thrust into the air before landing on a large, grey dome decorated with two big fans of the same colour. Soaked, the little oak dries himself in the wind created by the two fans.

Soon the dome starts to shake. Crouching down between the two ears to get a better look, Ataô discovers two long, white, tapered forms. At that moment, he realizes to his amazement, that he is riding the heaviest mammal on land : the elephant.

It's coming to the end of the day. The powerful lumbering mass leaves the lake to begin a climb of more than 500



metres. After the rocky journey, Ataô realizes they have reached a place where a wide variety of plants grow : the humidity at this altitude makes them crackly and ooze with sap. The elephant takes a rest then moves towards an Acacia. Not wanting to miss a moment of the show, Ataô, flat on his stomach, on the head of his "bush taxi", looks around with curiosity. The mastadon vigorously shakes the foliage and a shower of fruit as big as prunes falls on his back. Several of them fall on Ataô's head and once the bombardment is finished he decides to taste them. Already the elephant dutifully applies himself to gathering his harvest, delicately taking each greenish coloured fruit with his trunk and carrying it to his mouth.

Ataô approaches a fruit, he is just about to grab it but the agile trunk seizes it first and with a supple movement flings it down his throat. Ataô tries for a second time and he thinks he has got his dinner when the same scene happens again ... and again....and again !!! Soon there are only two pieces of fruit left. After having waited for the trunk to decide on which fruit to take for itself, Ataô dives on the other one. Proud of his treasure, he is about to bite into it when a sniffing stops him dead ! The little oak turns around and facing him are the two nostrils at the end of the trunk ! They detect the smell of the fruit and rapidly Ataô hugs it to himself. With the utmost delicacy the trunk sets about taking it from him. Feeling its way about, it finds the fruit and manages to take it despite Ataô's twisting and turning about. He tries to hang on to his precious object but, gently, the trunk gets the better of him. Slowly, it places the fruit at the back of its mouth. Ataô is at the depths of despair...Moving away from the Acacia, the elephant brushes a branch with its head : a fruit, then a second one, falls directly into the little oak's arms, who, now happy with this gift from heaven, eats them with relish and glows with joy.

Ataô enjoys his lulling ride but his gentle mount progressively shows heralding signs that it is about to give

birth which alerts the neighbouring female elephants. A little while later Ataô and the future mother are surrounded by ten of them. The little oak settles himself down to witness a very moving event.

The female adults, as well as the adolescents, surround the future mother, reassuring her with their trunk and making low, gentle noises. After the delivery, the mother tries to clean away the placenta covering the baby elephant. Ataô admires the elephants' sense of solidarity towards their own kind : the other females assist in the arrival of the new born calf, with delicate touches of the trunk and feet, who now rests lying on the ground

Cautiously, the females stand him up. Ataô holds his breath.... the calf totters for an instant on his feet, not having any force...then collapses onto the ground.

A few hours later, the animal stands himself up and has his first feed. Ataô observes the suckling...having satisfied his appetite, the new born calf raises his trunk towards his mother's tail which pulls him along for his first walk. Ataô seizes the moment and slides down the length of the tail to join his new companion who is of a more reasonable size.

He is now riding him and their silhouettes moving up and down, preceeded by those of the placid adult elephants, form chinese shadows against the setting sun.

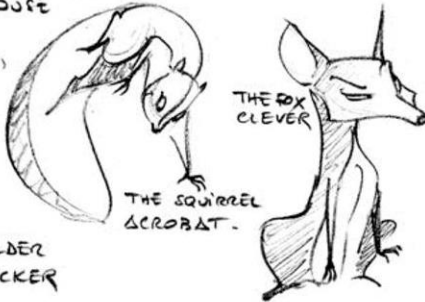
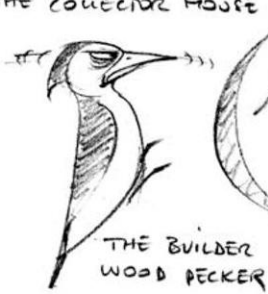
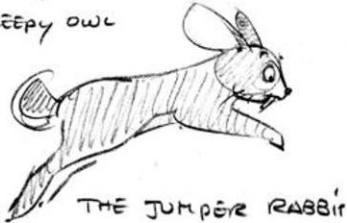
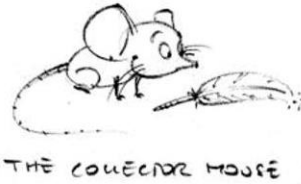
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Animals in the TV series

- 1 - Machaon butterfly
- 2 - Bear of the Pyrenees
- 3 - Royal eagle
- 4 - Sea turtle
- 5 - Elephant
- 6 - Panda bear
- 7 - Emperor penguin
- 8 - Blue whale
- 9 - Komodo varan
- 10 - Octopus
- 11 - Giant oyster
- 12 - Beaver
- 13 - Flamingo
- 14 - Otter
- 15 - Sloth
- 16 - Gorilla
- 17 - Crocodile
- 18 - Weasel
- 19 - Salamandra
- 20 - Hedgehog
- 21 - Puffin
- 22 - Owl
- 23 - Pelican
- 24 - Koala bear
- 25 - Bat
- 26 - Dolphin

Animals of the forest.

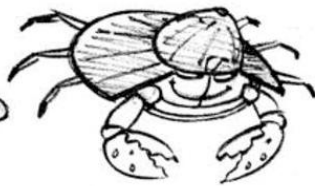


Animals of the sea.

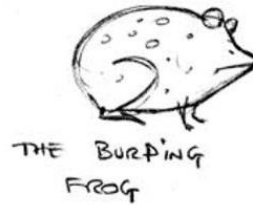
THE STAR STARFISH



THE SAMURAI CRAB



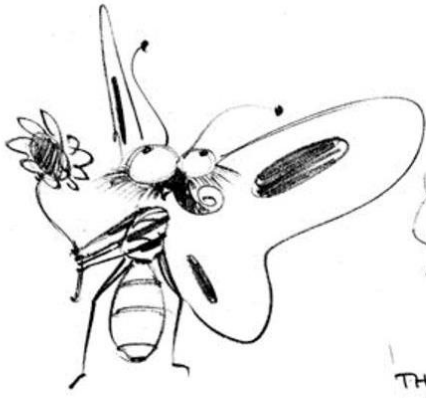
THE JEWEL OYSTER



THE SURFER SALMON



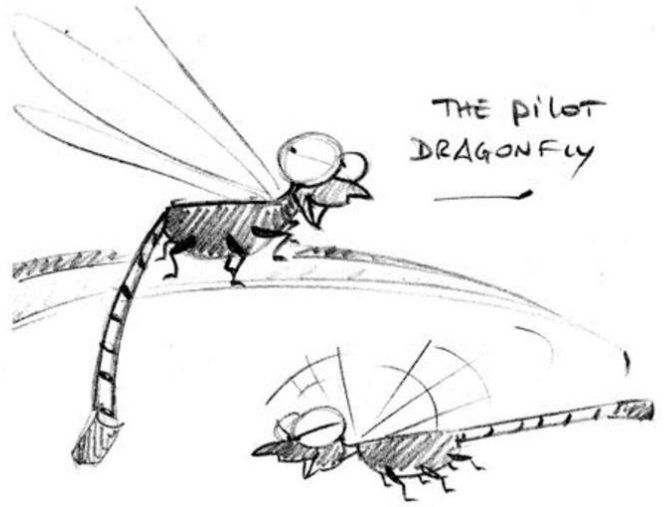
Insects.



THE POET BUTTERFLY



THE CLOWN LADY BUG



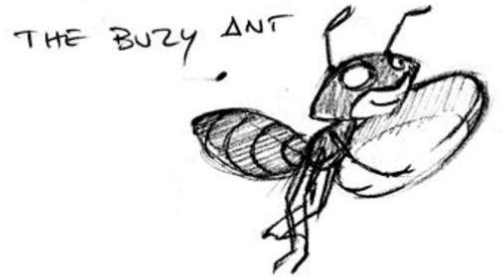
THE PILOT DRAGONFLY



THE WARRIOR MANTIS



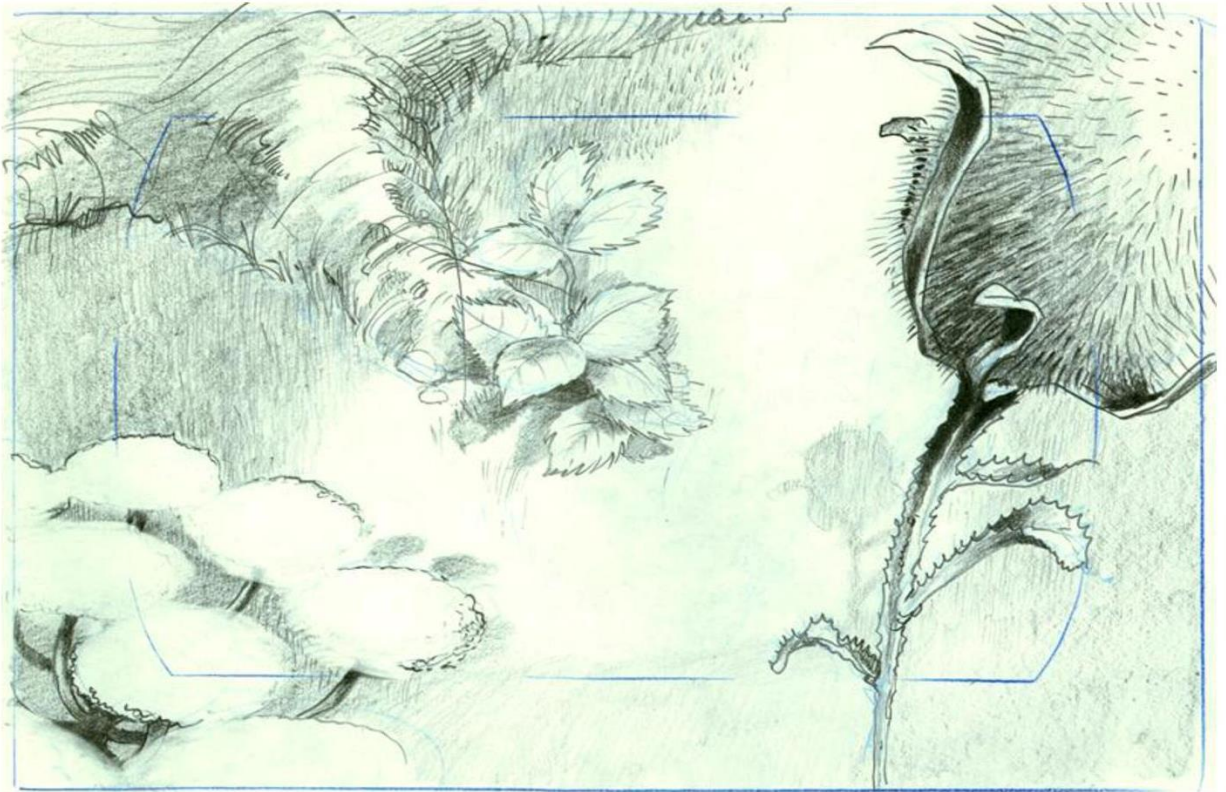
THE TRAMPOLINE SPIDER



THE BUZY ANT



Background style.





the little oak

Educational program
Cartoon script-writing



The "Ataô, the little oak" program was created in 1991 and invites children of primary schools worldwide to research information on animal species prior to write and illustrate a story with the little oak Ataô as its naïve, yet daring and adventurous hero!

Académie de Rennes

INSPECTION ACADEMIQUE
DU FINISTERE

Circonscription
Inspecteur-Professeur
□

Quimper, le 28 octobre 1991

L'Inspecteur-Professeur

à Association des Jeunes Chênes

à l'intention de :

Monsieur Pascal BIANNIC LEGER

OBIET : Projet "ATAO LE PETIT CHENE".-

Messieurs,

J'ai l'honneur de solliciter votre concours pour la mise en place du projet "Ataô le petit chêne".

La réunion de présentation à l'ensemble des maîtres de CM2 invités, suivie d'une rencontre individuelle, a retenu leur attention.

Ce projet présente un double intérêt :

- il s'inscrit parfaitement dans les différents projets d'école élaborés en juin 91, conformément aux consignes données par le Ministère ;
- il permet l'ouverture sur l'extérieur préconisée par les textes.

Je ne peux donc que favoriser la mise en œuvre, dès janvier 92, de ce projet bien structuré auquel 7 écoles (10 maîtres) ont adhéré.

Veuillez agréer, Messieurs, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

L'Inspecteur-Professeur,



Colette MORIN



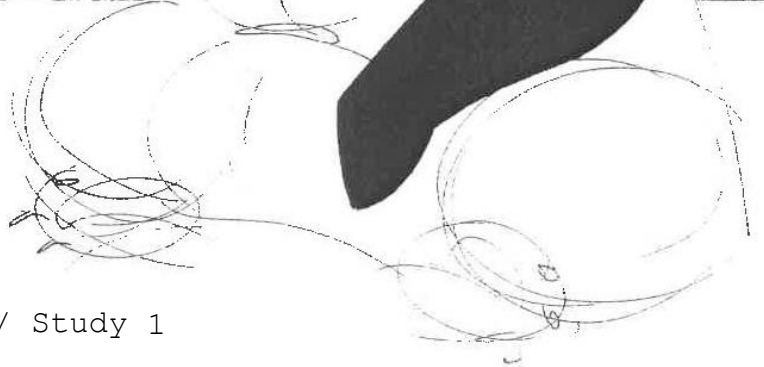
Initiated in Chilly Mazarin, France, this is always enjoyed by primary school teachers as it is a pluri-disciplinary exercise combining in an exiting way biology research & classification), grammar, script-writing, story-boarding, drawing and illustrating for the production of a book. The "Ataô the little oak" workshop invites children to create their story about the genuinely curious character, Ataô, eager to discover animal species around the world. Searching information with intuition and organizing it in the most entertaining fashion is the challenge met by our young authors... In 1992, this program was taught in 20 primary schools in the French department of Finistère and, later on, experienced in Canada, the USA and South Korea.

This program provides the teacher with a process that starts with selecting with the children the animal to be discovered by Ataô the little oak. A biology board is then filled with information on the selected species and used to feed the storyline of a script built on a simple structure presenting key sequences within each adventure. Individually or by small groups of 3 to 5 children, the story is imagined and presented in the form of a book. The feel for both students and their teacher is always the same: amazed by the magic of illustrating and storytelling!

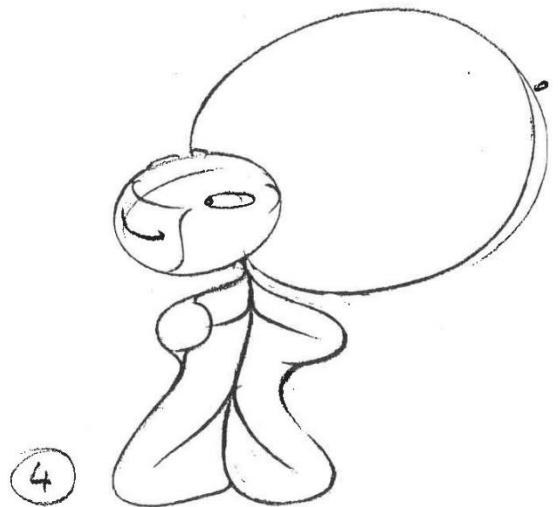
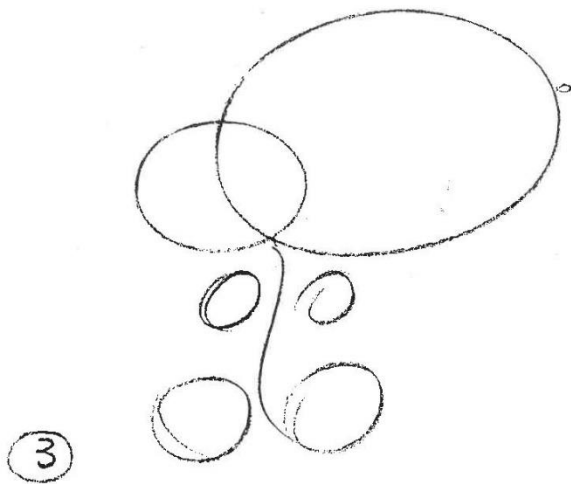
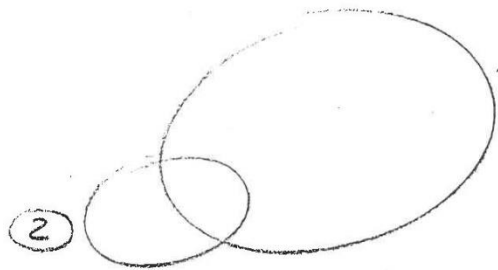




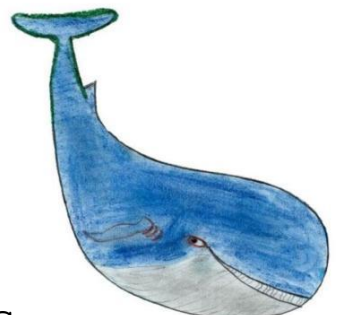
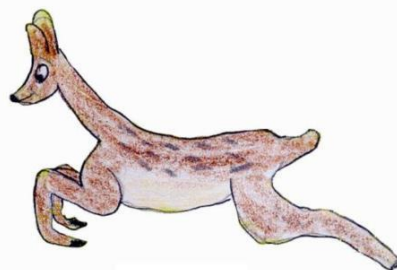
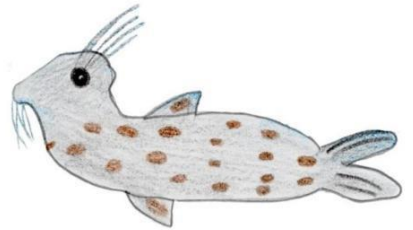
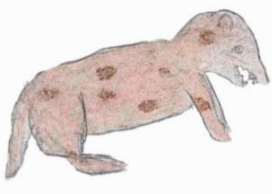
Ataô 3D models for the children to emerge themselves in the program.



Ataô and the panda bear / Study 1



Ataô basic drawing structures.



Children's artworks.



Children's limitless imagination and intuitive selection of key information animating the characters in their stories is a joy for all to experience both in classrooms and on public media platforms offline and online.



Titre de l'histoire	Protagoniste	Présentation	Personnage	Personnalité
On vient en drôle de pays au Brésil le regard des perroquets nichent dans les branches et au le regard des Galois.	Des nomades les amènent comme des animaux. Pico et les perroquets dans les cages à l'école. Les marins pensent des perroquets aux leurs feuilles.	Quels oiseaux ont des amitiés, Blèmes et sans dessin. Les petits oiseaux mus et sans de l'oiseau dans un creux à l'arbre. Les oiseaux ont un développement très lent.	Les perroquets, les oiseaux, les perroquets, le maître, plume rouge aggrément de jaune, de vert et de bleu. Des points et cercles. Rouge que.	Les se mousserons de guinea, de mouton, de guinea, de guinea, à l'oiseau, de mouton et de petit animal.

Ataô et le perroquet ara macao
Ataô se promène avec ses aînés. Lourdain, il voit un splendide oiseau, perché dans un arbre, à couleurs vives rouge agrémenté de jaune, de vert et de bleu. Ataô très surpris décide d'imiter l'animal en se déguisant. Il veut le faire avec toutes

sortes de plumes et de feuilles. Il voit des fleurs rouges, alors il prend quelques pétales pour faire le plumage de son corps. Il les accroche avec de la résine. Il continue ses recherches et il prend des feuilles bien vertes. Ensuite sur sa route, il trouve une superbe plume rouge

pour s'en faire la queue. L'oiseau (perroquet) avait l'air de se moquer de lui. Ataô ne trouve pas ce qui manque. «Oh, mais oui il manque le bec, mais avec quoi vais-je le faire ?» Lourdain il a emporté une baraque après l'avoir mangée. L'a l'idée de se servir de la peau pour faire le bec.



Il l'accroche, autour de sa tête, derrière en faisant un nœud. «Voilà c'est fini!» Le perroquet part très amusé. Ataô rejoint ses aînés.
Jean
Anne-Hélène, Sylvain, Gaurmaelle,
Jean - Vincent





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