

# Opinion: Saving Our Planet Together

By Kevin Quinn, adapted by Newsela staff on 4/5/2016

Many kinds of animals are in big trouble. They are in danger of dying out. They could soon be gone from our planet.

Most animals have very particular needs. To live, they need things to be a certain way. Take polar bears, for example. They need ice and freezing weather found in Antarctica. Unfortunately, the cold weather polar bears need is disappearing. It has been getting hotter all over the world.

## Global Warming

Scientists call this change global warming. Many polar bears live on ice that is now melting fast. In fact, their homes are disappearing.

Many of the animals polar bears hunt are also disappearing. The bears no longer have enough food to eat.

Fish are being hurt by global warming, too. For example, salmon and trout need freezing water to live. They are starting to die off as waters get warmer.

People are responsible for global warming. It is up to us to do something about it.

## Causes of Global Warming

There are two main reasons for global warming. One is all the coal and gas people burn. These fuels are burned when people run their cars or power machines. When fuels are burned, harmful gases are released. Scientists call these greenhouse gases. CO<sub>2</sub> is the main greenhouse gas.

Greenhouse gases stay in the air after they are released. They trap heat from the sun. Over time, that makes the Earth hotter.

There is a second main cause of global warming. People are cutting down too many trees. Scientists call this deforestation. Trees take in CO<sub>2</sub>. When there are fewer trees, there is more CO<sub>2</sub> in the air. Then, it ends up getting hotter.

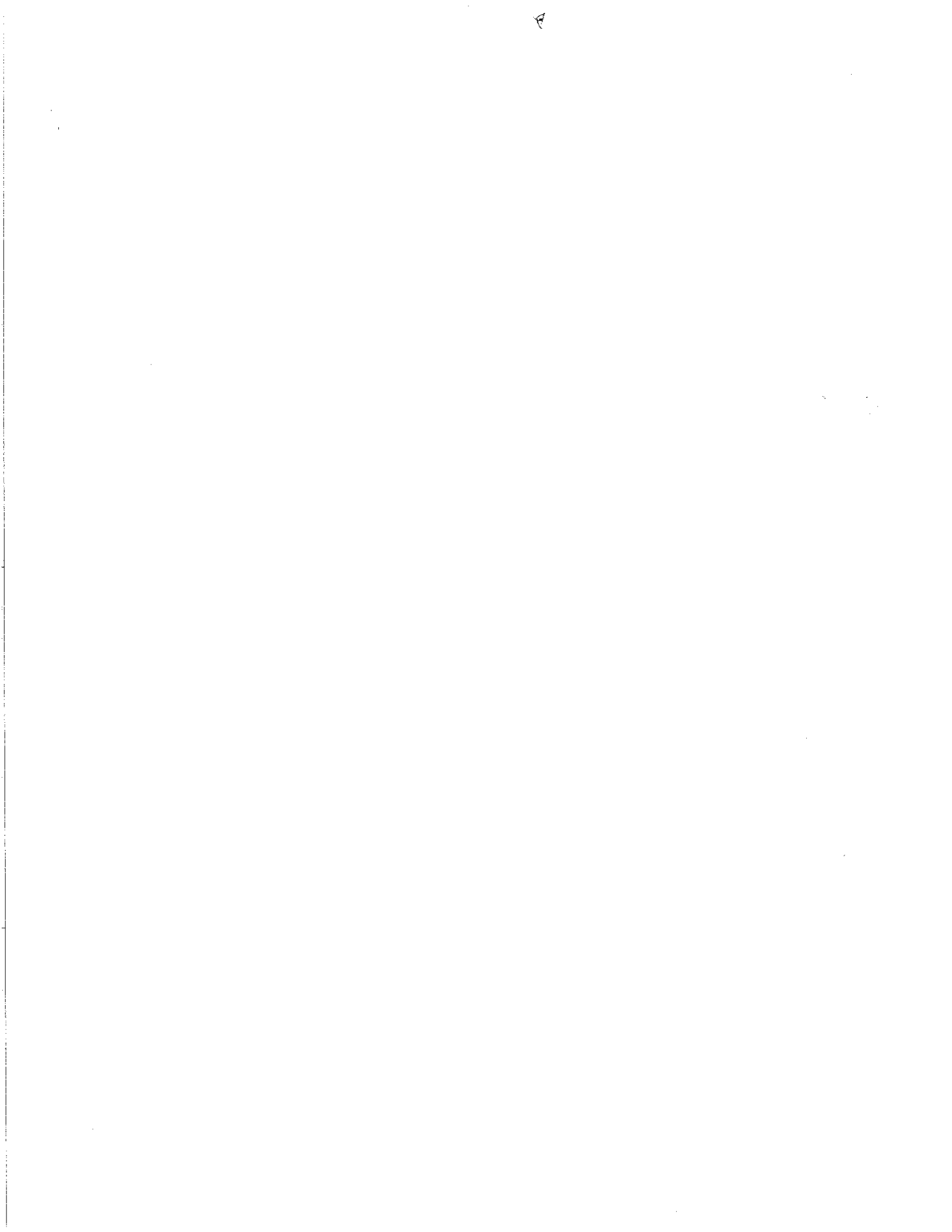
## Big Problems for Everyone

Global warming is not just bad for animals. It is bad for people, too. In many places water is drying up. Soon, it will be hard to grow the food we need.

These are huge problems. It might seem impossible for one person to make a difference. But, there are many small things people can do to help. For example, people can share cars and use buses more often. People can ride bikes or walk whenever possible.

If people do those things, a little less fuel will be burned. Then, a little less greenhouse gas will get released. If everyone pulls together, the planet can be saved.

*Kevin Quinn is an American actor known for his starring role in the Disney Channel original series, "Bunk'd".*



## Earth Day Birthday

By Jody Jenson Shaffer

"I just want a normal birthday party," April told Bailey as they walked home from school. Bailey knew what April meant. April's parents loved the environment. And because April happened to be born on **Earth Day**, all her parties had an Earth Day theme. "Remember when you turned seven?" Bailey said.

"How could I forget the Throw-Out Blowout?" said April.

"We helped out at your garage sale and donated the money to charity. And when you turned eight--"

"It was a Tree Spree," finished April. "We planted maples."

"Last year, we all collected newspapers to recycle," said Bailey.

"The Print Sprint." April groaned.

Bailey giggled. "I thought it was fun."

Later that night, as April loaded the dishwasher, she said, "I'd like to plan my own party this year."

"Sure," said Mom. "We could have a **Compost** Carnival."

"Great idea!" said Dad.

April cleared her throat. "I'd like to go to Maze Craze instead."

"Really?" said Dad, surprised.

"I guess we could do that," said Mom.

April couldn't wait for her birthday! She and her friends would have so much fun. And they wouldn't have to think one bit about the earth.

At school the next day, April told her friends. "I'm having my birthday party at Maze Craze!"

"You are?" said Josie. "But we always do something earthy on your birthday."

"Remember that salamander we found two years ago?" said Tyler.

"Yeah," said April. "This year, we're not even going outside."

"Wow! I thought your birthday would always have something to do with helping the earth," said Tyler.

The following weekend, everyone gathered in the parking lot outside of Maze Craze. "Thanks for coming," said April. "I've been so excited about my party. No shovels. No collecting recyclables. Nothing earthy about it." She shifted her feet. "Then I got here this morning and saw this parking lot."

April's friends glanced around. Plastic bottles bounced across the cement. Newspapers and fast food sacks clogged the storm drain. Shopping bags rustled in the trees.

"Even though I wanted a non-Earth Day birthday, I couldn't have fun knowing this mess was out here. Can we pick up garbage in the parking lot first, then go through the maze?"

"Of course!" said her friends. April's parents grabbed some gloves and trash bags from the trunk of their car.

The kids **fanned** out across the parking lot while their parents watched for traffic. Before long, they had filled three bags with bottles, cans, and paper to recycle.

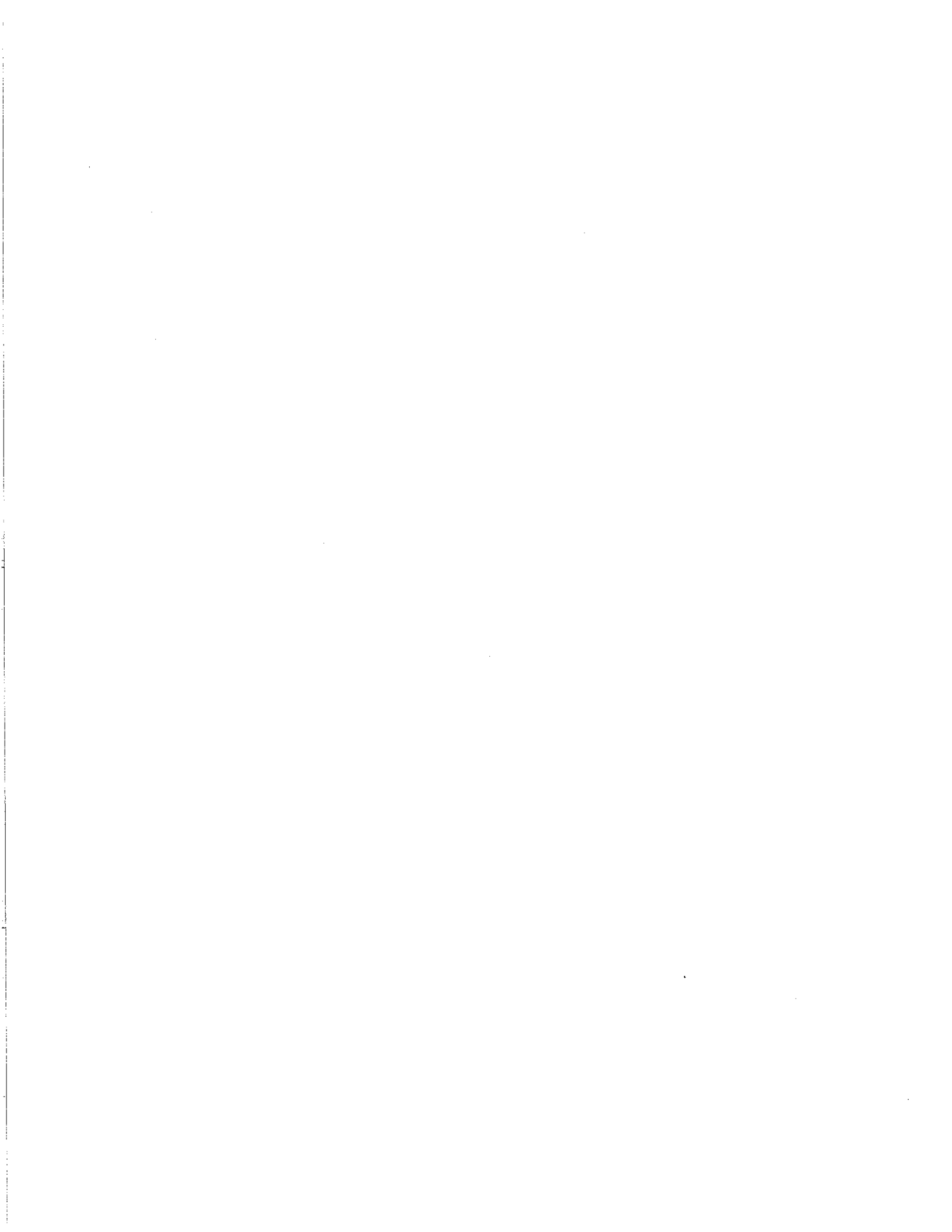
April looked at the bags and smiled. It felt good to do something for the earth. And with everyone pitching in, it didn't take long.

"Happy Earth Day, everyone," said April. "Now I'm ready for Maze Craze."

"Happy Birthday, April!" shouted her friends.

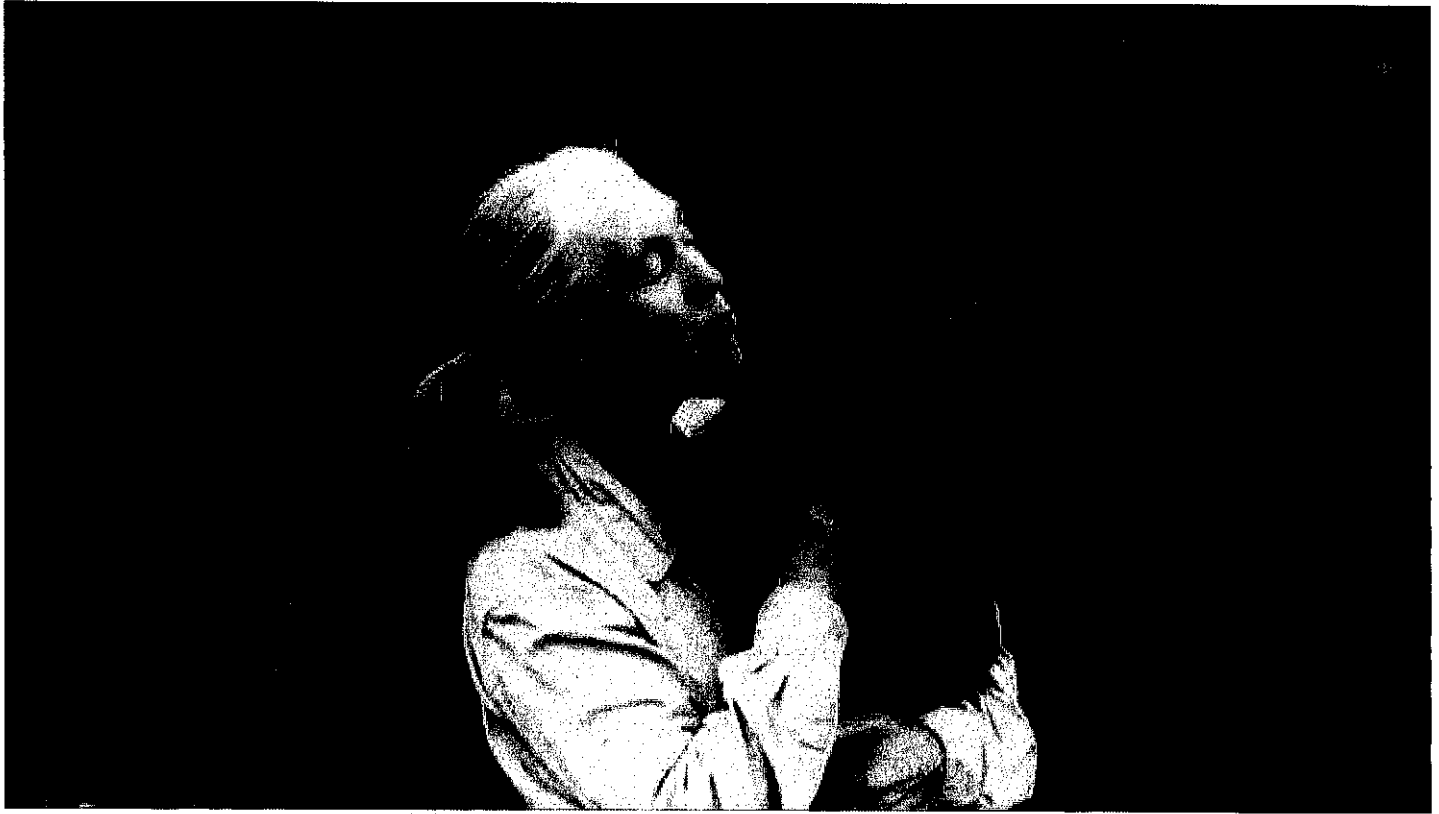
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**Earth Day**-celebrated on April 22 and is a day to show one's support for the protection of the environment  
**compost**-decaying plant material (such as leaves, grass, and vegetable peels) used to help live plants grow



## Inventors and Scientists: Jane Goodall

By: Cynthia Stokes Brown, adapted by Newsela staff on 8/31/2016



Jane Goodall, English primatologist, ethologist, and anthropologist, with a chimpanzee in her arms.

**Summary:** Jane Goodall is a famous chimpanzee researcher. She proved that chimpanzees behave much like humans do.

### Early Life

Jane Goodall was born in 1934 in London. When Jane was one year old, her father gave her a stuffed chimpanzee toy. It was named “Jubilee.” Jubilee was the first chimpanzee ever born at the London Zoo. The toy was a huge influence on her.

Goodall began observing animals early on. When she was 4, she wanted to know how an egg came out of a hen. She hid inside a small henhouse for hours, waiting to see it happen.

As a child, she read *The Story of Dr. Dolittle* by Hugh Lofting. Dolittle is a doctor who travels to Africa and talks to animals. Goodall became interested in Africa. She also read all of the Tarzan books.

Goodall could not afford to go to college. Instead, she went to work. In 1956, a friend invited Goodall to visit her family’s farm. It was in Kenya in Africa. Goodall worked hard as a waitress. It took her five months to save enough money for the trip to Kenya.

## A Meeting with Louis Leakey

In 1957, Goodall moved to Kenya. Goodall contacted Louis Leakey. He was a famous fossil hunter. He worked in Africa. Leakey hired Goodall.

Leakey was looking for someone to study chimpanzees in the wild. He knew Goodall would be perfect. Leakey believed that a woman would be more patient than a man. Also, male chimps might act less **aggressively** to a woman.

In 1960, Goodall moved to a chimpanzee **preserve**. About 150 chimpanzees lived there. It took months for the chimps to get used to her. After a year, most of them allowed her to come within a hundred yards.

## Observing Chimpanzee Culture

Goodall didn't have much training in animal studies. She worked in her own way. Scientists at the time gave chimpanzees numbers. Goodall gave them names. She wanted to understand their personalities. She also gave the animals bananas to attract them. She wanted to get close enough to observe the animals and photograph them.

Goodall soon saw behavior that other scientists had not. She saw chimpanzees using tools. Most scientists thought only humans used tools. But Goodall saw a chimp break off a twig, strip the bark, and put it into a termite mound. When the chimp took out the twig, it was covered with delicious termites. Then the chimp licked them off. Later, scientists found out that some birds and dolphins use tools too.

Chimps were believed to be **vegetarians**. But, Goodall observed them hunting and eating small monkeys.

When Goodall began studying chimps, she believed they were basically good. Now she had seen them fighting. They competed for food, mates, and territory. Like humans, they could feel jealous, angry or scared. They behaved no better than humans.

Still, chimpanzees shared and helped each other. Mothers, children, and siblings bonded. Older chimps adopted younger ones if a mother died.

Some mothers were more caring than others. The babies of these mothers grew up happier and calmer, Goodall found.



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**aggressively**-in an angry and violent way

**preserve**-a place where animals are taken care of and kept safe

**vegetarian**-a person or animal that does not eat meat or fish

## **Messenger of Compassion**

In 1991, a group of 16 teenagers met Goodall at her home in Tanzania. They wanted to talk about what they could do to help the environment and animals. After that meeting, Goodall started Roots and Shoots. It is a global youth program. It has thousands of groups. They work in more than 100 countries.

Jane Goodall still works to save chimpanzees. She runs the Jane Goodall Institute. The institute helps protect chimpanzee habitats.

Retyped from: Inventors and Scientists: Jane Goodall, by Cynthia Stokes Brown, adapted by Newsela staff on 8/31/2016,  
[https://newsela.com/read/bio-inventors-goodall/id/15915/?collection\\_id=2000000156](https://newsela.com/read/bio-inventors-goodall/id/15915/?collection_id=2000000156)





# Earth Day

BY JANE YOLEN

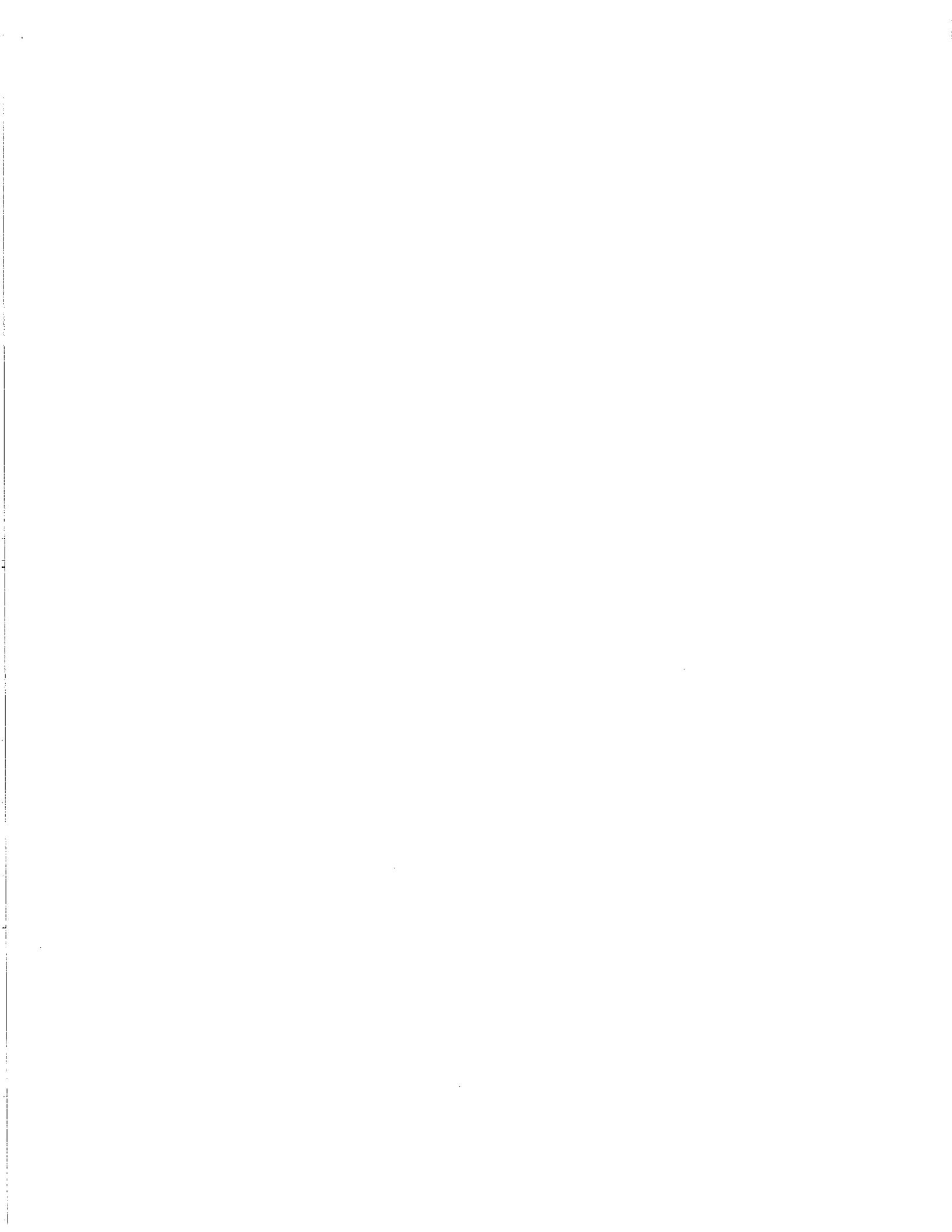
I am the Earth  
And the Earth is me.  
Each blade of grass,  
Each honey tree,  
Each bit of mud,  
And stick and stone  
Is blood and muscle,  
Skin and bone.

And just as I  
Need every bit  
Of me to make  
My body fit,  
So Earth needs  
Grass and stone and tree  
And things that grow here  
Naturally.

That's why we  
Celebrate this day.  
That's why across  
The world we say:  
As long as life,  
As dear, as free,  
I am the Earth  
And the Earth is me.

Jane Yolen, "Earth Day" from *The Three Bears Holiday Rhyme Book*. Copyright © 1995 by Jane Yolen. Reprinted by permission of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Source: *The Three Bears Holiday Rhyme Book* (Houghton Mifflin, 1995)



## Practice Multiple Choice Questions for Module 5 Texts

**DIRECTIONS:** After watching the last shared reading video of the week, students should complete the multiple choice question that accompanies that week's text. Teachers may discuss the multiple choice question during the weekly Meet.

### **May 4-8 Question (Opinion: Saving Our Planet Together)**

**Read the question and circle the correct answer. You can use your text to help you answer the question.**

Which selection from the article states a MAIN idea of the entire article?

- A. Many polar bears live on ice that is now melting away. Many of the animals polar bears hunt are also disappearing.
- B. People are responsible for global warming. It is up to us to do something about it.
- C. When fuels are burned, harmful gases are released. Scientists call these greenhouse gases.
- D. Global warming is not just bad for animals. It is bad for people, too. In many places water is drying up.

### **May 11-15 (Earth Day Birthday)**

**Read the question and circle the correct answer. You can use your text to help you answer the question.**

How do April's friends respond when she tells them that they won't be doing something "earthy" for her birthday?

- A. They are surprised that April isn't having a party with an Earth Day theme.
- B. They are relieved that they won't have to go outside for April's birthday.
- C. They are excited to go to the Maze Craze, rather than having to help the earth.
- D. They are disappointed in April for not wanting to spend time helping the earth.

**May 18-22 (Inventors and Scientists: Jane Goodall)**

**Read the question and circle the correct answer. You can use your text to help you answer the question.**

Which sentence from the article shows how chimpanzees can take good care of each other?

- A. Also, male chimps might act less aggressively toward a woman.
- B. She saw chimpanzees using tools.
- C. They competed for food, mates, and territory.
- D. Older chimps adopted younger ones if a mother died.

**May 26-29 (“Earth Day”)**

**Read the question and circle the correct answer. You can use your text to help you answer the question.**

What does the author compare the Earth to?

- A. A blade of grass
- B. A human
- C. A tree
- D. The world