



— THE — WILD WORLD HANDBOOK

How Adventurers, Artists,
Scientists—and You—Can Protect
Earth's Habitats

EDUCATORS' GUIDE

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Common Core Connections

The Wild World Handbook is an inspiring guide for the next generation of climate activists, conservationists, and nature lovers. In addition to the real-life tales of adventure, breathtaking illustrations, practical tools, and hands-on DIYs found in the book itself, this educators' guide contains activities aligned to the Common Core for grades 3–7. For more information on specific standards, visit the Common Core website at www.corestandards.org.



PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

Meet the Text

Previewing a text helps students understand the informational purpose of the book. *The Wild World Handbook* is a nonfiction book. Its key characteristics include a table of contents, title pages, headers and sub-headers, illustrations and diagrams, lists, maps, a bibliography, and an index. Ask students to find an example of each nonfiction feature, and then compare and contrast the format of *The Wild World Handbook* with that of a fiction book.

Pre-Read Q&A

There are seven sections in each chapter of *The Wild World Handbook*. Each one focuses on a different topic. Have students read each chapter name aloud and take a poll on which one they want to learn about the most. Then browse each section of the winning chapter to become familiar with the topics. Ask questions like: What do the following words and phrases mean: Biography, Natural Wonder, Field Trip, Environmental Success, DIY, Biography, Stewardship? How does each chapter header give you a hint as to what it covers? Which one do you think will be the most informative? Why do you think the author set up the book like this? What topic are you most excited to learn more about?

Climate Champions

Every chapter of *The Wild World Handbook* features biographies of two climate champions. Have students choose one to research. Then have them find ten fun facts about their person to share and discuss with the class.

Heal the World

The Wild World Handbook introduces readers to the wonder of the natural world around us and teaches how, as the threat of climate change grows, it's important to show appreciation for our planet by taking action. Ask students to come up with a list of ways people destroy nature, and then come up with ways they can take care of Earth and help it flourish.

Wildly Creative

Have students skim *The Wild World Handbook* to find a specific topic from the book that interests them. Then invite them to produce a creative work featuring their topic. They can choose a person, an event, a phenomenon, or a location. Instruct them to use prior knowledge as well as outside research sources to come up with informative and engaging ways to share their findings with the class. Creative works can include posters, travel brochures, short films, podcasts, TikToks, or another medium students feel will best convey their topics.

PRE-READING COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS

The Pre-Reading Activities Address the following Common Core State Standards:

WRITING:

Text Types and Purposes

Grade 3 – W.3.1-3d

Grade 4 – W.4.1-3e

Grade 5 – W.5.1-3e

Grade 6 – W.6.1-3.e

Grade 7 – W.7.1-1c, 2-2d, 3-3e

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Grade 3 – W.3.7-8

Grade 4 – W.4.7-9b

Grade 5 – W.5.7-9b

Grade 6 – W.6.7-9

Grade 7 – W.7.7-9a

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Comprehension and Collaboration

Grade 3 – SL.3.1-3

Grade 4 – SL.4.1-2

Grade 5 – SL.5.1-1d

Grade 6 – SL.6.1-2

Grade 7 – SL.7.1

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Grade 3 – SL.3.4-6

Grade 4 – SL.4.4-6

Grade 5 – SL.5.4-5

Grade 6 – SL.6.4-5

Grade 7 – SL.7.4-5



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1.

Why do you think it is important to learn about Earth's habitats?

2.

List nine natural wonders featured in *The Wild World Handbook*. Which one would you most like to visit? Why?

3.

If you could spend the day with one of the people featured in *The Wild World Handbook* whom would you choose to spend it with? Why? Name three things you would like to do or learn more about from them.

4.

What is climate change? Why should we care about it?

5.

Compare and contrast at least two habitats featured in *The Wild World Handbook*.

6.

After you have finished at least one activity or DIY from *The Wild World Handbook*, share your thoughts on how it turned out. Talk about any materials involved, how you completed it, what you learned along the way, and what, if anything, you could have done differently.

7.

What are some ways people enjoy nature? What are some ways they destroy it? Use examples from *The Wild World Handbook* to support your thoughts.

8.

Using specific information you learned from *The Wild World Handbook*, explain why you think it is important for people to care about Earth.

9.

List at least three characteristics or fun facts about the following habitats: Mountains, Forests, Deserts, Polar Lands, Ocean, Freshwater, Cities, Rainforests, and Grasslands.

10.

Discuss ways that you can connect with nature in your daily life. How can you help others make caring about Earth a priority in their lives?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS

The Discussion Questions address the following Common Core State Standards for **Reading Informational Texts**.

Key Ideas and Details

Grade 3 – RI.3.1-3

Grade 4 – RI.4.1-3

Grade 5 – RI.5.1-3

Grade 6 – RI.6.1-3

Grade 7 – RI.7.1-3

Craft and Structure

Grade 3 – RI.3.4-6

Grade 4 – RI.4.4-6

Grade 5 – RI.5.4-6

Grade 6 – RI.6.4-6

Grade 7 – RI.7.6

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Grade 3 – RI.3.7

Grade 4 – RI.4.7

Grade 5 – RI.5.7, 9

Range of Reading Level of Text Complexity

Grade 3 – RI.3.10

Grade 4 – RI.4.10

Grade 5 – RI.5.10



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Beautiful Words for a Beautiful World

Each biography in *The Wild World Handbook* begins with a quote from its subject. Read them all together as a class. Then have your students each choose one to study further. Ask them to write the quote on a piece of paper and decorate it with images, words, and phrases that relate to it. Then, have them write a paragraph about its meaning and how it pertains to nature. Finally, have students share the quotes and meanings with the class.

Adventure Awaits

Have your class travel around the world by creating travel brochures. Ask students choose a place featured in *The Wild World Handbook* and research it using the book and links from pages 224–25. Then invite them to create a travel brochure advertising the place they researched. Their brochures should include facts, pictures, and blurbs enticing people to visit. After everyone is finished hold a travel exhibition with the students acting as travel agents promoting their locations as possible vacation spots.

Save the Earth

The Wild World Handbook shows why it's important for us to learn about the dangers the natural world faces.

Ask students to create a poster depicting specific ways that people cause harm to Earth and things they can do to help protect our world's habitats. Invite students to share their posters with the class before you hang them around your room or in the hallway for the whole school to see and become inspired.

Shoebox Habitats

Divide students into groups and assign each group a different habitat featured in *The Wild World Handbook*. Ask them to go back through the book to pick out the important characteristics, natural wonders, and special features that make their habitat unique. After they have collected all of their information, have each group make a shoebox diorama depicting their habitat. Have each group present their findings to the class.

Fascinating Facts

There are interesting facts found on nearly every page of *The Wild World Handbook*. Ask your students to find at least ten facts that they learned from this book and write each one down on its own index card or Post-it. Then have students take turns reading their facts aloud. Encourage students to debate which facts are the most fascinating and vote on the top three.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS

The Extension Activities address the following Common Core State Standards:

WRITING:

Text Types and Purposes

Grade 3 – W.3.1-3d
Grade 4 – W.4.1-3e
Grade 5 – W.5.1-3e
Grade 6 – W.6.1-3e
Grade 7 – W.7.1-1c, 2-2d, 3-3e

Production and Distribution of Writing

Grade 3 – W.3.4-6
Grade 4 – W.4.4-6
Grade 5 – W.5.4-6

Grade 6 – W.6.4-5

Grade 7 – W.7.4-6

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Grade 3 – W.3.7-8
Grade 4 – W.4.7-9b
Grade 5 – W.5.7-9b
Grade 6 – W.6.7-9
Grade 7 – W.7.7-9a

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Comprehension and Collaboration

Grade 3 – SL.3.1-3

Grade 4 – SL.4.1-2

Grade 5 – SL.5.1-1d

Grade 6 – SL.6.1-2

Grade 7 – SL.7.1

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Grade 3 – SL.3.4-6
Grade 4 – SL.4.4-6
Grade 5 – SL.5.4-5
Grade 6 – SL.6.4-5

BACKYARD SCAVENGER HUNT

Go outside into your natural habitat and look all around you. Mark off as many of the items on the list below as you can find.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> <u>bird</u> | <input type="radio"/> <u>litter or trash</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> <u>branch or stick</u> | <input type="radio"/> <u>moss</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> <u>cloud</u> | <input type="radio"/> <u>mushroom</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> <u>crawling insect</u> | <input type="radio"/> <u>puddle</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> <u>dandelion</u> | <input type="radio"/> <u>rock</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> <u>dirt</u> | <input type="radio"/> <u>seed</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> <u>flower</u> | <input type="radio"/> <u>spider</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> <u>flying insect</u> | <input type="radio"/> <u>spider web</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> <u>grass</u> | <input type="radio"/> <u>tree stump</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> <u>leaf</u> | <input type="radio"/> <u>worm</u> |

WILD AND WONDERFUL VOCABULARY

The *Wild World Handbook* is full of magnificent and amazing vocabulary. Look at these sentences from the book. Use what you've learned from the book and the other words in the sentences to help you understand the meaning of the underlined words. Then write the meanings of all the underlined words in the space provided.

1. People sometimes disagree on the definition of a mountain, but most geologists define a mountain as a landform that's at least 1,000 feet above the land that surrounds it.

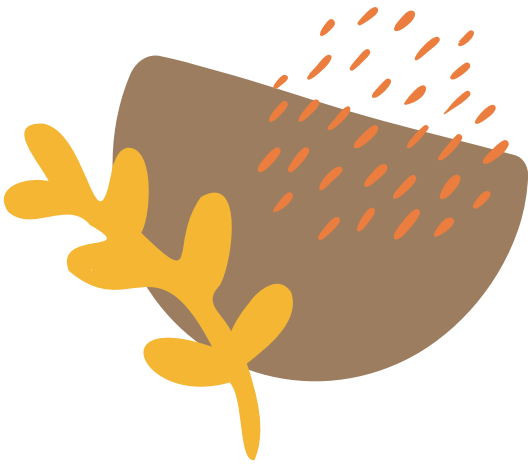
4. The drought prevents invasive grasses from growing, and then the rain washes away the seeds' protective coatings, making it possible for the seeds to germinate.

2. There are two species and five subspecies of gorillas in Africa, and all of them are endangered.

5. More than 4 million people live in the Arctic, including Indigenous people whose ancestors have inhabited the land for centuries.

3. By absorbing carbon dioxide, trees play an important part in reducing harmful greenhouse gases that cause climate change—which is why it's so important that we protect the trees we have and plant new ones.





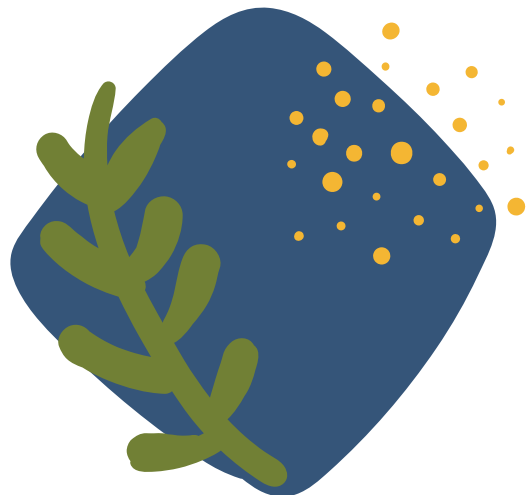
6. The Arctic Ocean is the world's smallest and shallowest ocean, but its cold, turbulent waters are full of life, from nearly invisible plankton to whales, seas, and more than 200 species of fish!

7. Ice can contain fossils and fossilized particles like pollen or dust that can reveal information about past plant life or wildfires.

8. Aquatic plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen into water, creating healthy environments for fish.

9. One of the major effects of climate change is that ancient glaciers are melting, raising water levels worldwide and flooding coastlines.

10. A vacant urban lot might not be much to look at, but it can contain as many as 50 species. That's a lot of biodiversity!



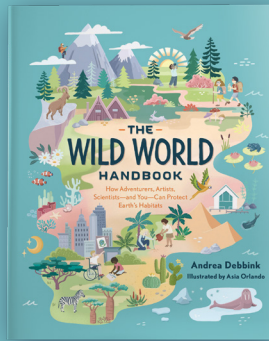
TOTALLY TRUE OR FACTUALLY FALSE?

Circle whether you think the sentence is true or false. Check your answers at the bottom of the page.

1. True or False. A wolverine looks like a cross between a wolf and a bear, but it's the biggest member of the lynx family.
2. True or False. Some animals that currently live in deserts are American bison, prairie dogs, pronghorns, burrowing owls, and white-tailed jackrabbits.
3. True or False. There are three trillion trees on Earth.
4. True or False. The four main types of deserts are hot and dry, semiarid, coastal, and cold.
5. True or False. The North Pole is colder than the South Pole.
6. True or False. There is currently a hole in the ozone layer that grows steadily every year.
7. True or False. Coral reefs provide food and shelter for 30 percent of all ocean life.
8. True or False. From space, the Earth glows like a blue jewel because all you can see is the sky.
9. True or False. The four layers of the rainforest, from top to bottom are: emergent, canopy, understory, and forest floor.
10. True or False. The Serengeti plains of Tanzania are some of the most famous forests in the world.



1. True; 2. False; 3. True; 4. True; 5. False; 6. False; 7. True; 8. True; 9. False; 10. True



ABOUT THE BOOK

*The Wild World Handbook:
How Adventurers, Artists, Scientists—
and You—Can Protect Earth's Habitats*
Written by Andrea Debbink
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Paperback ISBN: 978-1-68369-246-1

The wonder of the natural world surrounds us—from the Amazon rainforest to the snowy peaks of Mount Everest to the green spaces in big cities. And as the threat of climate change grows, it's more important than ever to show appreciation for our planet by taking action.

The first book in a middle grade series for young environmental activists and nature lovers, *The Wild World Handbook* offers a roadmap for change and an invitation to explore the outdoors, alongside surprising facts and hands-on activities. Featuring nine habitats from around the globe, each section includes diverse biographies of outdoor adventurers, scientists, and artists who used their passion and skills to become bold allies for Earth's natural diversity and resiliency.

ANDREA DEBBINK is the author of several books for kids and a former editor at *American Girl* magazine. Her favorite way to explore our wild world is hiking a trail or kayaking a river. She lives and writes in Madison, Wisconsin, and you can learn more about her at AndreaDebbink.com.

ASIA ORLANDO is an illustrator and digital artist based in Amsterdam. She is the founder of #OurPlanetWeek, an illustration movement aimed at promoting environmental awareness.

