TIME for Kids is committed to supporting educators around the world during this time. We’ve made all our content available and will provide these resources on a weekly basis through the end of the school year. Please share with fellow educators!

Counting Penguins

In the Magazine
The following articles are in the print edition of the magazine. We’ve included discussion questions you can post or assign to students as they read. You can use either the magazine’s PDF version or its e-reader version. The links will take you to online versions of the articles at timeforkids.com.

“Change in the Air” (p. 2) Many countries around the world have asked people to stay home to slow the spread of COVID-19. This is having a big but temporary effect on air pollution.

Discussion Questions
• How is COVID-19 having an effect on the environment? Explain.
• Is this likely to be a long-term effect? Why or why not?

“Penguin Census” (pp. 4–5) Climate change is making a huge impact on Antarctica. Scientists are counting chinstrap penguins there to try to understand global warming's effect on the oceans and on the rest of the environment.

Discussion Questions
• What are scientists trying to learn by counting penguins?
• Steve Forrest says “It's miserable, it's cold, but we love it.” Explain why taking the penguin census is miserable, and why he loves it.
• How can technology be used to help scientists with the census?

Cover Quiz
• This downloadable quiz will assess students’ knowledge of the cover story, “Penguin Census.” It can be sent to students.
• Click here to make a copy of a Google Forms cover quiz that you can add to your Google Classroom account.
• Use this Distractor Guide to see the answer key and analyze student misconceptions with our distractor analysis.

Resources
• This downloadable worksheet asks students to develop a drone app that will help scientists count penguins in Antarctica.

“Rising Water” (p. 6) Can the Netherlands teach the world how to deal with rising seas?

Discussion Questions
• Why has the Netherlands developed strategies for dealing with water? What solutions has the country come up with?
• Which solution or solutions are most practical for other countries to adopt? Explain.
In the Magazine (cont’d)

“Debate: Should Cars Be Banned in Cities?” (p. 7) Some cities have restricted the use of automobiles to address heavy traffic and air pollution. Should more cities ban cars? Here, four TIME for Kids readers share their opinion.

Discussion Questions
• An argument for banning cars is that it would help the environment. How do Juliet and Lena respond to that argument?
• Paris and New York have enacted some type of car ban. Do you support either city’s choice? Explain.

“Kid Heroes for the Planet” (pp. 8–9) Many people, including kids, are passionate about protecting the Earth and its inhabitants every day. TIME for Kids spoke with a few of them.

Discussion Questions
• What cause is each child working for?
• What inspired each kid hero to take action?

“Building Green” (pp. 10–11) Dr. Aboubacar Kampo realized plastic is a major environmental issue in Côte d’Ivoire. He and UNICEF are turning recycled plastic trash into classrooms.

Discussion Questions
• Where are the plastic bricks currently being produced? Where are they being used?
• According to the first section of the text, what two problems does Conceptos Plásticos help solve?
• Explain the process for making a school from recycled plastic. Use the photos on page 11 to support your answer.

Resources
• This extension activity teaches students how to make recycled paper and asks them to reflect on the process.

“Forest Life” (pp. 12–13) Tropical ecologist Daniel Nepstad takes us on a tour of the Amazon rain forest.

Discussion Questions
• What is one unique thing about each of the species that are represented in the photographs?
• The word part eco- refers to a habitat or environment. Based on this, what does an ecologist likely do?
• What is deforestation? What are some causes of this in the Amazon?

Resources
• This downloadable worksheet gives students a template to create their own photo essay about a topic of their choice.

“City of Trees” (p. 14) The Urban Forest project plants trees to help cities in Pakistan stay cool. Shahzad Qureshi is the group’s founder.

Discussion Questions
• What details from the text provide evidence of the benefit of trees?
• What led to the creation of Urban Forest?
In the Magazine (cont’d)

“Eight Questions for the Irwins” (p. 15) Bindi and Robert Irwin are the children of conservationist and Australia Zoo personality Steve Irwin. Their reality-TV show, Crikey! It’s the Irwins, teaches people to care about wildlife. They spoke with TFK Kid Reporter Priscilla L. Ho.

Discussion Questions
• According to Robert, why is it important to protect all animals? How does he suggest kids can help?
• What is the difference between a sanctuary and a zoo?

“Back to Nature” (p. 16) The IMAX documentary Into America’s Wild highlights the natural beauty of the United States. It follows a long-distance hiker, a former astronaut, and a pilot.

Discussion Questions
• According to Ariel Tweto, what happens when kids spend time outdoors?
• What are some places featured in the documentary?

“An Exciting Expedition” (p. 16) In the graphic novel Journey Under the Arctic, aquanaut and conservationist Fabien Cousteau sets off on an adventure with junior explorers Rocco and Olivia. TFK Kid Reporter Henry Carroll talks to Cousteau to learn more about the book.

Discussion Questions
• What is an oceanographer?
• What do Ariel Tweto (from the article “Back to Nature”) and Fabien Cousteau agree on?

Additional Resources

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