

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

SUPER
TWO-SIDED
ISSUE!

FLIP ME
OVER
FOR
FAMILY
FUN!

KIDS

DARE TO EXPLORE
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Saving the Red Panda

BE A
STAR!

HELP SET A
GUINNESS
WORLD
RECORD!

NEW
movie
ICE AGE 3

Plus...
Games,
Jokes, and
More!

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

JUNE / JULY 2009
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07>



0 74820 18314 4

AMAZING SHARK SURVIVOR!



WHAT DOES YOUR FLAVOR SAY ABOUT YOU?

NEW Popsicle® Slow Melt pops are all the great Popsicle taste you love and now last even longer for more fun! Popsicle® and ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS now bring you three awesome flavors featuring Scrat's soft gummy acorn candy hidden inside each pop!

Can't decide which flavor you will love the most? Check out the Popsicle® Personality Quiz below that will help you pick your favorite flavor and tell you what ICE AGE character you most represent!

If your friends had to describe you in one word it would be:

- A) Fun-Loving
- B) Loyal
- C) Adventurous

Do you like to explore?

- A) Yes, I want to explore and meet people from all over the world!
- B) Yes, but not too far
- C) Yes! I'm a thrill-seeker and will try anything!

What is your favorite color?

- A) Blue
- B) Red
- C) Yellow

On a hot day, your favorite activity would be:

- A) Stay inside and take a nap
- B) Take a refreshing dip in the pool!
- C) Play outside no matter WHAT the weather is like

What do you want to do in life?

- A) Be an entertainer and make people laugh
- B) Marry the person you love and live happily ever after
- C) Show everyone who is boss and be the CEO of a large company



IF YOU GOT MOSTLY A's...

try the Cotton Candy slow melt pop. It is sweet and fun to eat. The ICE AGE character you most represent is Sid. Your fun and loveable ways can always bring a smile or laugh to those around you.

IF YOU GOT MOSTLY B's...

try the Strawberry flavor. It is red in color, which represents strength and compassion. You have a big heart and are a very loyal friend just like the ICE AGE character, Manny!



IF YOU GOT MOSTLY C's...

take a bite into the cool refreshing taste of Lemonade! The ICE AGE character you most represent is Diego! You are cool and cunning when it comes to problem-solving. Although you may not always be quick to warm up to strangers, you understand loyalty and are a friend forever.



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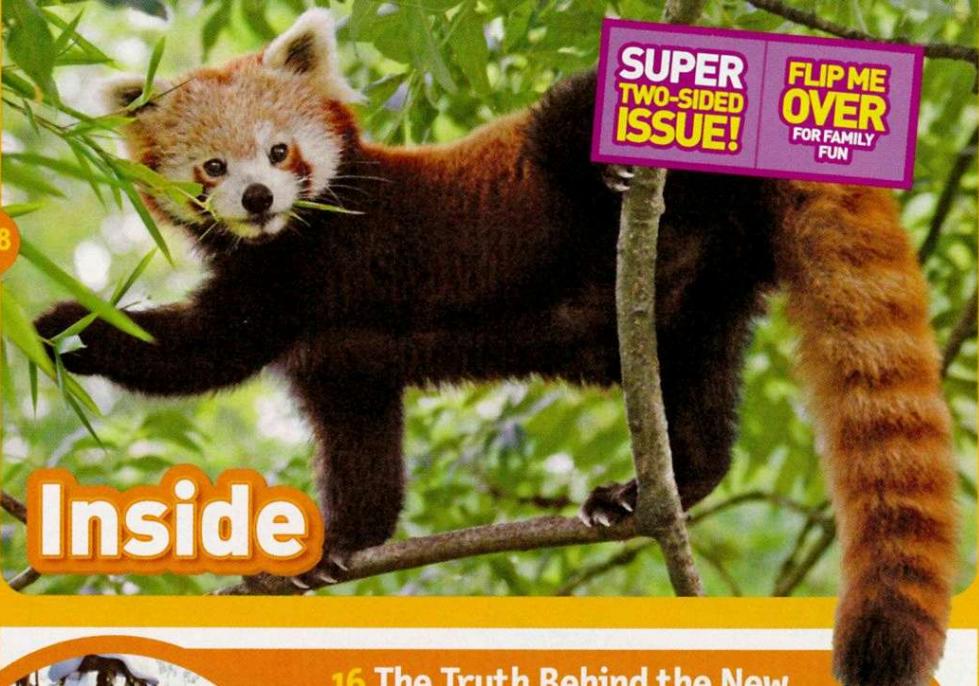
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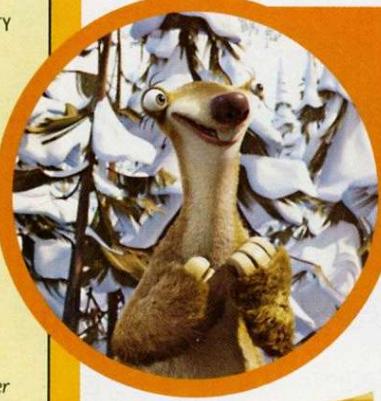
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**SUPER
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**FLIP ME
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FUN**

Inside



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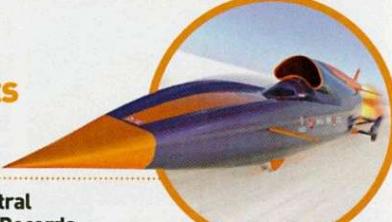
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Just for KIDS online!

Go online to play games, including cool picture puzzles. Plus, find boredom-busting activities and must-read book reviews for your summer reading list.

kids.nationalgeographic.com

On the Cover

The red panda lives in cool mountain forests, where it finds bamboo leaves to eat.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH © GERRY ELLIS / MINDEN PICTURES

COVER INSETS: KARINE AIGNER / NGS STAFF (DOG); BLUE SKY STUDIOS (*ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS*); PAGE 3: © WILDLIFE / R. USHER / STILL PICTURES (RED PANDA); BLUE SKY STUDIOS (*ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS*); REBECCA HALE / NGS STAFF (WEIRD BUT TRUE); IMAGING BY CURVETTE (COOL INVENTIONS); © GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS LIMITED (GUINNESSS WORLD RECORDS); GREAT APE TRUST OF IOWA (AMAZING ANIMALS); COURTESY OF MALARIA NO MORE (YOU ARE STARS); NATHAN JUREVICIUS (ZIPPERPI)

Check out these 9 outrageous facts.

A beaver's home is called a **lodge**.

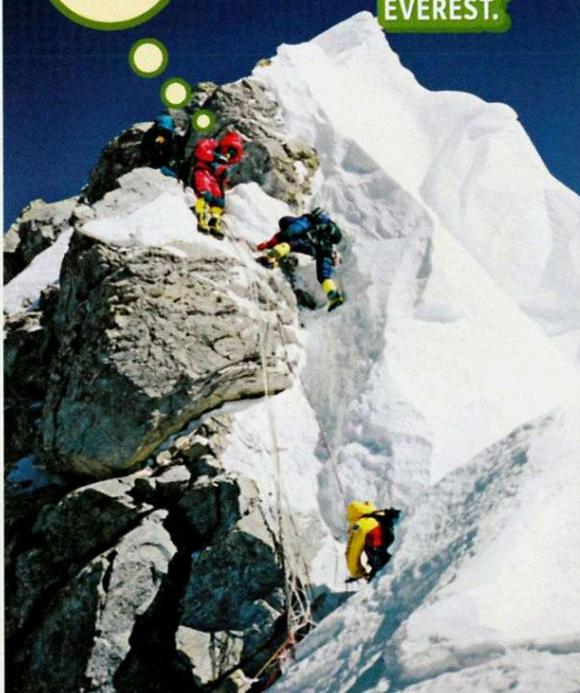
A newborn puppy can take up to two months to start wagging its tail.



SOME FROGS CAN GLIDE UP TO 50 FEET THROUGH THE AIR.

I'D BETTER CALL MOM TO TELL HER I'LL BE LATE FOR DINNER.

THERE IS CELL PHONE RECEPTION AT THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT EVEREST.



SKIN IS YOUR BODY'S LARGEST ORGAN.

A HUMAN BONE IS FIVE TIMES STRONGER THAN A PIECE OF STEEL OF THE SAME WEIGHT.

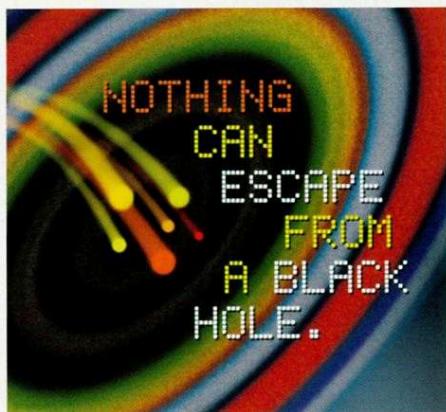
Shakes can't slither on glass.

ROCKETS MUST TRAVEL



AT LEAST 25,000 MILES AN HOUR TO ESCAPE EARTH'S GRAVITY.

NOTHING CAN ESCAPE FROM A BLACK HOLE.



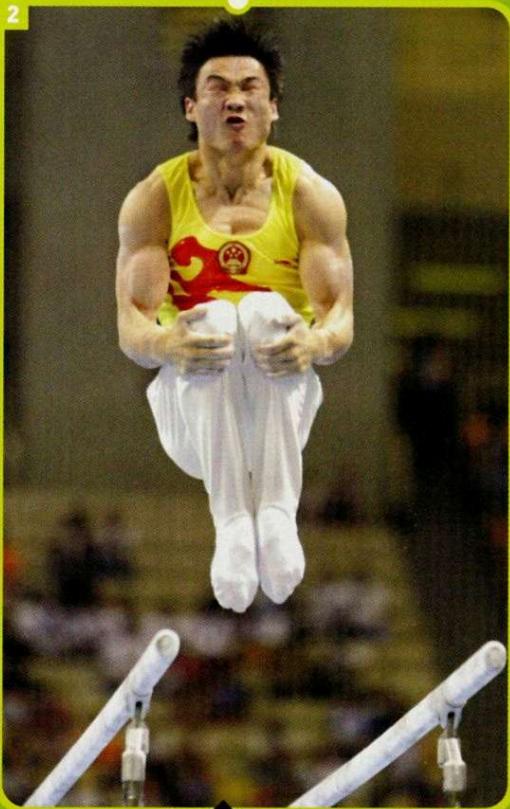
sports funnies

uh-oh!

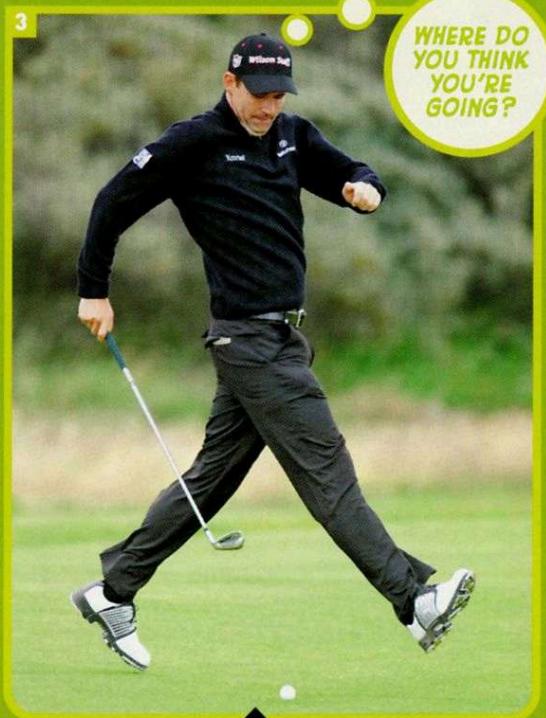
I'M GOING
TO HOLD MY
BREATH UNTIL
THEY GIVE ME
A GOLD
MEDAL.



Uruguay's Diego Forlán covers his face with his jersey after missing a goal during a 2008 FIFA World Cup soccer match in Uruguay.



Yang Wei of China competes in gymnastics at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece.



Ireland's Padraig Harrington chases a ball during a practice round for the 2008 British Open golf championship.



Johan Gaume of France practices a snowboarding jump before a 2008 winter sports and music festival in London, England.

COOL inventions

BY CATHY LU

LAND ROCKET

Imagine traveling faster than the speed of sound. The

Bloodhound

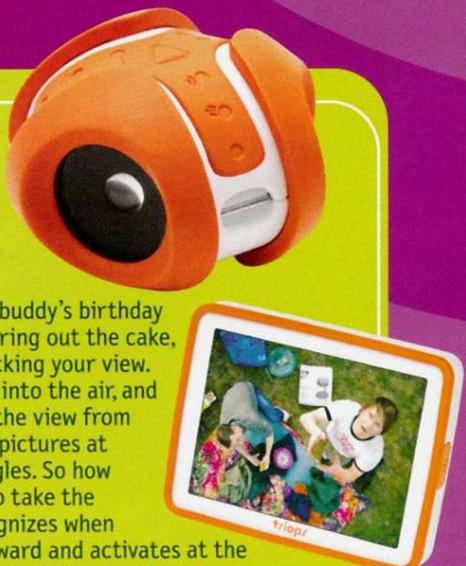
SuperSonic Car
(SSC) will be

the first car to attempt to break the 1,000-mile-an-hour barrier. (The current record is 763 miles an hour.) A concept for now, the rocket-shaped car gets its initial push to 350 miles an hour from a jet engine. Then a rocket fires up, blasting the SSC past 1,000 miles an hour. In order to keep the car streamlined, the driver lies back at a 45-degree angle in a bathtub-shaped cockpit and navigates with controls that are a cross between a car's and a jet's. The SSC has three sets of brakes: flaps that rise from the body to create drag, a parachute that flies out the back, and a set of wheel brakes to bring the car to a complete halt. So just what does it mean to be going 1,000 miles an hour? It's the same as shooting down four football fields in one second. In other words, it's blink-of-an-eye fast.



COOL CAMERA

You're having a blast at your buddy's birthday party. But when it's time to bring out the cake, everyone crowds around, blocking your view. No worries. Throw the Triops into the air, and this clever camera captures the view from above. Triops can take three pictures at once, each from different angles. So how does the Triops know when to take the photo? A motion sensor recognizes when you've tossed the camera upward and activates at the highest point. You can also record sounds—for instance, a whistle or finger snap—and command the Triops to start shooting whenever it hears that noise. That's one smart camera.



MIND GAMES

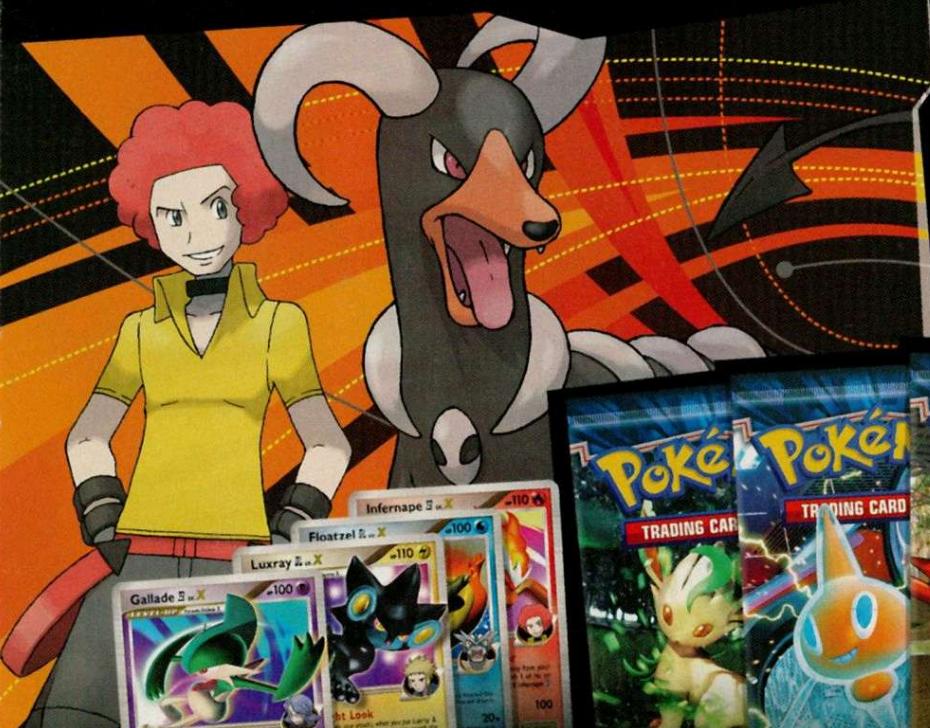
You're playing your favorite adventure game on a gaming system when suddenly you run into a giant rock that's blocking your path. But instead of pushing some buttons to move it, relax your mind, concentrate, and let your brain waves do the heavy lifting. The MindSet allows you to control video games with your thoughts. Using a sensor that sits against your forehead, this headset reads brain activity resulting from the firing of neurons (cells that send and receive brain signals). It can gauge, on a scale of 0 to 100, whether your mind is relaxed versus tense, as well as whether it's focused or majorly distracted. It then sends that information to the game, which uses the information to determine what happens next. Can't unwind your mind? The rock will stay put. Better clear your thoughts or you won't get very far.



POKÉMON

TRADING CARD GAME

A Rivalry is Born!



The Pokémon Trading Card Game: Platinum - Rising Rivals brings powerful Trainers together for exciting battles!

- Look for all-new Pokémon SP
- Discover powerful new Pokémon LV.X
- Collect five different forms for Rotom - Wash Rotom, Fan Rotom, Frost Rotom, Mow Rotom, and Heat Rotom

PLATINUM

RISING RIVALS

THE GYM LEADERS



ROARK GARDENIA MAYLENE WAKE FANTINA BYRON CANDICE VOLKNER

THE ELITE FOUR



AARON BERTHA FLINT LUCIAN

viDEO game CENTRAL

SOUND OF MUSIC

In the past, video game makers didn't worry too much about music; they are called *video games* after all, not *audio* games. But gaming has come a long way from the bleeps and bloops they used for sounds years ago. These days you can enjoy the soundtrack from a hit movie, learn a new instrument virtually, and even record your own songs.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: SENIOR YEAR DANCE!

Xbox 360

You probably can sing along with *High School Musical* already—now it's time to star in it. Using *Dance*'s Create-A-Wildcat mode, you can play as Troy, Gabriella, or any of the gang, or you can build your own character. Dance along to the most popular songs of all three movies. Just step on the dance mat to hit the right spots in time with the colored cues floating from the center of the screen as scenes from the movie play behind it.



» **TIP #1** Finish the song at least in the yellow zone on the performance meter to earn the 4th Quarter Comeback achievement.

» **TIP #2** Earn double your teammate's Dance Accuracy in the Dance Duo mode and you'll unlock the Tutor achievement.



ZUBO

Nintendo DS

Ever tap your foot as you listen to music? You'll need that power to save planet Zubalon. Someone has to help the Zubos stop the evil Big Head and his nasty Zombos from taking over their land, and that someone is you. Armed with only your stylus and a sense of rhythm, you battle your way through this adventure by tapping the touch screen in time with the music. Choose from more than 55 different Zubos you can collect during your quest. Each has unique abilities—like punk rocker Pinky and her Rock On move, or the alien RossWell, who summons his mother ship to drop cows on his enemies.

» **TIP #1** Try out multiplayer with a friend to unlock an entire extra team of five sporty Zubos.

» **TIP #2** If you're having trouble locating the "Wanted Poster" in the Wild West area, forget about it and just move along. The answer may come to you later.

Wii MUSIC

Wii

You can have an entire symphony orchestra stuffed inside your Wii. With *Wii Music* you can pick up and play any of more than 60 instruments, from typical ones like the guitar, piano, and drums, to more unique musicmakers like the sitar, cowbell, or even dog barks. And don't worry about having to buy big instruments—everything in *Wii Music* uses your standard Wii controller and Nunchuk attachment. Just shake them in time with the music. Practice jamming with up to three friends in Improv mode, and when you're ready, record a video of your performance to send to your friends online.

» **TIP #1** To give your musicians new costumes, hold down the D-pad in any of the four directions and hit start on the "Start Playing?" screen in the Quick Jam or Custom Jam modes.

» **TIP #2** Play all the way through the Legend of Zelda theme in the Mii Maestro mini-game, and you'll unlock the Zelda theme for play elsewhere in the game.



Make Your Summer Sizzle!

Step up the fun and check out these must-haves to bring along on your summer family trip!

Ranger's Apprentice

The New York Times bestselling series by John Flanagan

They have always scared him—the Rangers, with their dark cloaks and shadowy ways. And now Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. Highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, they fight the battles before the battles reach the people. And as Will is about to learn, there is always a battle brewing somewhere. Apprentice to One, Hero to All!

Go to...

www.penguin.com/rangersapprentice to watch video trailers, read excerpts, download widgets, and more!

The series continues with
Ranger's Apprentice Book 6:
The Siege of Macindaw,
on sale in August.



Johnny Test

Follow Johnny Test, along with his talking dog Dukey and the rest of the gang from Porkbelly, in these two brand new DVDs!

www.johnnytestanddukey.com

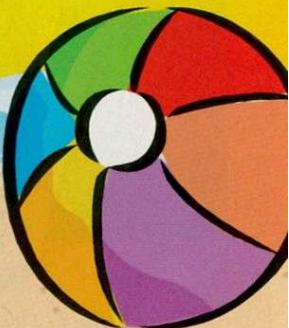
Help Wanted

Saving the world one job at a time. *Help Wanted* is the 1st Job Compilation centered around 50 wacky jobs!
www.helpwantedgame.com



DogEared

Looking for a cool new book? See what other kids recommend reading at *DogEared*, NG Kids' book blog. Plus, post your own red-hot reviews! kids.nationalgeographic.com/dogeared



ASTONISHING
STORIES FROM
THE FILES OF

Guinness World Records

Go online for more information about Guinness World Records! kids.nationalgeographic.com/Videos

GIANT SKATEBOARD

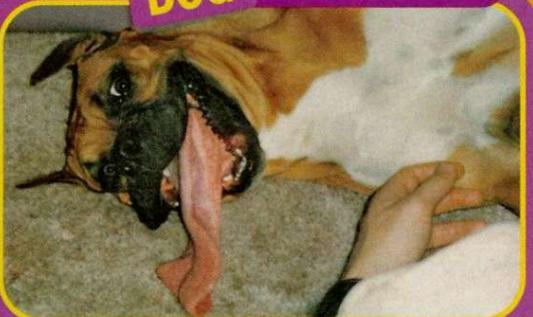
If you want to ride one of the largest skateboards on record, you'll need 11 friends to help. The skateboard—31 feet long and 8 feet wide—needs at least 12 people to operate it. It works just like a normal skateboard, with no motor or brakes and the ability to turn by leaning to one side. The question is where to ride it: A giant skateboard needs a giant street.



MESSAGE FROM THE PAST

1914: A scientist conducting an experiment writes down the date and his location, sticks the "message" into a bottle, and tosses it into the North Sea off Scotland. Ninety-two years and 229 days later: The bottle is found, making the message inside the oldest found in a bottle. Many were surprised that it traveled only one mile. Some think it may have been under a rock until a fishing net dragged it up.

LONGEST DOG TONGUE



A smooch from this pooch would be way slobbery. Brandy the boxer had the longest tongue for a dog. The 17-inch licker hung out of Brandy's mouth and even got tan lines during the summer. Her floppy tongue was funny enough, but she got even bigger laughs when she twirled it around in a circle. People just had to take care to stay out of the way!

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YOU CAN HELP SET A GUINNESS WORLD RECORD!

SEND US
YOUR OLD JEANS!

IT TAKES ABOUT
500 PAIRS OF
JEANS TO RECYCLE
ENOUGH DENIM TO
INSULATE ONE
AVERAGE-SIZE U.S.
HOUSE. SO SEND
US LOTS!

HELP US CREATE THE WORLD'S
LARGEST COLLECTION OF
CLOTHES TO RECYCLE.

Jeans will be donated to "COTTON FROM BLUE TO GREEN." This denim drive recycles jeans into UltraTouch insulation, which is used to help build houses in places that have been damaged by hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters. Your jeans will help set a record, keep clothes out of landfills, and build homes for families to live in!



JEANS MUST BE RECEIVED

BY JUNE 30, 2009.

Go online to guess how many denim items we will receive for the record!
kids.nationalgeographic.com

▼ FOLLOW THESE RULES TO HELP US SET THE RECORD.

- 1 Get a parent's permission and select as many denim jeans as you like. (Any denim clothing is OK.)
- 2 The denim must be used.
- 3 The denim can be any brand.
- 4 The denim can be any color or size but must have been worn by a human.
- 5 Send as many jeans or denim items as you wish to:

NG KIDS / Set a Guinness World Record
P.O. Box 98001
Washington, DC 20090-8001

- 6 For shipments that cannot be delivered to a P.O. box:

NG KIDS / Set a Guinness World Record
1145 17th St. NW
Washington, DC 20036



HELP US KEEP COUNT BY INCLUDING THIS FORM WITH
EACH PACKAGE!

Parent/guardian's name (please print)

Adult leader's name and organization (for school drives, Scouts, etc.)

City/State

Number of denim items in this package

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Amazing Animals



SHARK SURVIVOR



JAKE NEEDED
ONLY A COUPLE
OF BANDAGES
AFTER THE
ATTACK.

Islamorada, Florida

When Jake the rat terrier leaped from a marina dock for his daily swim, he was having too much fun to notice the seven-foot shark swimming underneath him. But suddenly the shark shot toward the surface, opened its jaws, and in one giant bite snatched the unsuspecting dog under. Owner Greg LeNoir saw the attack and dived in after the shark, ramming his fists into the creature's back until the shark let go. Seconds later, Jake popped to the surface. Terrified and bleeding, he bravely swam ashore with the help of his owner, who rushed him to the vet. Amazingly, Jake had almost no internal damage and today has just a faint scar around his body. As far as emotional scars...what emotional scars? Says LeNoir: "He still paddles in the ocean any chance he gets."



President
Theodore Roosevelt's
two rat terriers, Skip
and Blackjack, roamed
the hallways of the
White House in
the 1900s.

APE NAMES PAINTING

Des Moines, Iowa

You've heard of animals that paint. Most of these "works of art" are just paint splattered on paper, an activity to keep the critters from getting bored. But Kanzi the bonobo actually gives titles to his paintings, something almost unheard of. As he was starting to paint one day, he asked his caretakers at the Great Ape Trust for some watermelon to eat. (Kanzi communicates with humans through a series of symbols on a chart that represent words.) While he munched the snack, his caretakers noticed he only painted with red, green, and white—the same colors as the watermelon. But just in case caretakers couldn't tell what he was painting, the bonobo actually named the work "Watermelon" with his symbols! Caretaker Susannah Maisel says this behavior gives insight into Kanzi's intelligence. "It shows that his paintings are more than just colors on a canvas," Maisel says. "He really puts thought into what he's painting, just as a human artist would."

I THINK
I'LL TRY
SCULPTING
NEXT.

KANZI
DISPLAYS
ONE OF HIS
UNTITLED
PAINTINGS.



I'M
ALL
EARS.

"Watermelon"
(shown here)
was auctioned for
\$1,500, which will go
toward ape
conservation.



FOUR-EARED CAT

Chicago, Illinois

People do a double take when they see Yoda the cat. That's because Yoda was born with an extra set of ears. A restaurant owner was trying to give the cat away but had no takers because of his odd look. "The customers seemed almost frightened of him because he looked so weird," says Ted Rock, who adopted Yoda. "But I thought he was the cutest kitten I'd ever seen." Veterinarian James Antonicic says Yoda's second set of ears are actually just extra skin, developed when his ear flaps split into two before he was born. "He can't hear out of them," Antonicic says. "It's just extra skin in a nifty spot on the top of his head." Yoda's real ears work just fine, which the family dog knows all too well. Yoda has no problem hearing when the dog gets fed and comes running to stand in between the pooch and the bowl. "Yoda loves to tease," Rock says.

NGK Readers:

You are Stars!

You helped save thousands of lives!



An insecticide-treated bed net can protect a mother and a baby, or several children, from malaria-carrying mosquitoes for up to five years.

One bed net costs just \$10.

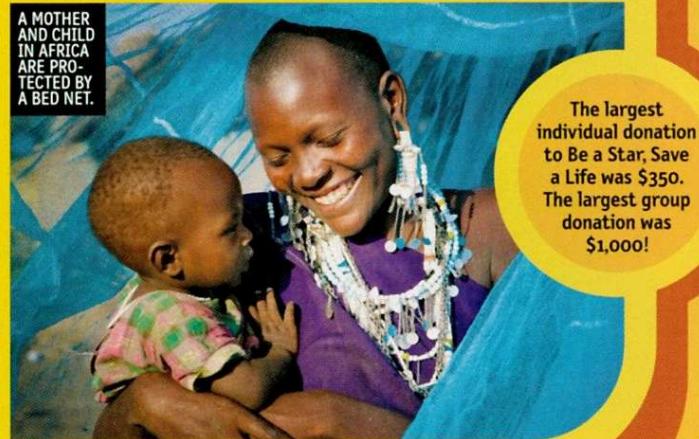
Jordin Sparks won American Idol in 2007.

Go online to read letters from kids who donated to the Be a Star, Save a Life campaign.
kids.nationalgeographic.com



LAST YEAR JORDIN SPARKS VISITED KIDS IN GHANA, IN AFRICA.

A MOTHER AND CHILD IN AFRICA ARE PROTECTED BY A BED NET.



The largest individual donation to Be a Star, Save a Life was \$350. The largest group donation was \$1,000!

The smallest donation was 72 cents—all in pennies!

**malaria
NO MORE**

Find out more about the fight against malaria.
MalariaNoMore.org

Dear NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS Readers,

Wow—you guys are amazing! You raised more than \$15,000 to fight malaria through the Be a Star, Save a Life campaign!

I was so excited that you wanted to help save kids' lives after I invited you to participate in Be a Star, Save a Life last year. Thanks to your efforts, you raised thousands of dollars to buy bed nets that protect against deadly malaria-carrying mosquitoes in Africa. And remember—Malaria No More and I pledged to double your donations. So that means you're helping us provide mosquito nets to protect more than 6,000 kids. That's awesome!

We'll send these bed nets to kids and families in Tanzania, a country in East Africa that is doing a great job working to stop malaria. Lifesaving bed nets can give kids the chance to grow up and make their own dreams come true...and become stars like you!

So congratulations: You've shown that kids can do incredible things when they work together—including saving lives! Let's keep working together so we can achieve our goal of making malaria no more—for good.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature of Jordin Sparks.

Jordin Sparks

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MORE THAN
10,000 WINNERS!

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SUMMER**

**SUPER SUMMER
GIVEAWAY**

OVER 10,000 WINNERS!

See back cover for details.

CARTOONNETWORK.COM/THISUMMER

Check out sneak peek video of awesome new shows!

**CHECK OUT THESE AWESOME
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THE TRUTH BEHIND THE
NEW MOVIE

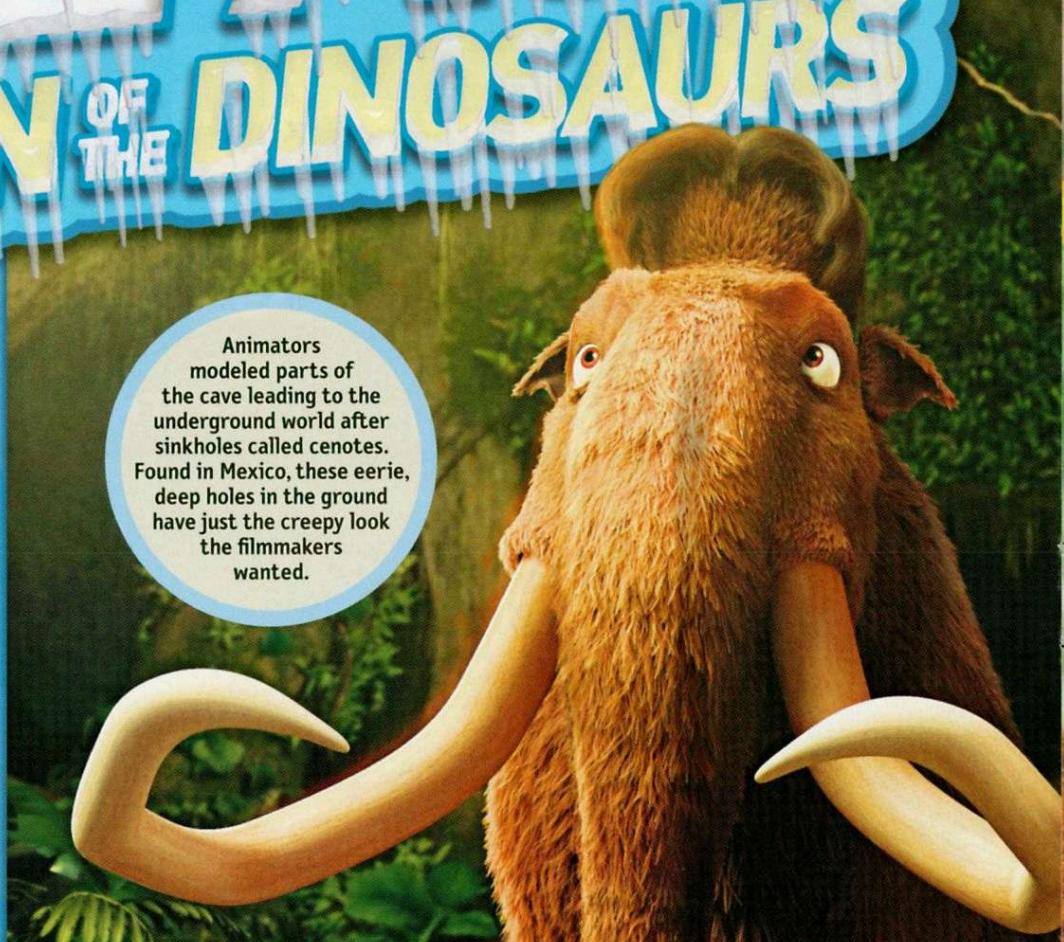
ICE AGE

DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS

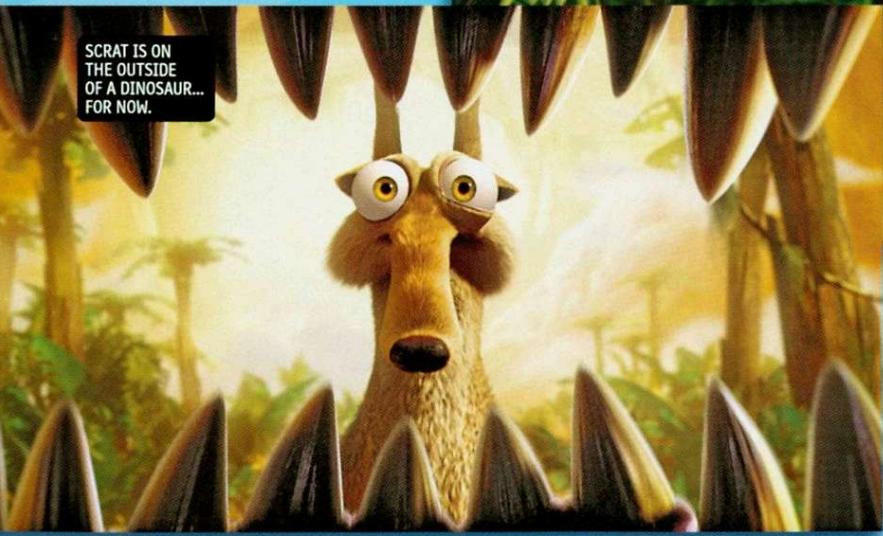
BY SEAN McCOLLUM

Changes are afoot—and underfoot—for Manny the mammoth, Sid the sloth, and Diego the saber-toothed cat. And we're not just talking about the lost underground world of dinosaurs the crew stumbles upon. In the new movie *Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs*, Manny and his mate Ellie have a mammoth-size baby on the way, Sid wants kids so badly that he swipes some dino eggs, and Diego struggles to contain his predator nature. Do these prehistoric antics fit real life? NG KIDS digs beneath the surface to find out.

Animators modeled parts of the cave leading to the underground world after sinkholes called cenotes. Found in Mexico, these eerie, deep holes in the ground have just the creepy look the filmmakers wanted.



SCRAT IS ON
THE OUTSIDE
OF A DINOSAUR...
FOR NOW.



LEFTOVER DINOSAURS?

When the acorn-chasing Scrat tumbles through the ice, he falls into a lost tropical world of dinosaurs. But there's no way dinosaurs would have been living at the same time as Manny, Diego, and Sid. The last ice age melted away about 10,000 years ago. Dinosaurs went extinct 65 million years before that. "We know kids will say, 'That couldn't happen!'" says cowriter Yoni Brenner. "But we decided to stretch the truth to make a fun movie."

PROTECTIVE PAPA

Proud papa-to-be Manny goes bonkers trying to get rid of pointy branches, sharp rocks, and anything that might harm his precious calf. "He wants to babyproof nature," producer Lori Forte says. But a real woolly mammoth wouldn't have been so concerned, expert Jeff Saunders says. Similar to modern elephants, male mammoths lived apart from females and their offspring. In real life, Ellie and other related moms-to-be would have wandered north, where there were fewer predators. But then Ellie wouldn't have Sid to babysit for her.

SID AND DIEGO CHAT ABOUT MANNY AND ELLIE'S FUTURE BABY.

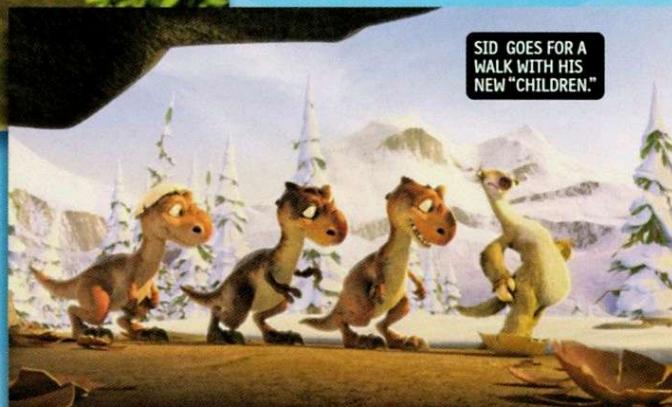


MANNY (LEFT) AND ELLIE BRACE THEMSELVES AS A DINOSAUR APPROACHES. AT LEAST CRASH AND EDDIE THE POSSUMS CAN QUICKLY SCURRY AWAY!

Dinos roaming and roaring in a forgotten underground world? The movie borrows the idea from *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*, the 1864 sci-fi novel by Jules Verne.

WRECKING TAIL

In the dinosaur world, a hardheaded ankylosaur uses its clublike tail to mash and smash, sending even Manny galumphing for safety. A real ankylosaur also likely used its tail as a weapon, Makovicky says. Paleontologists think the dino probably defended itself by swinging its tail like a side-to-side wrecking ball. Manny must be jealous.



SID GOES FOR A WALK WITH HIS NEW "CHILDREN."

CALL OF THE WILD

Diego loves his peaceful, adopted family. But he can't squash his killer instincts and streaks off after a gazelle. "It's a high-speed chase," says producer John Donkin. Is that how a real saber-toothed cat would have hunted? It depends on the species, says expert Larry Martin. "One saber-toothed cat called *Homotherium* was long-legged and might have tried to chase down a gazelle," he says. Diego is more stocky, like a saber-toothed species called *Smilodon*. Its short legs wouldn't have been fast enough to chase down speedy prey. Instead it waited in the bushes to pounce on dinner.

WHO'S YOUR MOMMY?

Sid wants so much to be a dad that he adopts three abandoned eggs. But when the eggs hatch, Sid finds himself cuddling baby dinosaurs who think he's their mom. It's doubtful that a real baby dino would have mistaken another creature for a parent, says dinosaur expert Peter Makovicky. However, some modern hatchling birds do "imprint" on the first animal they see, following this "mom" and begging for food. And most scientists agree that small, meat-eating dinos were ancestors of today's birds. There's just one problem: Sid's "kids" may want more than worms to eat.



THE RED PANDA ALSO IS
CALLED "FIRE CAT" AND
"FIREFOX."



HOPE FOR THE RED PANDA

HOW PEOPLE ARE SAVING THESE
VULNERABLE CREATURES

BY CRISPIN BOYER



With a flick of its fluffy tail, the elusive red panda curls into a ball. Poof! It's the wildlife equivalent of Harry Potter's invisibility cloak. Now it looks like just another bump on a log in its misty mountain-forest habitat.

So it's no wonder that when conservationist Brian Williams trekked through Himalayan foothills in search of red pandas, he saw fewer of these raccoon-size animals in a month than you'd find in one afternoon at the zoo. "Seeing them in the wild is rare. You remember it vividly," says Williams.

From the tufts of its fuzzy white ears to its red-ringed tail, each red panda is roughly 12 pounds of concentrated cuteness. When it's not dozing in a tree or curled into a cozy ball for warmth, the animal spends its time clutching bamboo branches and chewing tender shoots and leaves.

Unfortunately, these darlings of the bamboo forests are in great danger. And if they don't get help soon, the red panda's disappearing act might become permanent.

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LOST ISLANDS

The red panda lives in chilly, foggy bamboo forests that cover the foothills more than two miles high, set against some of the tallest mountains in the world. Long ago, the animal developed adaptations for this environment. Its dense fur and cloaklike tail, for instance, keep it warm during snowy winters. Its body is built for climbing into the thinnest branches, which helps it escape leopards, dogs, and human hunters who poach red pandas for their soft fur. The red panda has a thumblike sixth digit for grasping stalks of bamboo, its main source of food.

The animal is at home here, and few places seem as remote and safe. But as more towns surround the red panda's mountain forests, more of this habitat is chopped down for farming and firewood. Researchers estimate that the animal's range has shrunk as much as 50 percent over the past two decades. "Panda habitats that at one time were connected to each other through the forests now end up confined to isolated mountaintops," says Miles Roberts, a wildlife biologist at the National Zoo, in Washington, D.C. "Think of them as little islands of red panda populations without any links to each other."

Because they eat so much bamboo every day—up to 30 percent of their body weight—red pandas need about two square miles of forest for each animal. As their territory butts up against the edges of these habitat "islands," pandas are running out of room—and food. "They can't get out and establish their own home ranges," says Roberts. "They're stuck."

RUNNING ON EMPTY

High in a tree in eastern Nepal, a red panda plans its escape route. The panda is trying to get away from Williams. And it's taking its time. Switching its gaze from Williams, who's watching from the ground, to every avenue of escape, the red panda finally settles on a plan: It quietly bolts down the tree and into the thick underbrush. It took the panda 90 minutes to reach this decision. "These are cautious animals," says Williams. "They want to be 100 percent sure of what they need to do before they do it."

The red panda's slow reaction time is due to its diet. Bamboo doesn't provide red pandas with very much energy. As a result, they can run only in short bursts before becoming tired.

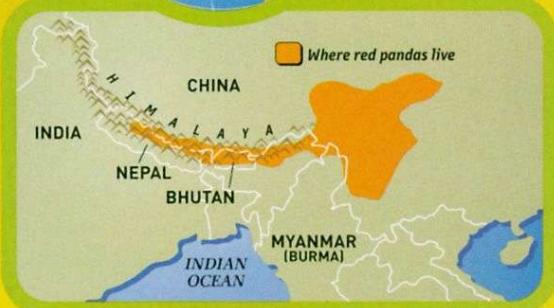
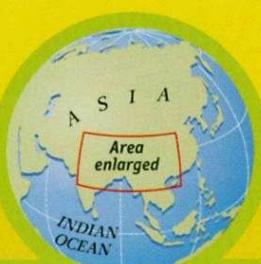
HOPEFUL FUTURE

The red panda's sluggish nature can doom it when facing a predator. With little energy or muscle to fight back, the panda can only hope for an easy escape up a tree. But the red panda is finding fewer places to take cover from a greater number of predators, such as the dogs that watch over cattle herds.

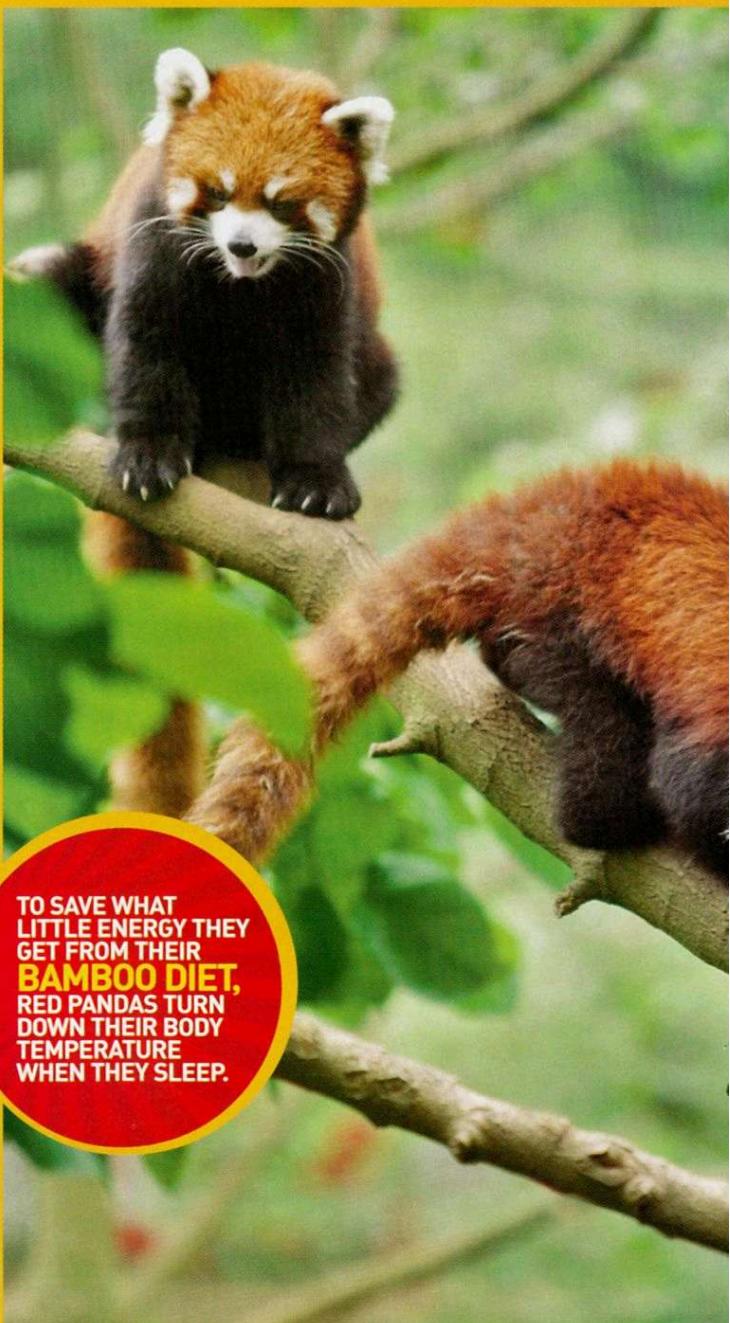
Conservationists are working to change the way people view the animal. Williams founded the Red Panda Network, which hires local "forest guardians" to keep an eye on the pandas, replant bamboo, and spread the word that tourists will spend lots of money to see red pandas in the wild.

Other plans are in motion, including a switch to more modern heating methods so that villages will stop cutting down forests for firewood. Ranchers are learning better ways to raise their cattle, which use less land for grazing. The Red Panda Network is working to create a huge stretch of bamboo forest in which several vulnerable species are making their last stands.

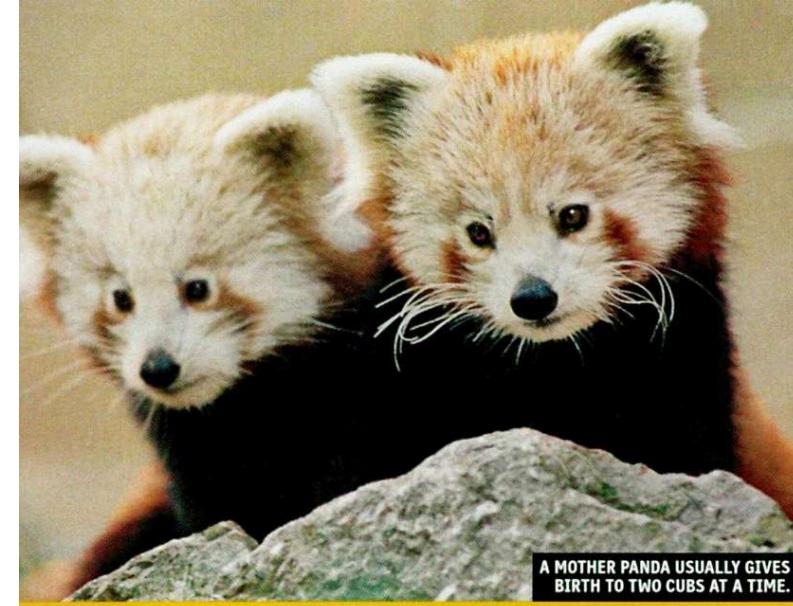
All of these efforts are a good start when it comes to saving the red panda. "The real hope," says Roberts, "is finding ways that people and the animals can live compatibly."



ABOUT 99 PERCENT OF A RED PANDA'S DIET IS BAMBOO.



TO SAVE WHAT LITTLE ENERGY THEY GET FROM THEIR **BAMBOO DIET**, RED PANDAS TURN DOWN THEIR BODY TEMPERATURE WHEN THEY SLEEP.



A MOTHER PANDA USUALLY GIVES BIRTH TO TWO CUBS AT A TIME.

RED PANDAS OCCASIONALLY EAT BIRDS, BUGS, AND EGGS.

Researchers estimate that the red panda's range has shrunk as much as **50 percent** over the past two decades.



RED PANDAS GENERALLY LIVE ALONE EXCEPT WHILE A MOTHER IS RAISING HER YOUNG.

BAMBOO FOR TWO

ALTHOUGH UNRELATED, RED PANDAS AND GIANT PANDAS DO SHARE MORE THAN A NAME.



LIKE THE GIANT PANDA...

Red pandas forage in cool mountain forests, often within a few hundred feet of giant pandas. Many of the animals' similarities developed because of this shared habitat.

Red pandas have a taste for bamboo—particularly the tender shoots and leaves.

Red pandas have a thumb-like digit on their wrists that they use to clutch bamboo stalks.

Red pandas are in trouble. Their numbers are dwindling because of habitat destruction and hunting.

UNLIKE THE GIANT PANDA...

► Red pandas spend most of their time in trees, eating and sleeping. Giant pandas spend more time plodding around on the ground looking for their food.

► Red pandas don't eat the tough bamboo stems. They also supplement their diet with mushrooms, berries, and bugs.

► This digit isn't as flexible as the giant panda's. As a result, the giant panda has a stronger grip.

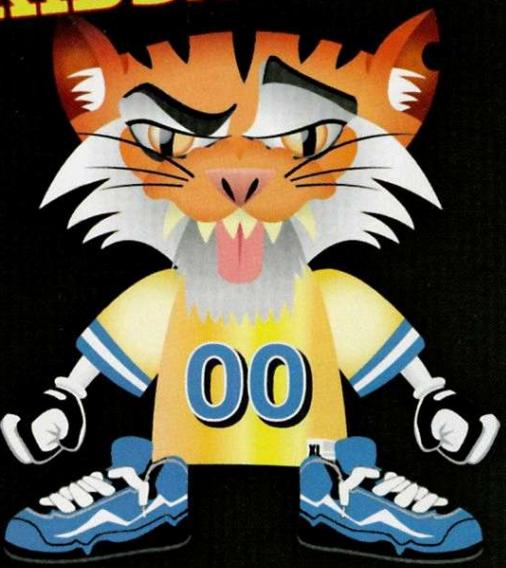
► The red panda's status isn't quite as critical as the giant panda's. But since both species live in some of the same misty mountains, saving habitat for red pandas saves it for giant pandas, too.

A RED PANDA'S INSULATING FUR COVERS EVERY INCH OF ITS BODY—EVEN THE SOLES OF ITS FEET, WHICH IS UNUSUAL AMONG MAMMALS.

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Get 300 Points
Interview with A-Rod

Get 500 Points
Photo of the NBA MVP

ROOM BUILDER ROOMS

SIKIDS.com MASCOT Nation

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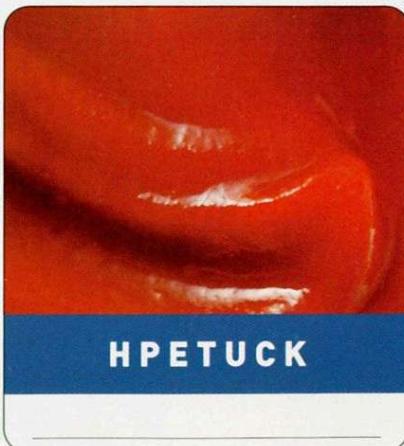
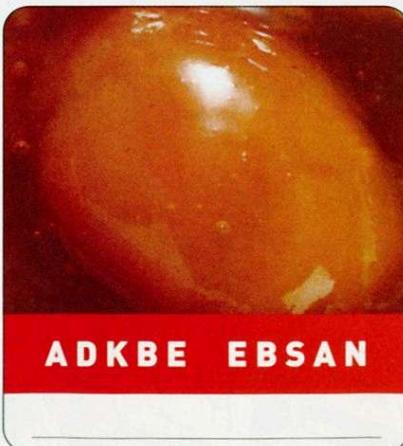
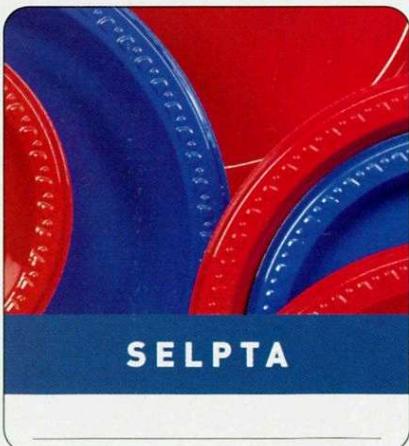
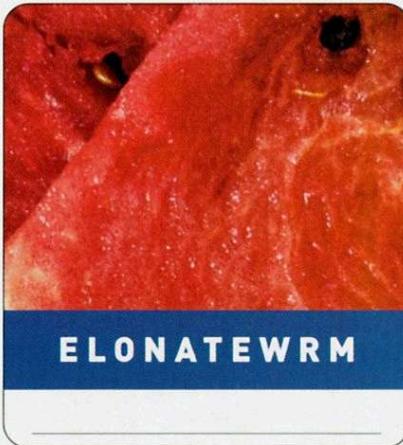
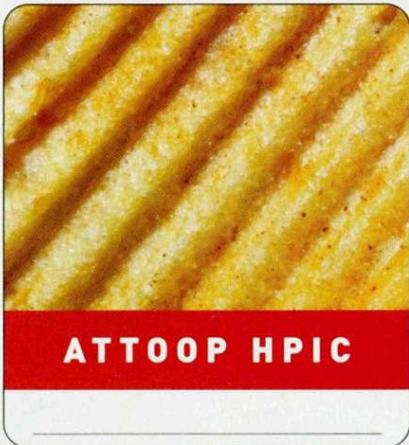
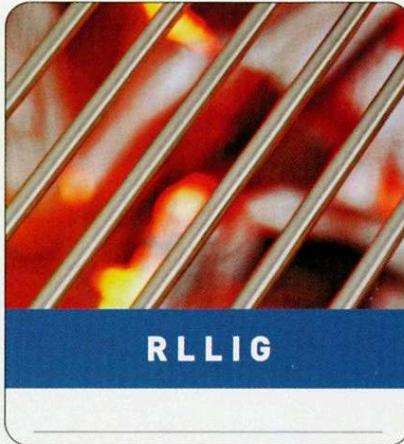
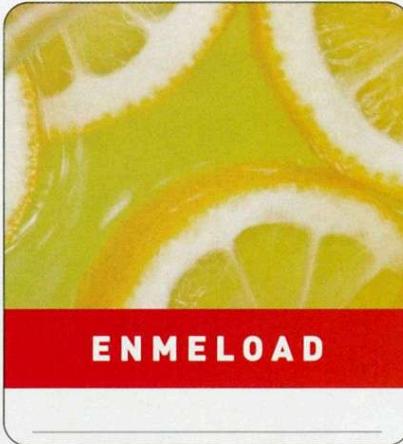
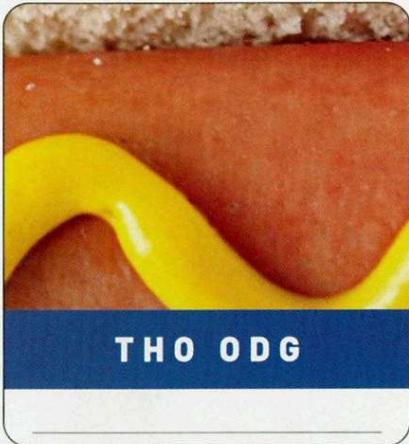
What in the World?

Play interactive "What in the World?" and other games online.
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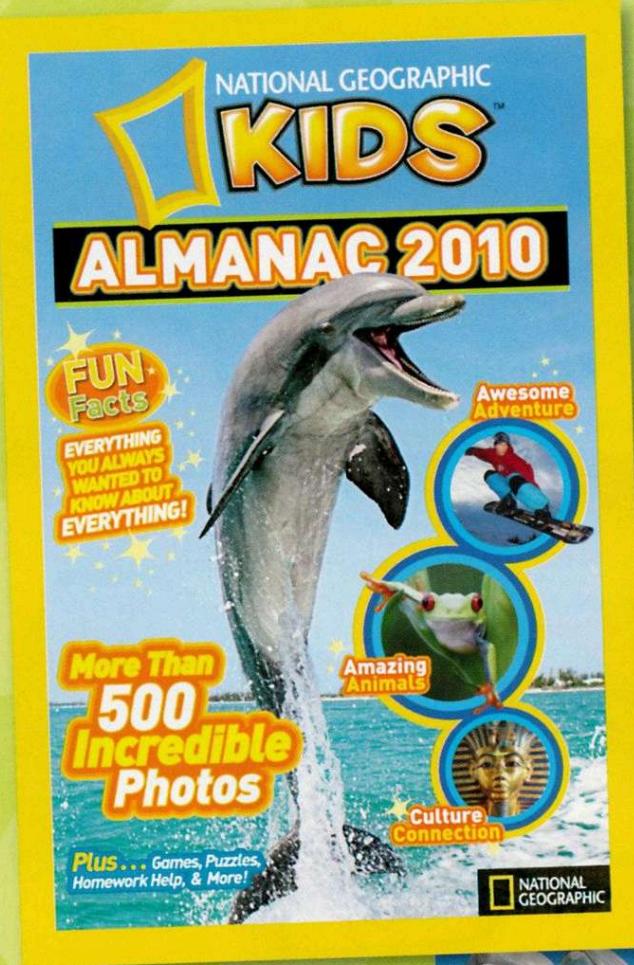
BACKYARD BBQ

These images show items you often see at a summer barbecue. Unscramble the letters to identify what's in each picture. Getting full? **ANSWERS ON PAGE 26**



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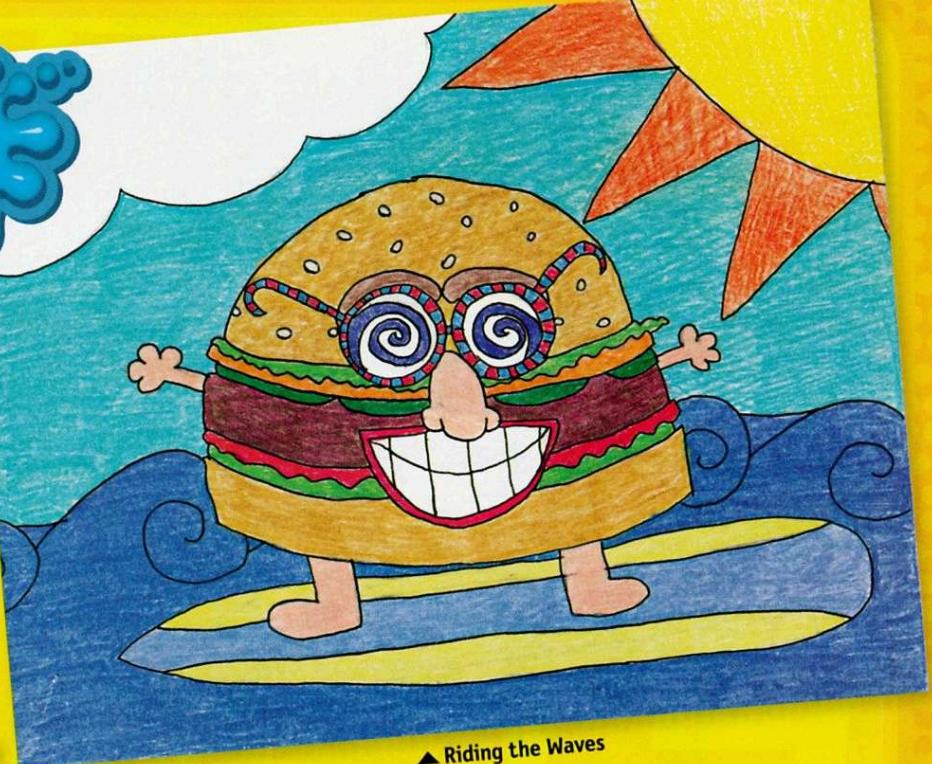
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Art Zone

A REAL MOUTHFUL

You might think twice before biting into one of these, er, *unusual* sandwiches, drawn by NG KIDS readers.

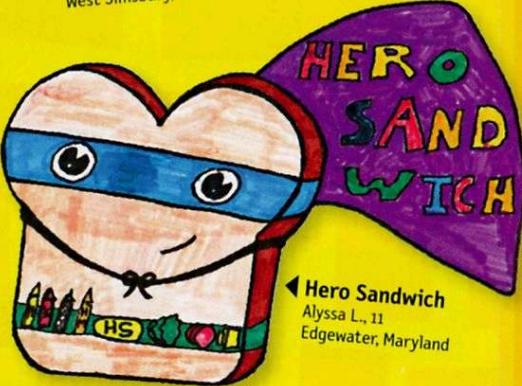
▼ Yummy Bug Sandwich
Ayan C., 8
Plano, Texas



▲ Riding the Waves
Katie M., 12
West Simsbury, Connecticut



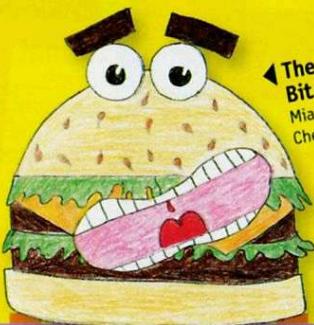
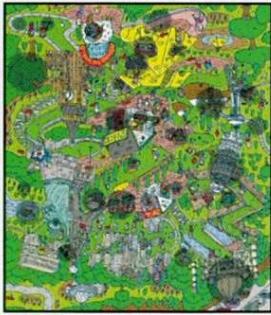
▼ Scary Bites!
Daniela A., 12
Wilson, North Carolina



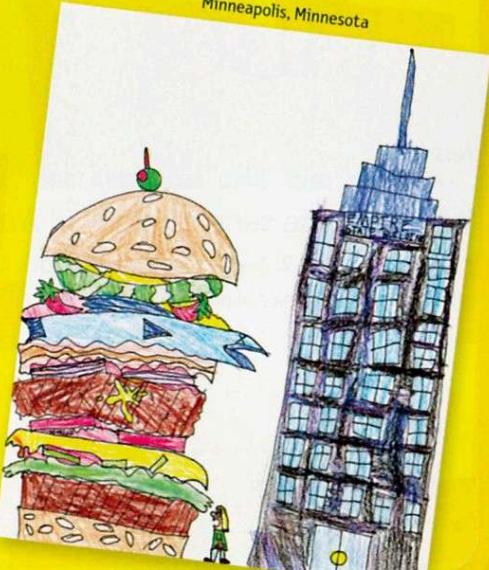
▼ Hero Sandwich
Alyssa L., 11
Edgewater, Maryland

Answers

What's in the Word? (page 24)
1. A-E; 2. E (frog lives in Peru); 3. G (golden eagle was removed from the endangered species list in 2007); 4. B-C; 5. A-C; 6. B-C; 7. A-B; 8. C-D; 9. B
Stamp Your Prints (page 27)
Bottom row: pliers, bared beans, ketchnup
Middle row: potato chip, watermelon, forks,
Top row: hot dog, lemonade, gill.



▼ The Burger That Bites Back!
Mia R., 12
Chevy Chase, Maryland



▼ The Skyscraper Sandwich
Harold C., 9
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Draw a crazy bug.

Send your original drawings to
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Include your name, address, phone number, date of birth, a title for your drawing, a statement that it is your own work, and the name of your parent or guardian. Your parent or guardian must sign a release for publication of your illustration. Submissions become the property of the National Geographic Society, and all rights thereto are transferred to the National Geographic Society. Submissions cannot be acknowledged or returned. Selection will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.



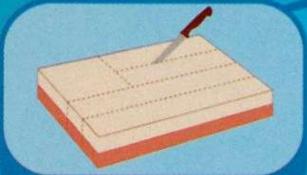
American Flag Cake

Bring this treat to your Fourth of July picnic,
and you'll be a star!



YOU WILL NEED

- STRAWBERRY CAKE MIX
- WHITE CAKE MIX
- INGREDIENTS LISTED ON CAKE MIX BOXES
- ONE POUND OF STRAWBERRIES
- HALF-PINT OF BLUEBERRIES
- 16-OUNCE CAN OF WHITE FROSTING
- TWO 13-INCH-BY-9-INCH CAKE PANS
- FLAT SERVING TRAY



Cut along dotted lines.

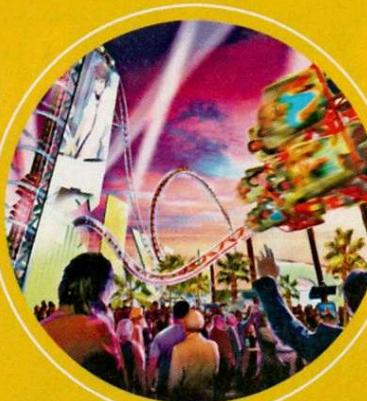
Ask for a parent's help
and permission before
you get started.

WHAT TO DO

1. Following the directions on the cake mix boxes, bake one strawberry cake and one white cake in separate pans.
2. Wash the fruit and slice the strawberries.
3. Cool the cakes completely and remove from the pans. Place them on a flat surface and then stack the white cake on the strawberry cake.
4. Refer to the diagram at left to cut the cake, slicing through both layers. First cut a rectangle from the upper left corner of the cake. Next cut the four long strips. Turn each strip over on its side—now you have stripes! You should have four long stripes and four short ones.
5. Arrange the cake pieces on the tray to look like the photograph. Position one layer of the cutout rectangle in the upper left corner. Place one short red stripe and one short white stripe beside the rectangle. Then place three long stripes, alternating red, white, red.
6. Frost the rectangle and arrange the blueberries. Between each stripe, layer frosting and sliced strawberries. Reposition the pieces, and gently press the stripes together.
7. To make a flagpole, frost the last white stripe and place it on the left side of the cake.
8. Frost the leftover cake and cut it into pieces to serve on the side.

Great Family GETAWAYS

Woo-hoo! Wind blasts in your face as you plunge down a hill and then jerk back up toward the sky. You're tossed around and around, upside-down and back, till you can barely see straight. It's the coolest roller coaster ride ever! What makes it even cooler? When you can talk your whole family into riding. Check out these new-for-2009 rides that will add adventure to any family vacation.



THE RIDE

Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit

THE PARK Universal Studios Florida

WHERE Orlando, Florida

TOP SPEED 65 miles an hour

RIDE TIME 1 minute, 39 seconds

TALLEST POINT 167 feet

BIGGEST DROP 147 feet

COOL STUFF Before you take off, you'll select music to rock out to—from pop to rock to movie themes—as you soar around the track. Your entire ride is videotaped, and you get to edit your rockin' adventure after you're through.



THE RIDE

Manta

THE PARK SeaWorld Orlando

WHERE Orlando, Florida

TOP SPEED 56 miles an hour

RIDE TIME 2 minutes, 35 seconds

TALLEST POINT 140 feet

BIGGEST DROP 113 feet

COOL STUFF Strapped to the belly of the giant manta ray-shaped car, you'll feel like the real sea creature as you fly and dive face-down over the park.

THE RIDE

Diamondback

THE PARK Kings Island

WHERE Kings Island, Ohio

TOP SPEED 80 miles an hour

RIDE TIME 3 minutes

TALLEST POINT 230 feet

BIGGEST DROP 215 feet

COOL STUFF The Diamondback's cars have stadium seating—just like many movie theaters have—so the tall person sitting in front of you won't block your views as you rip around the track and fly down the hills.

THE RIDE

THE RIDE

Prowler

THE PARK Worlds of Fun

WHERE Kansas City, Missouri

TOP SPEED 51 miles an hour

RIDE TIME 2 minutes, 30 seconds

TALLEST POINT 102 feet

BIGGEST DROP 85 feet

COOL STUFF Like a panther, this wooden roller coaster speeds through the park's wooded terrain, stealthily hugging the ground before leaping up above the trees.



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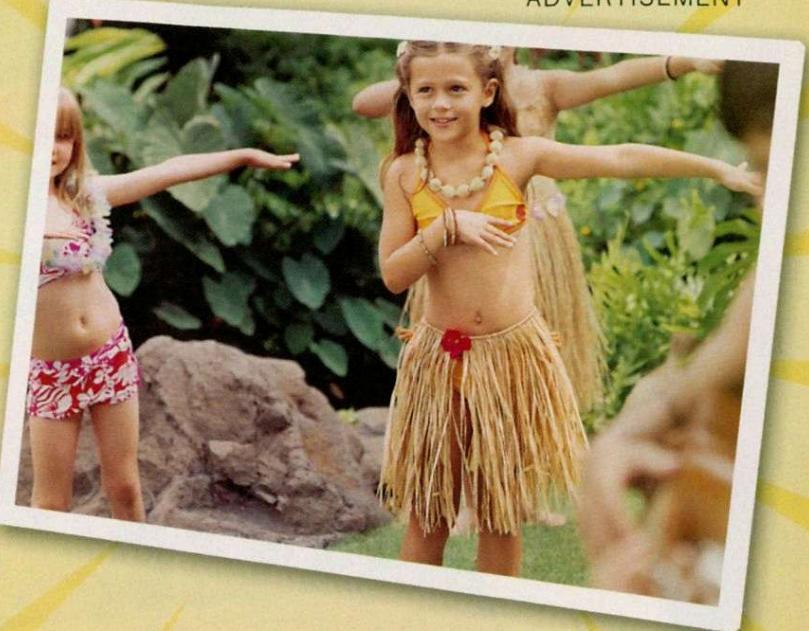
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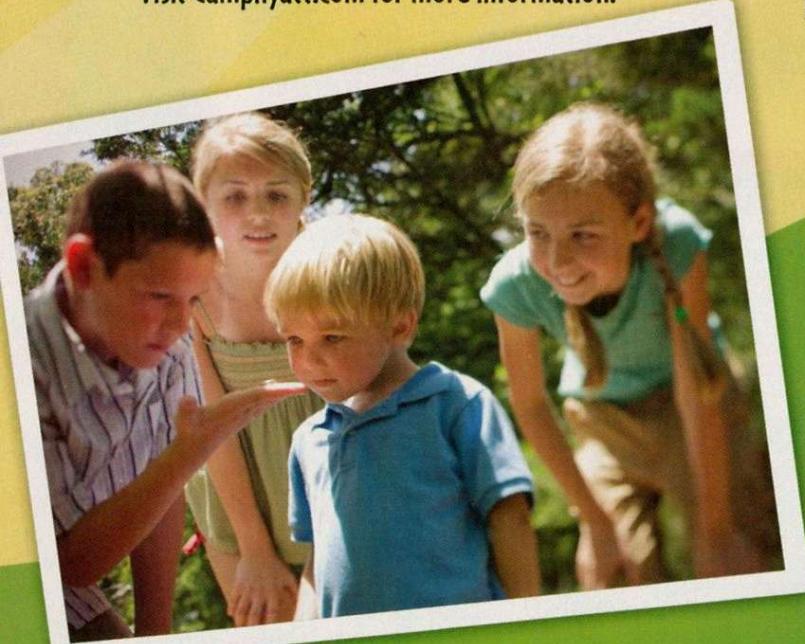
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green scene

BY JILL YAWORSKI

ECO-VACATION AT THE BEACH!

Is your family planning a trip to the beach for some surf, sand, and sun this summer? Have a great time catching waves and doing your part to make your vacation eco-friendly. Here are ideas for easy, small things you can do to make a difference.

BRING BAMBOO.

After splashing around in the water, dry off with a towel made from bamboo. Bamboo is grown without chemical pesticides, which are harmful to the environment.

PLAY SMART.

Next time you buy a shovel or bucket to build a sand castle, make sure your toys are environmentally friendly. These were made from recycled milk jugs.

DON'T FEED THE GULLS.

Yes, that gull is eyeing your sandwich, but don't toss him a piece. Wildlife needs to stay, well, wild in order to stay healthy.



Participate in the next International Coastal Cleanup. Join volunteers in the United States and around the world as they help keep trash out of our oceans.

CLEAN UP THE COASTS.

Join volunteers in the United States and around the world as they help keep trash out of our oceans.



For more about helping the Earth, go online.
preserveourplanet.com

AVOID THE DUNES.

To prevent erosion, use designated paths or walkways to get to the beach. Dunes protect coastal areas from storm waves and are also home to plants and small animals.



DO NOT LITTER.

It takes more than 80 years for a soda can to decompose. Be sure to dispose of your trash in public trash cans and recycling bins, or take it home with you.



DINE WITH CARE.

Litter on the beach can blow into the ocean, where animals can mistake it for food. Use cloth napkins and reusable dishes and cutlery when picnicking at the beach.



LEAVE THE SHELL.

When you pick up a seashell at the beach, you may be disturbing the home of a tiny animal that lives in it. Leave shells where they are.



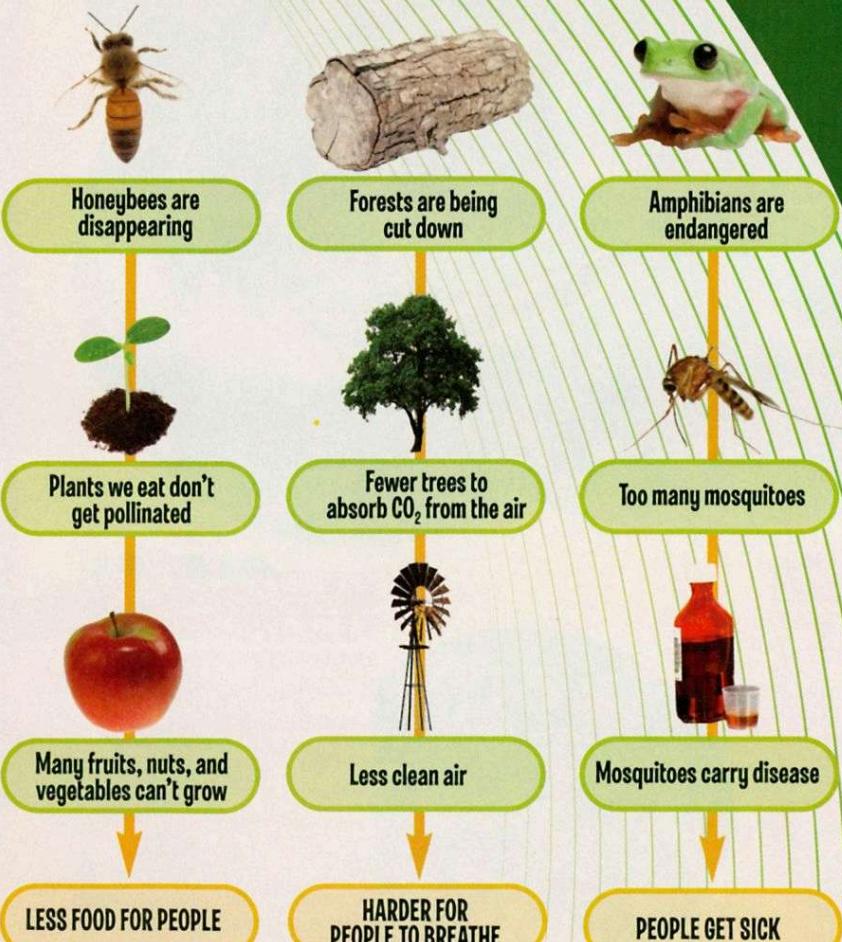
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See the Bigger Picture

A World of Amazing Connections



**Follow the connections
from the species to you.**



Biodiversity is the huge variety and complexity of life on Earth. All the different plants and animals on the planet, including us, are connected in amazing ways. This means that even a small animal has a big part to play in keeping nature in balance—that's the bigger picture.

Right now, biodiversity is being threatened and species lost. But we can preserve biodiversity if we all act wisely. There's still time for us to save endangered plants and animals if we work together to protect the places where they live. We just have to help everyone see the bigger picture.

Joel Sartore Sees the Bigger Picture with his Camera

He's a fantastic National Geographic photographer who travels the world photographing endangered species. Joel's photos help people to understand the problem and to care about protecting biodiversity.



YOU CAN HELP & WIN!



Grab your camera and enter our photo contest for a chance to win a trip to the home of National Geographic in Washington, D.C. Take a photo of what biodiversity means to you, submit your shot, and learn more at

www.seethebiggerpicture.org

Airbus Sees the Bigger Picture in the Sky

Airbus is a company that is fully engaged in continuous improvement of its processes to better protect the environment. They design and build aircraft that are quieter, greener, and cleaner. Together Airbus and National Geographic support the UN backed project, *The Green Wave*, in the world's most far-reaching biodiversity program for families and kids.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. MANY WILL ENTER, FEW WILL WIN. To obtain Official Rules, go to www.seethebiggerpicture.org. Open only to legal residents of the United States (excluding Puerto Rico and Canada (excluding Quebec) ages 6 to 14 as of August 31, 2009). Employees of Sponsor National Geographic Society, Airbus, and related parties are ineligible. Entries must be postmarked by August 31, 2009, and received by September 8, 2009. Limit one entry per person. To enter, take a photograph of what biodiversity means to you. Entry must comply with Entry Requirements described in Official Rules. Two (2) Grand Prize Winners will win a trip to Washington, DC for each Winner and his/her parent or legal guardian. CONTEST IS VOID IN PUERTO RICO, QUEBEC AND WHERE PROHIBITED BY LAW. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received and skill of entrant.

THE GREEN WAVE UNEP One school, one tree, one gift to nature

AIRBUS

WILL ANYONE REMEMBER WHO THE ROTTEN EGG WAS?

FIND OUT.



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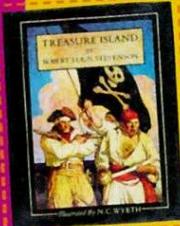
10

FUN Things

Ideas for Family Fun



- 1 Go bowling**—with a catch. Your parents have to switch hands every other roll.



- 2 Pick a classic book** that neither you nor your parents have read—try *Little Women*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, or *Treasure Island*—and read it out loud together.

- 3** Ask everyone in your family to clean out their rooms and closets, then **have a yard sale**. Donate the proceeds to your favorite charity, or take everyone to the movies.



- 4 Cook a family potluck dinner.**

Every person chooses and makes one dish.



- 5** Spread out a blanket in the backyard at night and **tell ghost stories**. Turn out the porch lights to make it extra-spooky.

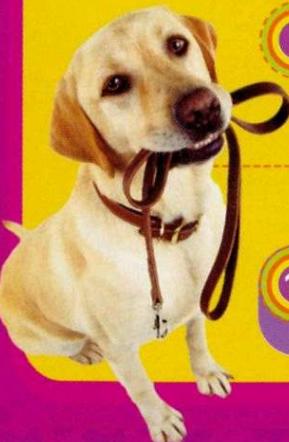
- 6 Organize a themed family photo.** For instance, put on swimsuits and stand in a kiddie pool, or dress like cowboys and take the picture near a wooden fence with horses in the background.



- 7 Make up new rules** for your favorite family board game. For example, if someone lands on a certain space, they have to do ten jumping jacks.

- 8 Split up into teams at the zoo.**

See who can find the most mammals in 30 minutes.



- 9 Volunteer** with your whole family. Visit a nursing home with a well-behaved pet. (Make sure you get permission from the nursing home.) Or just play cards with the residents.

- 10 Time a hike with** your family so you can watch the sunset together at the most beautiful spot on the walk.

HOW BIG IS YOUR BACKYARD?

IT'S BIGGER THAN YOU THINK.



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FIND OUT. 

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Prices good through July 26, 2009.

SPECIAL Family Edition

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4



What kind of accent does *American Idol* judge Simon Cowell have?

- A. Australian; B. British; C. Russian; D. New York

5

Which U.S. Presidents are carved into Mount Rushmore? (Choose all that apply.)

- A. George Washington; B. Barack Obama; C. Abraham Lincoln; D. John F. Kennedy

6

What is the longest amount of time a person has lived in space? A. about 10 years;
B. about 14 months; C. about 3 months; D. Scientists can't be sure. Time doesn't exist in space.



7

Which country lies on the Equator? A. Brazil; B. Canada; C. South Africa; D. Mordor

8

Which mountain has the highest elevation in the world? A. Mount Kilimanjaro; B. Mount St. Helens;
C. Mount Everest; D. Who knows? There's no tape measure long enough to reach the peaks.

9

Which one of these hybrid animals is not real?

- A. zorse (half zebra, half horse);
B. squink (half squirrel, half skunk);
C. liger (half lion, half tiger);
D. Saint Berdoodle (half Saint Bernard, half poodle)



STUMP YOUR PARENTS

BY JONATHAN SCHAFER

If your parents can't answer these questions, maybe *they* should go to school instead of you!

ANSWERS ON PAGE 26

1

Where do the students of East High, the school featured in the *High School Musical* movies, live?

- A. Albuquerque, New Mexico; B. Minneapolis, Minnesota;
C. San Francisco, California; D. the school cafeteria



2

Which of these are common foods in places around the globe? (Choose all that apply.)

- A. frog juice; B. grasshopper tacos; C. yak;
D. fried scorpion; E. all of the above



3

Which animal is not endangered?

- A. giant panda; B. bald eagle;
C. Amur tiger; D. blue whale

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Funny FILL-IN

Fourth of July

BY JILL YAWORSKI

Ask your mom or dad to give you words to fill in the blanks in this story without showing it to him or her. Then read out loud for a laugh.



This year my parents invited all of our _____ relatives and friends over for the Fourth of July. We grilled outside on the _____ and even rented an inflatable _____ for the little kids to jump up and down on. You should have seen the _____ outfits my relatives wore. Everyone was decked out in _____, _____, and blue. Grandma wore a(n) _____ shaped like a bald _____, and _____ dressed up like Uncle Sam. But the funniest part of the day was when _____ pretended to be Founding Father _____. He wore a(n) _____ wig and everything! I laughed so hard that I almost fell off the _____. As the sun went down, fireworks started _____ in the night sky. That's when my father decided to sing "_____" as _____ as possible. He sounded like a(n) _____. All of my relatives _____ for the door faster than you can say _____. I guess this Independence Day really made history.

DAN SIPLE



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

SUPER
TWO-SIDED
ISSUE!

FLIP ME
OVER
FOR
MORE
FUN!

KIDS

DARE TO EXPLORE
kids.nationalgeographic.com

SUPER SUMMER
GIVEAWAY
OVER 10,000
WINNERS!

See insert for details.

SPECIAL Family Edition

10
FUN
THINGS
TO DO
WITH
YOUR
FAMILY



LIKE
A TRIP
TO THE
ZOO!



GREEN
BEACH
VACATIONS



GREAT
FAMILY
GETAWAYS

June / July 2009

NATIONAL
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