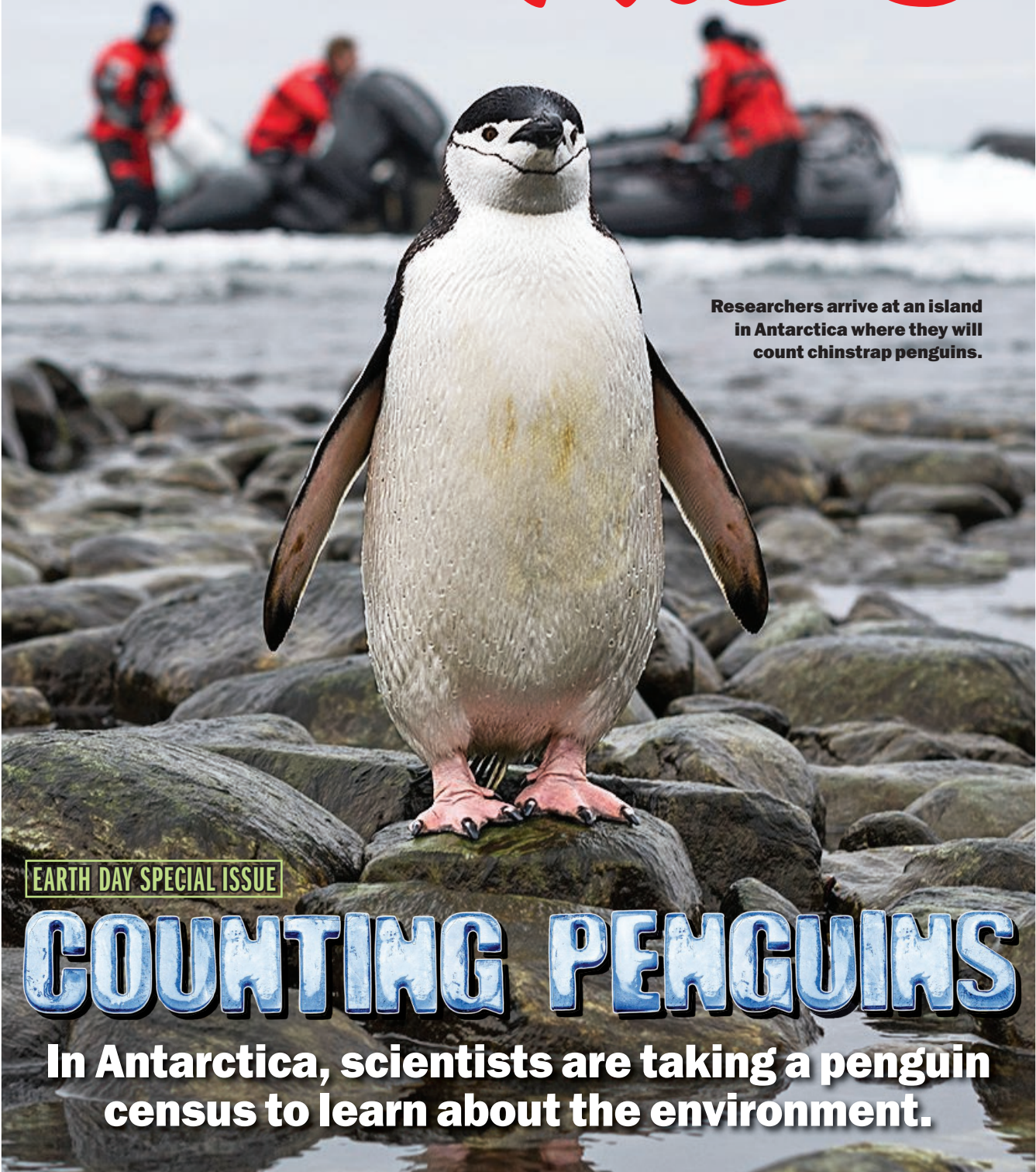


# TIME for KIDS



Researchers arrive at an island in Antarctica where they will count chinstrap penguins.

**EARTH DAY SPECIAL ISSUE**

## COUNTING PENGUINS

**In Antarctica, scientists are taking a penguin census to learn about the environment.**

This Earth Day, *TIME for Kids* visits all seven continents.

## > TABLE OF CONTENTS

**The Brief** ..... 2

**Cover Story: Animals** ..... 4

*In Antarctica, scientists are counting chinstrap penguins.* ▼



**Technology** ..... 6

*In Europe, the Netherlands has ways to deal with rising sea levels.*

**Debate** ..... 7

*Should cars be banned from cities? Readers weigh in.*

**Kid Central** ..... 8

*Meet five Kid Heroes from the Planet.* ▶



**Education** ..... 10

*In Africa, classrooms are being built from recycled plastic garbage.*

**Environment** ..... 12

*Explore plants and animals of South America's Amazon rain forest.*

**World** ..... 14

*In Asia, a group in Pakistan is planting native trees.* ▼



**Interview** ..... 15

*Meet Bindi and Robert Irwin, who live and work at Australia Zoo.*

**Time Off** ..... 16

*Travel under the Arctic Ocean and into the wilds of North America.*

**CLEAR SKIES** COVID-19 lockdowns in cities such as Rome, Italy, seem to be reducing air pollution.



VINCENZO PINTO—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## > WORLD

# CHANGE IN THE AIR

By Allison Singer

Cities and countries around the world are asking residents to stay home to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Fewer cars are on the road. Fewer planes are in the sky. With many businesses and factories closed as well, it's no surprise that air pollution levels have dropped.

Places known for high levels of air pollution, such as Delhi, India, have seen clear skies. Satellite images from NASA and the European Space Agency also show less nitrogen dioxide over Italy, South Korea, and other countries affected by the pandemic. Nitrogen dioxide is a gas emitted by factories and the engines of cars and other vehicles. It's a source of pollution. It can worsen health problems, such as asthma.

Though a drop in air pollution is welcome, experts warn that it's unlikely to last. Pollution levels are sure to rise again when businesses reopen and people get back to their

normal lives. This has proven true in China, says Lauri Myllyvirta. He works for the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. "Average pollution levels [in China] plummeted in February," he said in a Twitter post. But the drop was temporary. Pollution returned to the usual levels by the end of March, after many lockdowns in China ended.

Gernot Wagner teaches climate economics at New York University. He says people need to find lasting solutions to air pollution. "The answer to pollution isn't to stop all activity," Wagner writes in *TIME*. "It's to find ways to live our lives that don't harm the Earth."



## Stop and Think!

**WHY** did *TIME for Kids* write about the new coronavirus from an environmental perspective? What other aspects of the pandemic would you like to read about?

# 90 MILLION YEARS

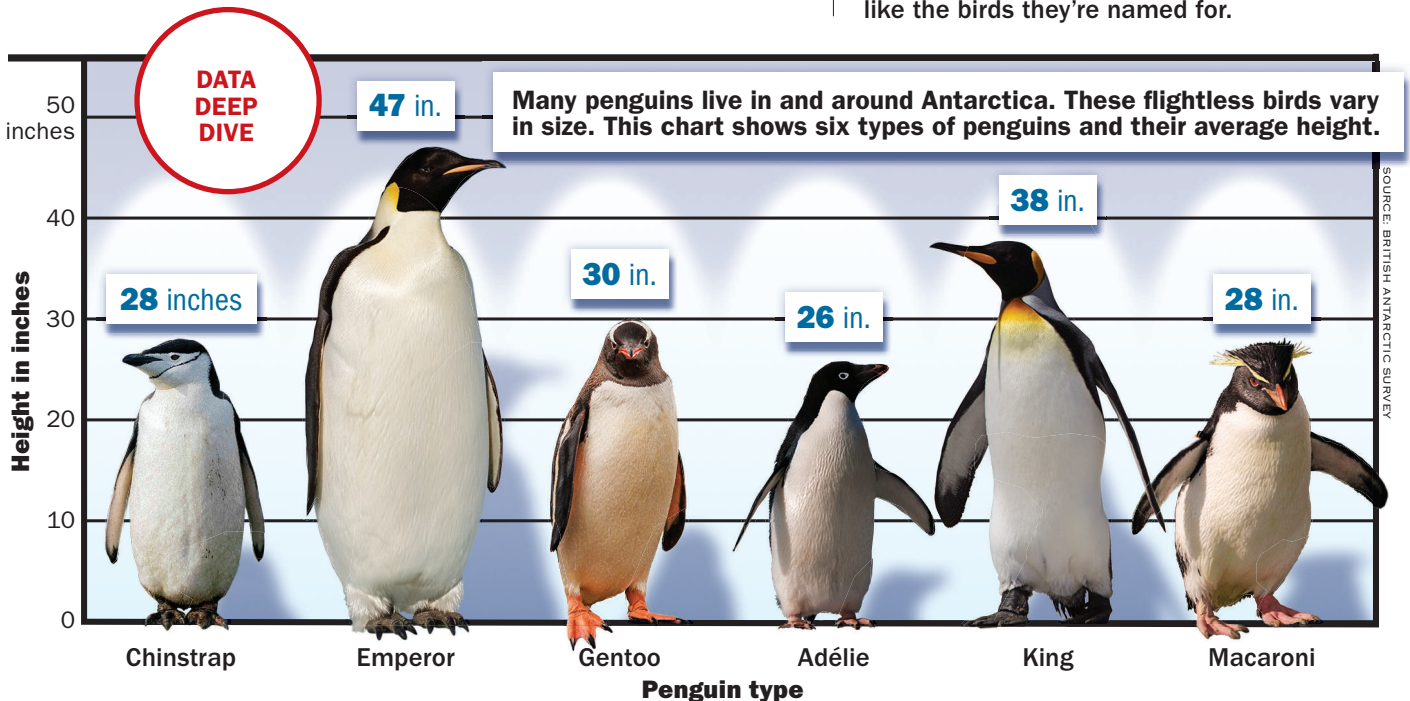
is how long ago a **RAIN FOREST** existed in Antarctica. That's according an article published on April 1 in the journal *Nature*. The forest had an average temperature of 53–55°F. That's much warmer than Antarctica's average today.

**“They aren’t these big intimidating things, but I still wouldn’t want to have a run-in with one,”**

paleontologist **ALAN TURNER** told *Smithsonian* magazine about a newly discovered meat-eating dinosaur, *Dineobellator*. A study about the feathered creature was published in *Scientific Reports* on March 26.



is the number of new species of **PEACOCK SPIDERS** recently discovered in Australia. Joseph Schubert, who studies spiders and insects, revealed the news on March 26. Peacock spiders are colorful, like the birds they’re named for.



FROM LEFT: MASSIMO RUMI—BARCROFT MEDIA/GETTY IMAGES; PAUL SOUDERS—GETTY IMAGES; DAVID MERRON PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES; ART WOLFE—MINT IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES; RICHARD MCMANUS—GETTY IMAGES; JESSICA GARNER—EYEM/GETTY IMAGES

# PENGUIN CENSUS

**Scientists are counting chinstrap penguins in Antarctica to learn about how the environment there is changing.**

SNOW ISLAND, ANTARCTICA—*Click. Click click click. Click.* Conservation biologist Steve Forrest is standing at the top of a rocky cliff. He's on a remote island off the coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. Behind him is a seemingly endless glacier. Below him are several hundred penguins and their chicks. Forrest's job is to count every single one of them with the small metal clicker in his hand. It's not easy work. It's snowing, the wind is howling, and the fluffy gray chicks won't stay still.

Forrest has been coming to Antarctica every January for the past six years. He's helping conduct a survey of the area's chinstrap penguin population. It's part of a global penguin census that will help researchers better understand the Antarctic environment.

**CHINSTRAP FAMILY** Chinstrap penguins are named for the black band that runs around the throat of an adult bird.



## OCEAN LIFE

Chinstraps are Antarctica's most numerous penguins, but their numbers are declining. Why? "All the evidence we have points to climate change as being responsible," says Heather J. Lynch, who designed the survey. Census team member Noah Strycker adds, "We know [climate change] is hitting the Antarctic Peninsula harder than practically anywhere else in the world."

Scientists suspect that warming waters affect krill, the tiny, shrimplike creatures that chinstraps eat. This is bad for the ocean food chain. Whales and seals eat krill. So do small fish, like anchovies, which larger fish depend on. "Without krill, we wouldn't have fish," Forrest says.

But krill are hard to study. So researchers focus on the penguins. They're easier to track since they return to the same spot each year to lay eggs. If chinstraps aren't doing well, it means that krill probably aren't either. "Penguins give us an idea about what is going on in the ocean around us," says Forrest.

That doesn't mean counting penguins is easy. Chinstraps nest on rocky slopes to protect their eggs from predators. Sometimes, scientists use binoculars to count the birds from a distance. Other times, the census requires them to brave pounding surf and freezing water in inflatable boats. "It's miserable, it's cold, but we love it," Forrest says. "We get to go places where few people have ever set foot."

Despite their stubby legs and stiff wings, chinstraps are excellent climbers. This means scientists must be too. And penguins aren't always clean. Their nesting grounds are coated in guano, or droppings, which makes these places slippery and smelly.

## DRONE ASSISTANCE

This year, Forrest's research team got help from robotics engineers from Northeastern University. That's in Boston, Massachusetts. The engineers fly a drone over a colony in order to take pictures. The team will use those photos to record the colony's location and size. It will also use them to teach computers how to recognize penguin nests. This way, computers could one day count penguins using satellite photography.

Some of the colonies Forrest counted this year have shrunk by more than half since they were counted 50 years ago. Other colonies have never been counted at all. That's why it's important to do a chinstrap census now, Forrest says. The more we learn about chinstraps, the more we learn about krill and the ocean animals that depend on them. "What's happening in the Antarctic is happening everywhere," he says. "When we understand it, we can start fixing it." —By Aryn Baker



**LOOK UP** Two students from Northeastern University fly a drone over a colony of penguins.



**HARSH HABITAT** Rough, icy waters surround the rocky land where this penguin colony makes its home.

### **A-Z Power Words**

**census** *noun*: an official count of a population

**peninsula** *noun*: a piece of land that sticks out into water

**predator** *noun*: an animal that kills and eats other animals to survive



**ONE, TWO, THREE** Noah Strycker, of the penguin census team, counts chinstraps on Snow Island.

HEAR THE STORY READ ALOUD IN ENGLISH AND IN SPANISH AT TIMEFORKIDS.COM.



# RISING WATER



when Rotterdam is threatened by floods.

Other projects look to nature for inspiration. The DakAkker is a farm located on top of an office building in Rotterdam. The building's roof holds rainwater to prevent runoff. Another example is the Floating Farm. Its designers wanted to make room for agriculture in a waterlogged city. More than 30 dairy cows live on the farm, which floats in Rotterdam's waterways. The farm generates its own energy using floating solar panels.

Ovink often advises other countries on how to solve their water problems. "It's not that our solutions are the best," Ovink says. "But your country's solutions can be inspired by us and by nature." —By Shay Maunz

## Can the Netherlands teach the world how to deal with rising seas?

If nothing is done to stop rising sea levels, the homes of 200 million people could be underwater by the year 2100. That's according to a study published in October in the scientific magazine *Nature Communications*.

The global sea level has been rising for more than a century, and more quickly over the last several decades. That's because climate change is melting glaciers and ice sheets. Higher sea levels flood coastlines. If steps aren't taken to protect cities and towns, people could be forced to move inland.

One European country is especially **vulnerable** to flooding: the Netherlands. More than a quarter of the country already sits below sea level. But the Netherlands has developed strategies for dealing with water. For that reason, many experts believe that even though it's vulnerable to rising seas, the country is well-**equipped** to deal with them. Could other nations use the Netherlands' techniques?

## WATER PROBLEMS

In the region that is now the Netherlands, people have been inventing ways to keep out water for at least 900 years. "Taking care of water is taking care of ourselves," says Henk Ovink. He works on water issues for the Dutch government.

The country is famous for its dikes, which are long walls that prevent flooding. But in recent years, experts there have developed new techniques that go far beyond dikes. Some are high-tech. For example, the Maeslantkering is a massive storm-surge barrier that protects the city of Rotterdam from seawater. It's controlled by a supercomputer. It closes automatically



MACHO CALONGE—GETTY IMAGES

**NEW FARMLAND** More than 30 cows live on the Floating Farm, in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

### IN DEFENSE The Maeslantkering prevents floods.



ED OUDENAARDEN—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## A-Z Power Words

**equipped** adjective: prepared or supplied

**vulnerable** adjective: capable of being harmed



**ROOFTOP GARDEN** DakAkker is one of the largest open-air rooftop farms in Europe.

GET MORE AT TIMEFORKIDS.COM.

# SHOULD CARS BE BANNED IN CITIES?

How do you travel around your town or city? Some people walk or ride a bike. Others take buses and trains. But most people get around by car. This might be convenient, but having too many cars on the road can cause problems. Heavy traffic is a safety hazard. And it pollutes the air.

To address these issues, some cities have put rules in place to limit or restrict the use of automobiles. In 2018, the mayor of Paris, France, declared that most of the city center would be car-free on the first Sunday of every month. A year later, New York City banned traffic on one of its busiest crosstown streets.

Should more cities ban cars? There are benefits to car



TETRA IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

bans. But many people rely on cars for reasons that make them hard to give up. Here, four *TIME for Kids* readers share their opinion. Read what they have to say, then talk about the issue with a friend or family member.



**SUVIR LEEKHA TALAMAS, 12**  
ROSELLE, ILLINOIS

**YES!** Cars are used every day, but most of us tend to ignore their disadvantages. They burn fossil fuels, which creates air pollution. Their lights create light pollution, too, which can affect the health of animals, plants, and people. Our reliance on cars prevents us from exercising and makes us lazier. Rather than walking to places nearby, we drive or take car services, like Uber. I'm not totally against cars, but it's best to limit our use of them.

COURTESY SAVITA LEEKHA



**JULIET SIMON, 10**  
SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

**NO!** Just as people have become attached to screens, they've become attached to cars. You can't tell an entire community to completely stop using cars. That would make people want to use them even more. Instead, I believe that we should limit people's use of cars. We should expand and encourage the use of public transportation systems and introduce solar power to these systems.

COURTESY CYNTHIA BOORUY



**LENA ALOISE, 10**  
HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS

**NO!** Cars should not be banned in cities. Many people have a long commute to work each day. Banning cars would make it much more difficult for them to get to work. There are better ways to protect our environment. Car companies can continue to manufacture electric cars, which are more eco-friendly. That way, we can protect the environment without losing our independence.

COFFEE POND



**ANDRES GONZALEZ, 11**  
MIAMI, FLORIDA

**YES!** I believe cities should be car-free because pollution needs to be stopped! Air pollution is destroying our Earth. Cars are powered by gasoline, and the vapors that gas gives off contribute to this pollution. Some people overuse cars. They choose to drive when their destination is only a block away. We can use different forms of transportation instead, such as bicycles and buses.

COURTESY WENDY F.

# KID HEROES FOR THE PLANET



Earth Day is April 22. It's a day when people around the world work to help the planet. But many people, including kids, are passionate about protecting the Earth and its inhabitants every day. *TIME for Kids* spoke with a few of them. Read here about five Kid Heroes for the Planet. Maybe they'll inspire *you* to take action, too!

## Speaking Out

**JAYSA HUNTER-MELLERS** is a 14-year-old from Bridgeport, Connecticut. In 2016, she spoke at Bridgeport City Hall to ask leaders to shut down the last coal-fired power plant in her state. It was just two miles from Jaysa's house.

"I had an asthma attack when I was 6," Jaysa told *TFK*. This inspired her and her mom to research how coal gas can cause and worsen health problems. "I didn't think that people would listen to me because I was a kid," Jaysa says. But after her speech, the company that owns the coal plant promised to close it.

Now Jaysa's working to raise awareness about the importance of civics education. Civics teaches about the rights and duties of citizens. "I learned to speak to my local government at a young age," she says. "But a lot of people, not just kids, don't know how to do this."

—By Constance Gibbs

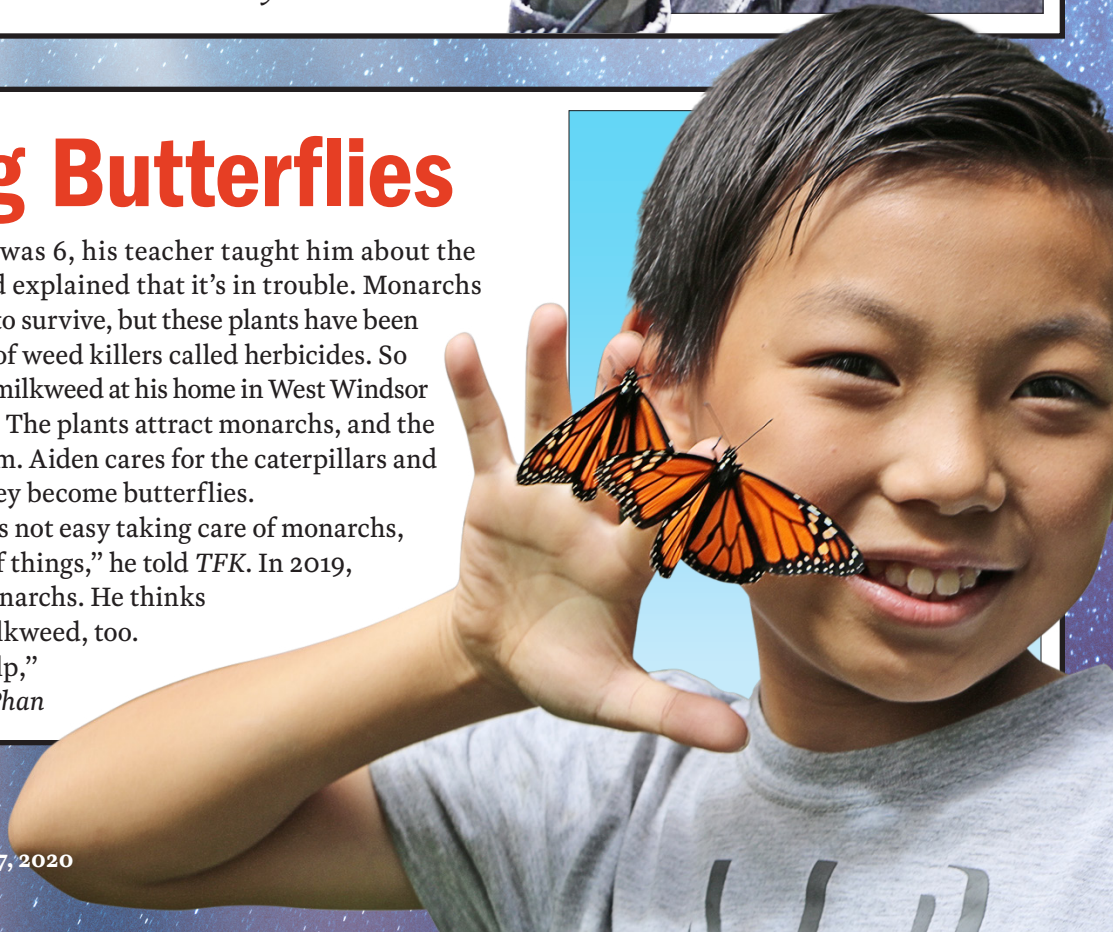


## Helping Butterflies

When **AIDEN WANG** was 6, his teacher taught him about the monarch butterfly and explained that it's in trouble. Monarchs need milkweed plants to survive, but these plants have been disappearing because of weed killers called herbicides. So Aiden started growing milkweed at his home in West Windsor Township, New Jersey. The plants attract monarchs, and the insects lay eggs on them. Aiden cares for the caterpillars and releases them when they become butterflies.

Aiden's now 13. "It's not easy taking care of monarchs, but I like taking care of things," he told *TFK*. In 2019, Aiden released 399 monarchs. He thinks others should grow milkweed, too.

"That might really help," he says. —By Karena Phan



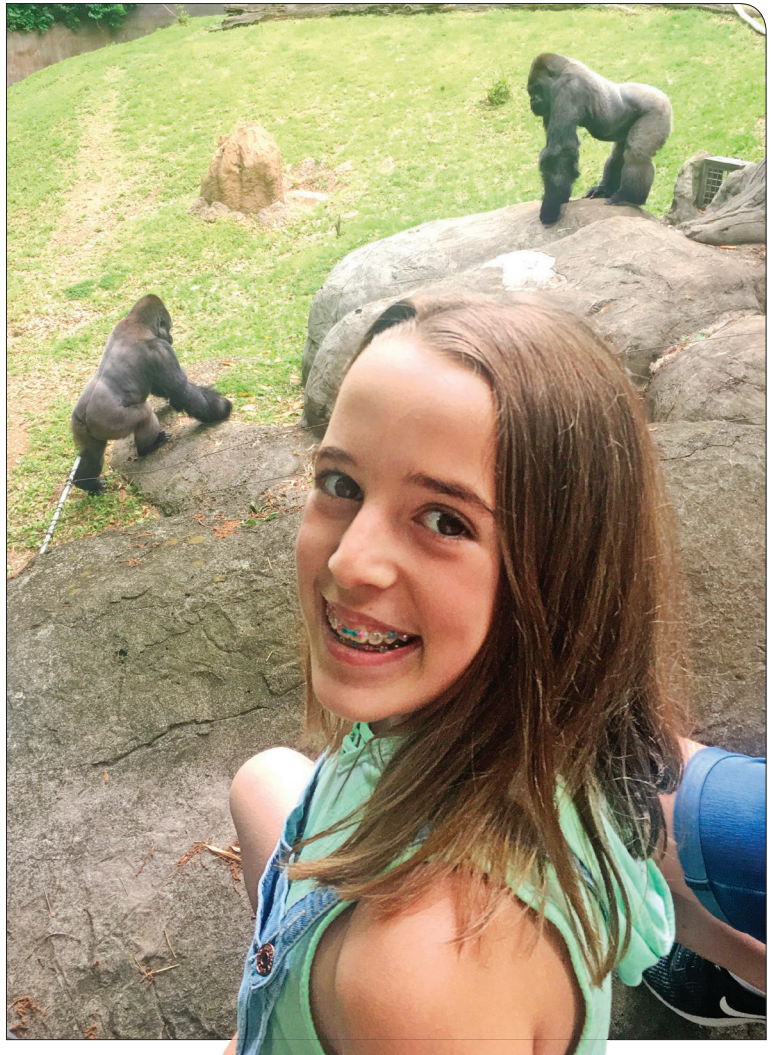


# Doing Good for Gorillas

**ADDY BARRETT**, from Germantown, Maryland, has a favorite animal: the mountain gorilla. When she was in first grade, she read a book about mountain gorillas. Addy was surprised to learn that they're endangered because of poaching and habitat loss. She wanted to protect them. That's why Addy started Gorilla Heroes. The group raises money for the animals with lemonade stands and a Gorilla Gala.

Addy's now 12 years old. So far, Gorilla Heroes has raised more than \$11,000 for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund and the Ellen Fund. Why does Addy care so much about mountain gorillas? She says it's because the species "is so remarkably intelligent and shares many of the same emotions that we do."

She adds, "The feeling of making a positive impact on the world is like no other. It feels so good to know that I am making a difference." —By Ellen Nam



COURTESY SARAH BARRETT

# Educating the Youth

In fourth grade, **JEREMY CLARK** (left) and **CHARLIE ABRAMS** saw an image of the Statue of Liberty up to her waist in water. The image, on the cover of *National Geographic*, was a projection of what the statue would look like if all the ice in the world melted. "That's not what we wanted for our generation or for future generations," Jeremy told *TFK*.

The boys, who are now in high school in Portland, Oregon, have teamed up to fight climate change. In 2019, they founded Affected Generation, a nonprofit organization that encourages young people to get involved in climate activism. The group has other goals, too. One of them is to push Portland Public Schools to teach a climate-change curriculum. Why is that mission so important? "Because

you can't take action on an issue if you don't know about it first," Charlie says.

—By Rebecca Mordechai



COURTESY AFFECTED GENERATION  
BACKGROUND: NASA/ESA/ETSI/1112/GETTY IMAGES/ISVY

# BUILDING GREEN



## In Africa, recycled plastic trash is being turned into classrooms.

Have you ever noticed a problem in your community that you couldn't figure out how to fix? Dr. Aoubacar Kampo has. He was living in Côte d'Ivoire, a country on the coast of West Africa, where plastic is a major environmental issue. Côte d'Ivoire's biggest city, Abidjan, produces more than 300 tons of plastic trash a day, and only about 5% is recycled. "How can we transform plastic into something useful?" Kampo wondered.

So Kampo, who works for UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, asked his friends for help. "We had a competition over a weekend to figure out what could be done," he told *TIME for Kids*. "We googled, looked for research, and then I stumbled across a company in Colombia."

Colombia is a country in South America. Plastic pollution is a

problem there, too. Conceptos Plásticos, the Colombian company that Kampo read about online, recycles plastic waste and turns it into big,

the social impact and the environmental benefits, he said, "We need to find a way to get you to Côte d'Ivoire." From that moment on, we worked together."

"Conceptos Plásticos gave us a solution," Kampo says. He thought it could help with more than just the plastic problem. It could also improve children's **access** to education.



**SCHOOL PRIDE** New classrooms built with recycled plastic bricks make for smaller class sizes in Côte d'Ivoire.

Lego-like bricks for building schools, houses, and other structures for communities in need.

Next, Kampo went to Colombia to learn about the company firsthand. He toured schools that were built with its bricks and the factory where the bricks were made.

Isabel Cristina Gamez, cofounder and CEO of Conceptos Plásticos, says, "Once Dr. Kampo understood

there aren't enough classrooms. For kids who do go to school, classrooms are often severely overcrowded. UNICEF communications chief Sophie Chavanel says, "I stepped into a classroom and all these 3- and 4-year-olds were sitting on the floor. They couldn't stand up because there wasn't room to move around."

In 2018, UNICEF built its first classrooms of recycled plastic bricks

**NEW CONSTRUCTION**  
UNICEF built this school with bricks by Conceptos Plásticos. The bricks fit together like Legos.



in Abidjan, using bricks produced in Colombia by Conceptos Plásticos.

Chavanel says that when a new room opened, the children gathered in the middle, “really tight, the same way they had before, because it was all they had ever known. The teacher said, ‘No! Now we have a big classroom. You can move! You can dance!’ Straight away, it made a difference in the quality of education.”

Tirangue Doumbia was the teacher that day. “People couldn’t believe it at the beginning, that the classrooms were made of plastic,” she says. “Now all the parents want their children in these classrooms.” When *TFK* spoke to her, in March, Côte d’Ivoire schools had just closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

## BUILDING THE FUTURE

At press time, UNICEF had built 27 classrooms in Côte d’Ivoire. It plans to have 528 built by the end of 2021. The new Conceptos Plásticos factory in Abidjan will soon be producing bricks from trash collected locally. “It’s plastic that is in children’s playgrounds,” Chavanel says. “It’s plastic that is on the beach.”

The environmental impact is huge. UNICEF says it takes about five and a half tons of plastic to build a classroom. Construction takes a few weeks.

How have students responded to the project? “Kids love it,” Kampo says. “When we build a classroom, we build it with the community. The kids get to see how it’s built.” Unlike **traditional** construction, no cement is needed, he adds. “It’s just a hammer and those bricks.” —By Jaime Joyce

### A-Z Power Words

**access** *noun*: the ability to reach or use

**traditional** *adjective*: based on custom, or the usual way that a person or group does things



**EARNING A LIVING** In Côte d’Ivoire, people collect and sell plastic trash to earn money for their families.



**TRANSFORMING TRASH** A woman sells plastic waste at the Conceptos Plásticos factory in Abidjan. It will be recycled into plastic bricks.



**WORK IN PROGRESS** UNICEF leaders learn to build with plastic bricks. A hammer is the only tool needed.



# FOREST LIFE



**Tropical ecologist Daniel Nepstad takes us on a tour of the Amazon rain forest.**

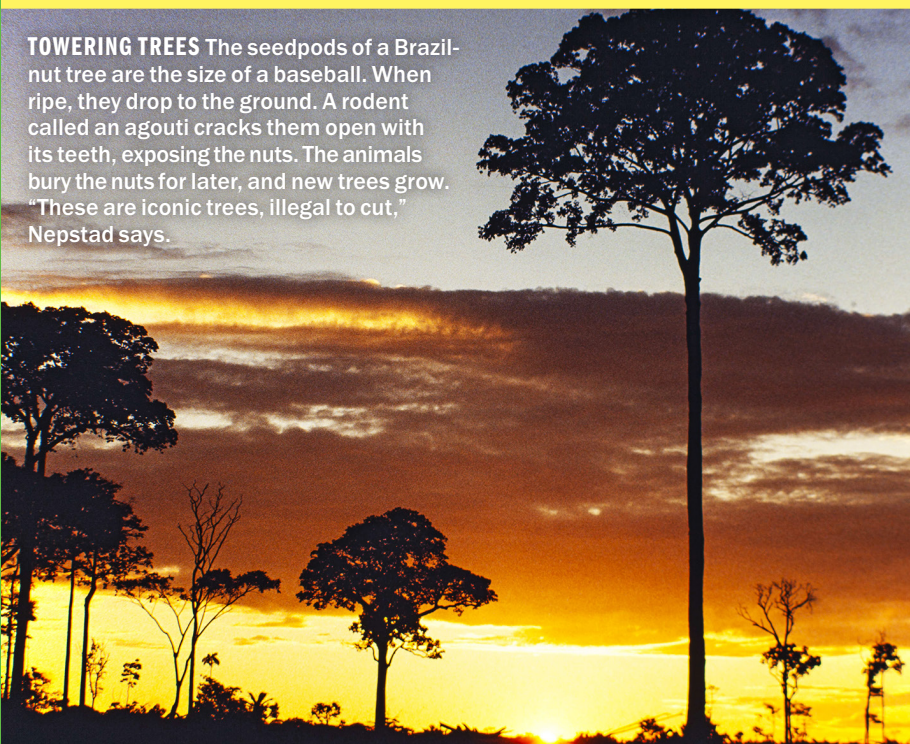
The Amazon rain forest is home to millions of plant and animal

species. Ecologist Daniel Nepstad calls it an “exuberant expression of life gone wild.” But deforestation is a rising threat. During last year’s wildfires, “you could really imagine that ‘Boy, we could lose this thing,’” he told *TIME for Kids*. Take a look at some of the species that ecologists are working to protect. —Brian S. McGrath



TOP: EARTH INNOVATION INSTITUTE (NEPSTAD); YASUOISHI CHIBA—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**FAVORITE FRUIT** The cacao (ka-kow) plant, native to the Amazon, is the source of chocolate. Its seeds have long been used as medicine, Nepstad says. Some farmers are planting cacao to bring back native plants to deforested areas. This helps restore forest ecosystems for other plants and animals.



**TOWERING TREES** The seedpods of a Brazil-nut tree are the size of a baseball. When ripe, they drop to the ground. A rodent called an agouti cracks them open with its teeth, exposing the nuts. The animals bury the nuts for later, and new trees grow. “These are iconic trees, illegal to cut,” Nepstad says.

RICARDO FUNARI—BRAZIL PHOTOS/LIGHTROCKET/GETTY IMAGES



**COLOSSAL FISH** The pirarucu (pee-ra-roo-koo) is a giant, ancient fish. It can weigh 300 pounds. “It’s fascinating because it needs to breathe air,” Nepstad says. People capture the pirarucu when it comes up for air. The fish is strong enough to tip a canoe over as it lashes about.

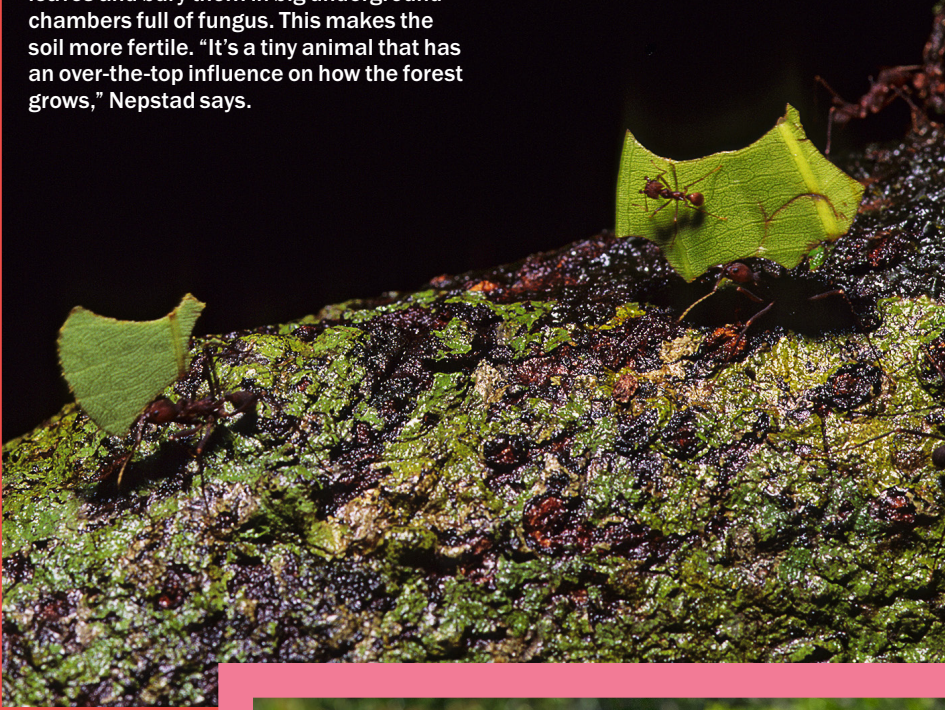
SYLVAIN CORDIER—GAMMA-RAPHO/GETTY IMAGES

RICARDO OLIVEIRA—AFP/GETTY IMAGES



**FOREST GARDENERS** Leaf-cutter ants harvest leaves and bury them in big underground chambers full of fungus. This makes the soil more fertile. "It's a tiny animal that has an over-the-top influence on how the forest grows," Nepstad says.

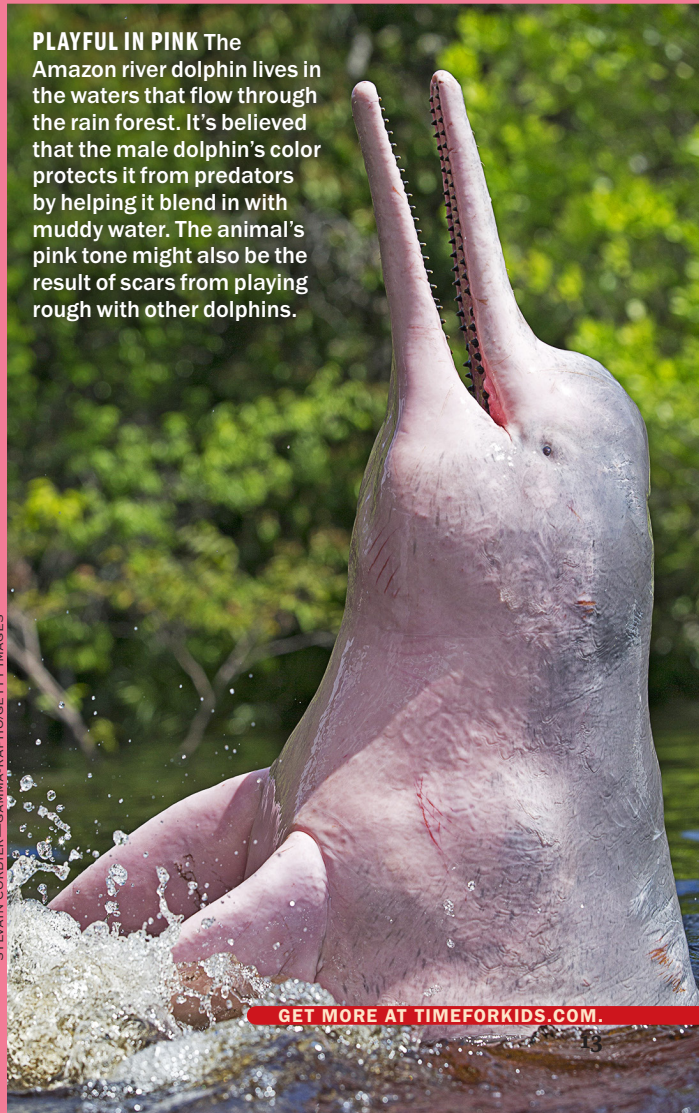
WOLFGANG KAHLER—LIGHTROCKET/GETTY IMAGES



**SHY CREATURE** The sloth lives high up in the trees. Its fur is covered with tiny organisms, such as algae and fungi. These camouflage it from predators and protect it from disease. About once a week, the sloth comes down to the forest floor. "They're concerned about being found," Nepstad says.

SYLVAIN CORDIER—GAMMA-RAPHO/GETTY IMAGES

**PLAYFUL IN PINK** The Amazon river dolphin lives in the waters that flow through the rain forest. It's believed that the male dolphin's color protects it from predators by helping it blend in with muddy water. The animal's pink tone might also be the result of scars from playing rough with other dolphins.



GET MORE AT [TIMEFORKIDS.COM](http://TIMEFORKIDS.COM).



SHAHZAD QURESHI

**FANTASTIC FORESTS** Shahzad Qureshi is the founder of Urban Forest, a group that plants trees in Pakistan.

COURTESY URBAN FOREST

◀ **TREES, PLEASE** Karachi Grammar School student Sophiya (left) gets help planting a tree.

urban forest at Karachi Grammar School. He met with students to teach them about how trees help the environment. Then the students pitched in, helping to plant **saplings** in the schoolyard.

“They were excited about the project,” Muneeza Shaikhali says. She’s a headmistress at Karachi Grammar School. “They themselves had been experiencing the high temperatures in the summer months. And our school is not all air-conditioned.”

The trees attract birds and colorful butterflies. Students go outside during science class to study the forest. “It’s like a library of native trees in front of the kids all the time,” Qureshi says. “They can identify the native species, bugs, and insects that are around. It’s a beautiful thing to see.”

—By Rebecca Katzman

# CITY OF TREES

**The Urban Forest project plants trees to help cities in Pakistan stay cool.**

Karachi, Pakistan, is one of the hottest cities on Earth. In June 2015, more than 1,000 people died there during a heat wave, when temperatures reached nearly 113°F. “It was a terrible time,” Shahzad Qureshi told *TIME for Kids*. “We needed to do something about it.”

Following that heat wave, Qureshi took action. He started Urban Forest, a group that plants **native** trees, without the use of pesticides, in cities in Pakistan.

Trees help cool the air by providing shade and releasing moisture through their leaves. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, they can help lower summer temperatures in cities by 2° to 9°F.

The cooling ability of trees is **crucial** in cities, where concrete roads and buildings absorb large amounts of heat.

For its first project, Urban Forest planted about 1,300 trees in a park in Karachi. The group uses a method that helps the trees grow quickly. In just three years, the trees were 30 feet tall. Qureshi hopes that one day, this park will become a forest of 50,000 trees.

## KEEPING THINGS COOL

Since 2015, Qureshi and his team have cooled the air by planting 14 urban forests in Pakistan, 12 of which are in Karachi. The trees also provide a habitat for a variety of animals. In addition, they provide food for the community and a place where people can kick back and relax.

In 2017, Qureshi helped plant an

**A-Z Power Words**

**crucial** *adjective*: very important

**native** *adjective*: originating in a certain area

**sapling** *noun*: a young tree

# 8 QUESTIONS

## FOR THE IRWINS



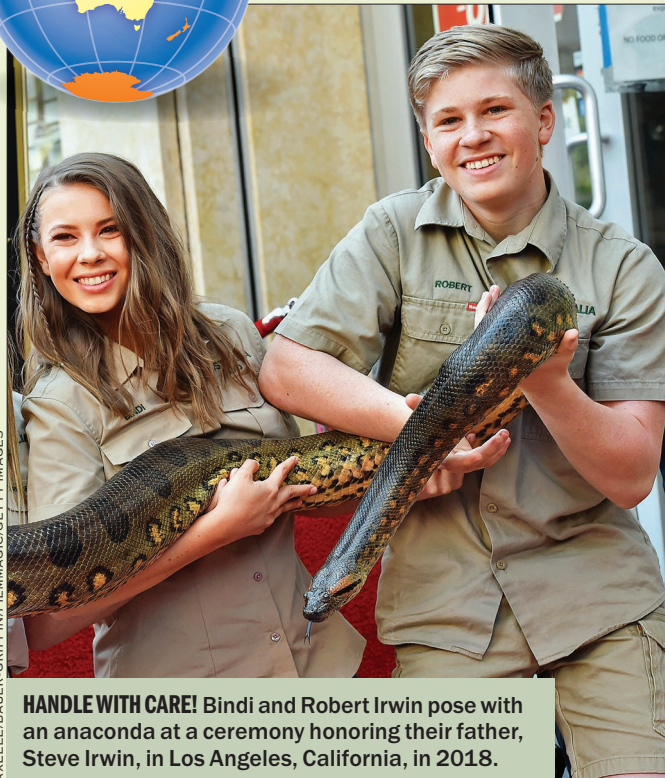
**Bindi and Robert Irwin are the children of the late Steve Irwin, a conservationist and a zookeeper at Australia Zoo. Their reality-TV show, *Crikey! It's the Irwins*, teaches people to care about wildlife. They spoke with TFK Kid Reporter Priscilla L. Ho.**

### 1. What's it like to run Australia Zoo?

**Robert:** We live and work in the zoo, a beautiful wildlife **sanctuary**. There are about 1,200 different kinds of animals there. Our dad and our mom, Terri, wanted the zoo to be a place where animals are given the best life possible, and where we could teach people about protecting wildlife. It's a pretty awesome place to live.

### 2. Tell us about your charity, Wildlife Warriors.

**Bindi:** Wildlife Warriors helps conservation on a global scale, whether it's tigers in Sumatra or rhinos in Kenya. We collaborate with scientists, to study how we can



AXELLE/BAUER-GRIFFIN/FILMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES

**HANDLE WITH CARE!** Bindi and Robert Irwin pose with an anaconda at a ceremony honoring their father, Steve Irwin, in Los Angeles, California, in 2018.

better protect wildlife. We also have sanctuaries all over Australia, set up for the sole purpose of protecting animals in their natural habitats.

### 3. How have you helped animals affected by the recent bushfires in Australia?

**Bindi:** We've taken in hundreds of flying foxes at the zoo's wildlife hospital. As the fires passed through, the mothers flew away but their babies weren't able to follow. We're desperately trying to treat these little guys until they are old enough to go back into the wild.

### 4. What animal needs the most attention to be saved from extinction?

**Robert:** Every animal is important. You need a healthy population of insects to take care of plants, and you need birds and smaller mammals, and big predators, like crocodiles and bears. Each species fills its own little niche. Lose any one of them, and their **ecosystem** starts to fall apart.

### 5. Your show, *Crikey! It's the Irwins*, launched in 2018. It's entertaining. But there's also a purpose, right?

**Bindi:** We want it to be a positive place where people can sit down with their families and feel really good, but also learn something. We hope people watch it and think, "Gosh, that's really important. We've got to make a difference for these animals."

### 6. How did you balance school with your work at the zoo and filming the TV show?

**Bindi:** We did online classes, which allowed us to do all our traveling and work at the zoo. Our mom and dad always encouraged us to learn, in school and in life. They instilled a passion for adventure and learning every day.

### 7. Which wild place would you most like to visit?

**Robert:** At the top of my list would be seeing polar bears in the wild. **Bindi:** I would love to go to the Himalayas and see the red pandas.

### 8. What can kids do to protect the world's wildlife?

**Robert:** Even simple things make a big difference. You can help clean up a park or beach, or set out a birdbath. And it's important to raise awareness about conservation. Learn all you can, then start a conversation with your peers, your family, and your teachers.

## A-Z Power Words

**ecosystem** *noun*: the living and nonliving things that make up an environment and affect one another

**sanctuary** *noun*: a place where wildlife is protected; a safe place

## BACK TO NATURE

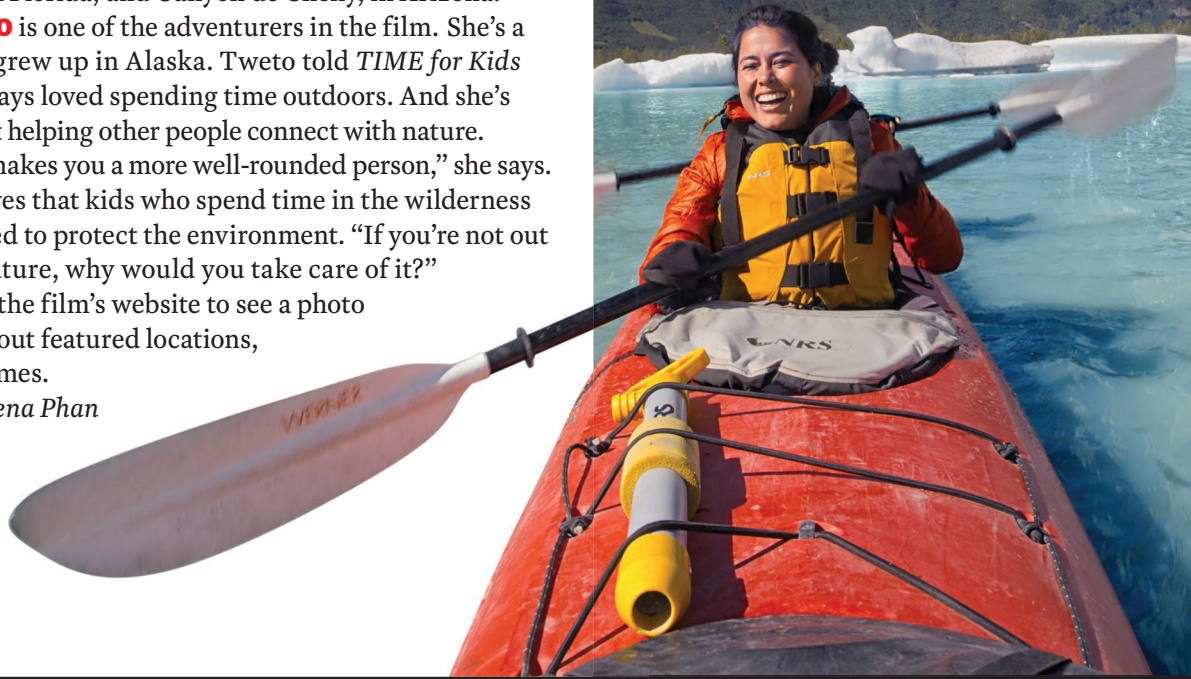
The IMAX documentary *Into America's Wild* highlights the natural beauty of the United States. It follows three adventure seekers—a long-distance hiker, a former astronaut, and a pilot—as they explore some of the country's stunning landscapes. These include the Pando aspen grove, in Utah; Everglades National Park, in Florida; and Canyon de Chelly, in Arizona.

**ARIEL TWETO** is one of the adventurers in the film. She's a bush pilot who grew up in Alaska. Tweto told *TIME for Kids* that she has always loved spending time outdoors. And she's passionate about helping other people connect with nature. "Being outside makes you a more well-rounded person," she says.

Tweto believes that kids who spend time in the wilderness are often inspired to protect the environment. "If you're not out experiencing nature, why would you take care of it?" she says. Check the film's website to see a photo gallery, learn about featured locations, and find showtimes.

—By *Karena Phan*

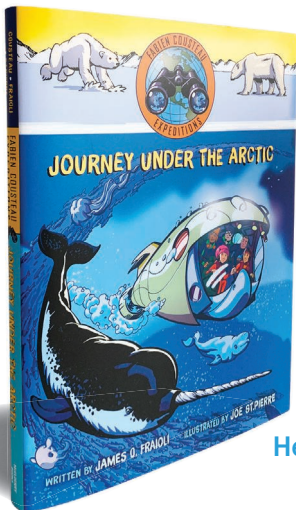
COURTESY MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN FILMS



## AN EXCITING EXPEDITION

In the graphic novel *Journey Under the Arctic*, aquanaut and conservationist **FABIEN COUSTEAU** goes on an adventure with junior explorers Rocco and Olivia in search of the rare Dumbo octopus. Along the way, they discover other fascinating ocean creatures. They also meet local Inuit people and learn how everyday actions contribute to climate change.

Cousteau, grandson of famed oceanographer Jacques Cousteau, has been an explorer since age 7. He created the Fabien Cousteau Expeditions book series to instill a love of nature in young people. What kids love, they will protect, he says. "We need to treat our planet the way we treat ourselves," he told TFK Kid Reporter **Henry Carroll**.



FROM LEFT: DREW WILLIS FOR TIME FOR KIDS; CARRIE VONDERHAAR

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