



April 2006

ZOOM

in on america

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Issue 17

EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY

Get GLOBALLY Involved! - Encourage your science teacher to join GLOBE!

GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) is a worldwide hands-on, primary and secondary school-based education and science program. It is a cooperative effort of schools, led in the United States by a federal interagency program, in partnership with colleges and universities and non-governmental organizations. Internationally, GLOBE is a partnership between the United States and more than a hundred other countries. Over a million primary and secondary students in more than 17,000 schools have taken part in the program! GLOBE increases student awareness of their environment and improves their understanding of science because it involves them in performing real science.



Students at your school can:

- conduct serious research by taking scientifically valid measurements in the fields of atmosphere, hydrology, and soils;
 - report their data through the Internet;
 - create maps and graphs on the free interactive web site to analyze data sets; and
 - collaborate with scientists and other GLOBE students around the world.
- To learn more about GLOBE, visit:
<http://www.globe.gov>

GLOBE in Hungary

Does this sound interesting? Encourage your science teacher to join! Almost 30 Hungarian schools are already participating in GLOBE! Visit the web site of the Hungarian GLOBE network at <http://globe.superweb.hu>, and

- learn how to join;
- read instructions in Hungarian about the research in which your school can participate; and
- view the results and reports other Hungarian GLOBE schools have submitted.

Earth Team Volunteers perform biological sampling as part of water quality testing techniques. Learn more about Earth Team Volunteers at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/volunteers/>
(Photo by Jeff Vanuga, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service)

■ Think Globally, Act Locally

Today, we have to face many environmental challenges. Some of these challenges, like controlling pollution, managing waste, or protecting endangered species, have been in focus for a long time. Some others, like recycling "e-waste" (computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices) are new phenomena. See some examples below what ordinary citizens can do to help.



Schoolchildren in New York City, below, anxiously watch a family of red-tailed hawks that nested on the ledge of a luxury apartment building, above. New Yorkers were outraged when apartment owners decided to have the nest, the birds, and the grate that held the nest removed so the birds could not return. Citizens groups protested vigorously until the building management relented and replaced the grate; the birds quickly returned and rebuilt their nest. (© AP/WWP/Lincoln Karim (above); Richard Drew (below))



Right: A volunteer holds a rescued Australian jungle carpet python to educate children not to adopt exotic animals as pets, during the "Earth Day On The Promenade," in Santa Monica, California. Wildlife smuggling is a high-profit enterprise, third on the contraband list in terms of value, after drugs and arms. Almost 90% of smuggled animals die in transit. (© AP/WWP)



Some 1,500 Los Angeles-area schoolchildren spell out a giant "SOS," with the "O" representing planet Earth and North and South America, during the sixth annual Earth Day Adopt-A-Beach cleanup project. Nearly 6,000 children cleaned up beaches in Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego. (© AP/WWP/Reed Saxon)



A third grader in Laurel, Maryland sorts trash from his lunch into bins for recyclable and non-recyclable materials. To help students become more aware of how much they throw away, trash is weighed every Wednesday to see which classes do the most recycling. (© AP/WWP/Matt Houston)



Cell phones and cell phone batteries await recycling in Tucker, Georgia. In observance of Earth Day 2005 in the United States, environmentalists launched campaigns to increase awareness about recycling cell phones, music players, handheld gaming consoles, and other electronic devices. (© AP/WWP/John Bazemore)



Below: "Critical Mass," the International Earth Day Bicycle Rally is an annual event in Budapest. Here thousands of cyclers cross the Erzsébet Bridge on April 22, 2005. (© AP/WWP)



In the ZOO

The National

Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. is a large, complex, and diverse organization with a multifaceted mission: to celebrate, study, and protect wild animals and their habitats.

Unfortunately, many species on Earth are endangered or close to extinction. Captive breeding provides a means for conserving species that may not survive in the wild. Captive populations for saving species from extinction is an important contribution of zoos to conservation.

The "stars" of the National Zoo are the giant pandas. Mei Xiang (the female) and Tian Tian (the male) are the National Zoo's second pair of giant pandas. Both were born at the China Research and Conservation Center for the Giant Panda in Wolong, China. Their cub, Tai Shan, was born on July 9, 2005. He is Mei Xiang and Tian Tian's first offspring. Meet the pandas and follow their life in reports and pictures at:

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/GiantPandas/MeetPandas/default.cfm>



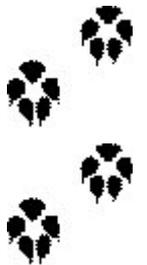
Below: mama panda and her cub 4 months later. (© AP/WWP/National Zoo, Jessie Cohen)

Chief veterinarian of the National Zoo, Dr. Suzan Murray, checks the heart rate of the panda cub, during an exam on August 30, 2005. (© AP/WWP/National Zoo, Jessie Cohen)



Let's play, Mom! (© AP/WWP/Gerald Herbert)

Tumai sits with her four ten-week-old cheetah cubs as they are introduced to the outdoors under her watchful eye at the National Zoo in Washington. (© AP/WWP/Gerald Herbert)



Dundee, bottom, a 1,500 pound manatee, is nuzzled by another manatee at the Cincinnati Zoo. Dundee replaced another manatee that was shipped to Florida to be released into the wild. (© AP/WWP/Al Behrman)



A golden-bellied mangabey in the Budapest Zoo. These monkeys, native to Africa, are among the endangered species of the Earth. (© AP/WWP/MTI, Peter Kollanyi)



Animals sometimes need special help to survive. Dr. Janet Martin, a veterinarian at the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence (RI), holds up

Tipsy the tortoise, to show his rehabilitation platform, resembling a skateboard, which was used to help heal and strengthen an injury in his front left leg. Tipsy, a male radiated tortoise from Madagascar, is on the endangered species list. (© AP/WWP/Stew Milne)

Activity Page

Win a Prize!

To win a prize answer this question:

What is "e-waste"?

Send your answer to zoom@usembassy.hu

Please give your name and address.

Deadline:
May 26, 2006

Good Luck!

■ **Whose Baby?** Can you match the animals with the names of their young ones? Be careful! Two animals here have the same name for their offsprings.



deer



cat



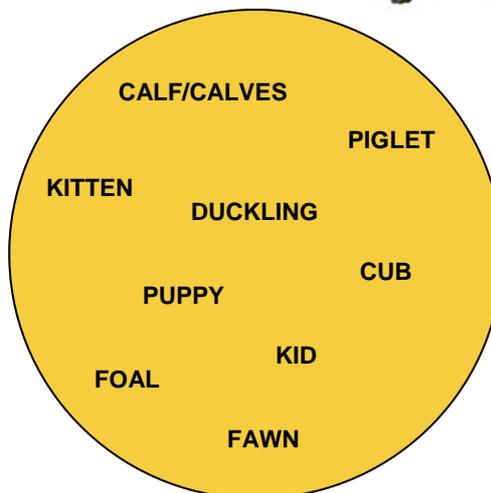
dog



horse



goat



bear



duck

whale



pig



cow

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U.S. Embassy
Public Affairs Section
1054 Budapest
Szabadság tér 12.

Find correct answers at: http://www.usembassy.hu/quiz_key.html

■ **Glossary** — With page numbers where the words appear

- to adopt** - (here) to keep an animal at home (2)
- awareness** - knowing or realizing; consciousness (1)
- breeding** - keeping animals for the purpose of producing and developing young in controlled conditions (3)
- captive** - not allowed to move about freely; confined (3)
- to conduct** - (here) to do; to perform (1)
- contraband** - goods which it is unlawful to bring into or send out of a country (2)
- cub** - the young of wild animals such as the lion, bear, etc. (3)
- grate** - frame or bars (2)
- habitat** - the natural home of a plant or animal (3)
- to launch** - (here) to cause (an activity, plan, etc.) to begin (2)
- ledge** - a narrow flat shelf, especially one on the edge of an upright object (2)
- mission** - (here) a special task, duty, or function (3)
- native to** - growing, living, found, etc. in a place (3)
- to nuzzle** - to rub, touch, or push with the nose (3)
- offspring** - the young of an animal (3)
- to be outraged** - to be offended greatly; to be angry (2)
- phenomenon** (plural: phenomena) - a fact or event in nature or society (2)
- to relent** - to have or show pity; to become less severe, stern, or stubborn (2)
- vigorously** - strongly, forcefully (2)
- watchful** - careful to notice things (3)