

MARCH 1990

The Earth-based Magazine for Kids

**YOU ARE
HERE**

ZERO-G SYON CO.



RAIN FORESTS



RAINBOWS



DELICIOUS SNACKS



SINGING SEA-LIFE



FUN AND GAMES



WILD HISTORY





THE GROWN-UP ZONE

MARCH 1990

Dear Grown-Ups,

Welcome to **P3**, The Earth-based Magazine for Kids and thanks for joining the **P3** Team! Together we can make every issue of **P3** more effective, more empowering and more fun for children. Together we can work to insure a cleaner, healthier future. Together we can make a difference.

This issue opens with a salute to the 1990s — a new decade, a new way of thinking about Earth. Our cover story tells readers all about the Earth-positive **Spirit of the '90s**. You can bring the Spirit of the '90s into your classroom or your home. Teachers can create a Spirit of the '90s bulletin board that shows what the class is doing for the environment. At home, call a family meeting. Let everyone decide together on new eco-strategies for garbage disposal and energy consumption.

Our current energy consumption is the focus of three features about oil spills and their effects. When readers learn how many products they use contain oil, they'll be surprised. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss different ways we can all cut back on oil.

Action-Packed America introduces readers to a man who saves birds after oil spills. **Ranger of the Month** profiles a career ranger whose work is helping to save the Everglades. These are the first of many hands-on profiles of men and women who work every day to preserve and protect our home planet. This is **P3**'s way of showing children the exciting variety of environmental professions — careers that require skill, intelligence, courage and perseverance.

You'll find a lot of elephants in this issue. That's because elephants are in a lot of trouble. Children love elephants. These features teach them elephant history, habitats and habits. Readers will also learn why the elephants are in danger and what they can do to help save them — for example, writing letters or drawing pictures that communicate their feelings about elephants and sending them to the Japanese Prime Minister, the United Nations Environmental Secretary and President Bush. The act of writing and mailing a letter is enormously empowering for a child. And the impact of thousands of letters from children cannot be underestimated. Addresses are always included in **P3**.

We're proud to announce that Abenaki scholar Sozap Bruchac is our contributing editor. He writes Native American myths for our feature called **Turtle's Back**. Sozap's stories will enchant children with Earth's mystery and teach them the Native American reverence for and sense of stewardship of the land. Since the Native American storytelling tradition is an oral one, these stories are written to be read aloud. It would be wonderful if you would become Sozap's voice in your class or your home.

We urge you to use this magazine. Take out the pictures and hang them on the wall. Make time to talk about the articles with your children and show them you care about Earth, too. Teachers can photocopy activities and games for classwide use. And what's left over can be recycled.

One more thing: You are our strongest allies in making **P3** a success. Let us know what you think of the first issue. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Editors

Randi Hacker Jackie Kaufman

P.S. Putting out a magazine is tough. If we miss a month, don't panic. A year's worth of **P3** means 10 issues.

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P3 is printed on recycled paper.

Cover Illustration © Paul McGehee

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HELLO EARTHLINGS!

Welcome to the first issue of **P3**,
the Earth-based Magazine for Kids.

P3 stands for **Planet 3**. That's Earth, the third planet from the sun. If this were a magazine about Mercury, we'd call it **P1**.

P3 is your magazine about your home planet.

P3 is filled with news about Earth — some good and some bad. Take this issue. There's a report on killer oil spills and a photo-feature about the danger African elephants are in.

P3 also spotlights people who are cleaning oily birds, people who are saving elephant families and people fighting pollution.

And then there's you.

P3 shows you what
you can do to help
protect your home planet!
Earth! What a planet!
Let's keep it great!

The Editors

Learn what you can do to help save
this baby elephant. Turn to page 12.



WELCOME TO EARTH THE PLANET OF THE 90'S

Cleaner Air!

• Safer Snacks!

• Plenty of Elephants!

1990!



A **NEW** decade
And just in
For years,

and water and we ended up killing lots of

For years, our factories spewed dirt and
with acid rain . For years, we cut down
and made the world a hotter place. For years,
now and then a species became extinct



People are saying  and .
It's on your block when your neighbors recycle
are cleaning up rivers, saving animals in

them what they think. The **SPIRIT** of the '90s
ride your bike  instead of taking a car.



Every time you say , you're

It's got air , elephants ,
water , camels , skateboards ,

EARTH NEEDS YOU...

and a **NEW** way of thinking about earth 
time! The old way got us into big trouble!
we dumped tons of garbage into our oceans
sea life and ruining our beaches .

chemicals into the air  and we ended up
 the oldest trees in our forests
we destroyed the homes of other animals and
But now it's **1990!** Things are different.

That's the **SPIRIT** of the '90s and it's everywhere!



It's in kids across America who
trouble and writing to politicians  to tell

is in you, too . Every time you walk  or
Every time you tell a kid  not to litter.

showing you care about Earth. **EARTH!** 

broccoli , trees , swimming holes ,
dolphins  and people

to help keep it that way.



And now, a few words about

Earth!



I like riding my bike on Earth! —

Derek Brown, Kindergartener, Kansas City, Missouri



It's got plenty of everything a carbon-based lifeform could want! —

Dr. Sylvia Sukoff, Biologist, Ann Arbor, Michigan



Radical! And my chickens like it too!

Andrew Sherman, Nashville, Tennessee



I like Earth because all my favorite books are here! —

Jeannine Broadnax, 4th Grader, Chicago, Illinois



We love to eat breakfast on Earth! —

Carolyn and Doug Brown, Nature Lovers, Santa Fe, New Mexico



Mooooo! —

Maggie the Cow, Montgomery, Vermont

For more about

EARTH

keep reading

Action-Packed America

MR. CLEAN!

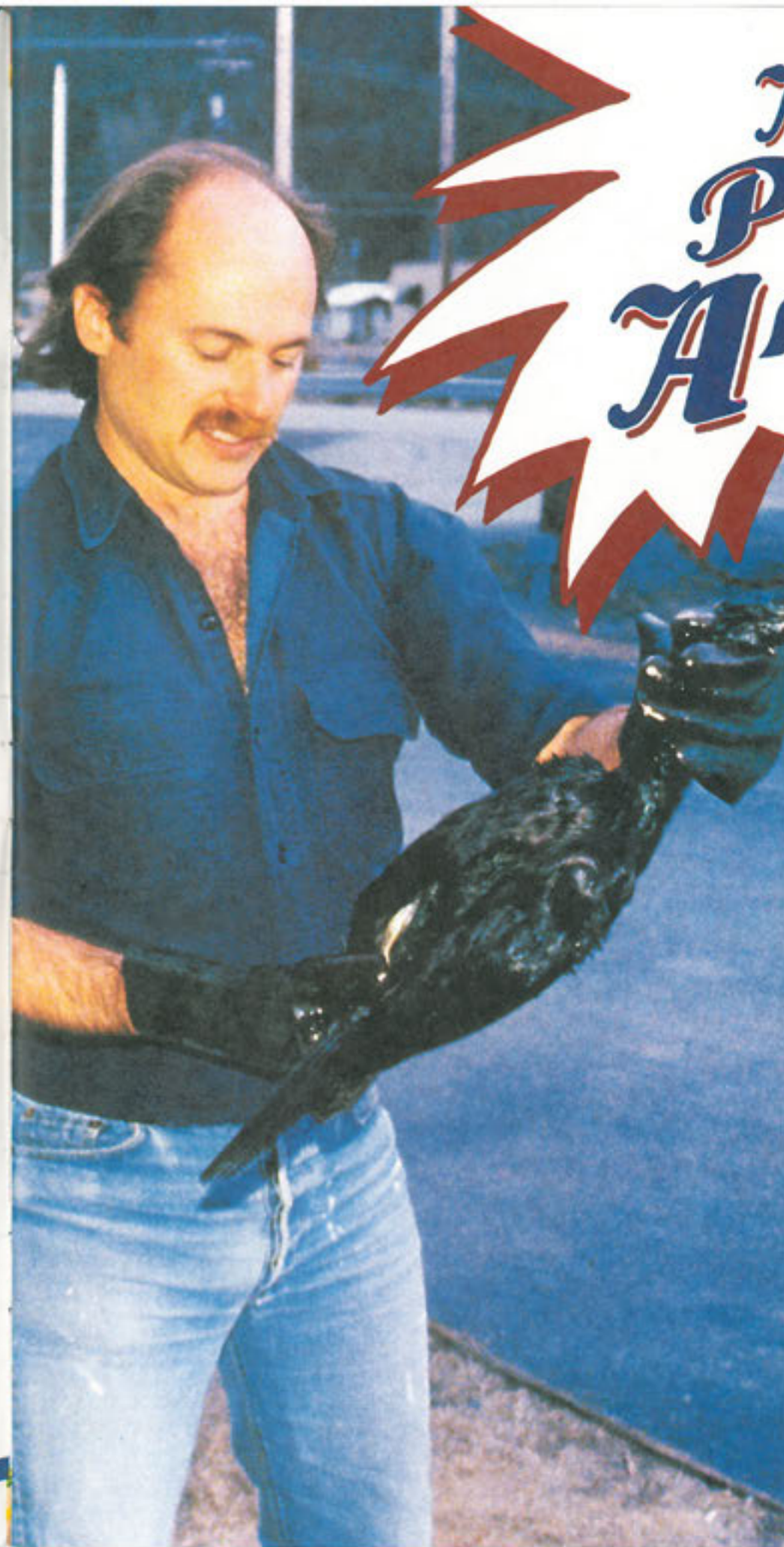
Jay Holcomb is for the birds!

Something terrible happened in Alaska's Prince William Sound one year ago. Around midnight on March 23, 1989, an oil tanker called the Exxon Valdez veered into water that was too shallow. The ship's metal bottom scraped against the ocean floor and ripped open. More than 11 million gallons of thick, dark oil poured into the clean, cold salt water. Suddenly, thousands of birds, otters, seals and other animals in and around Prince William Sound were in danger of dying.

Twelve hours later, Jay Holcomb was there to lead a massive rescue effort. Almost immediately, teams went out to find oil-soaked birds that could still be saved.

Jay Holcomb is the first person people call when there's a killer spill like the one in Prince William Sound. He works for the International Bird Rescue Center and, unfortunately, he's a busy man.

continued on next page



OIL AND BIRDS DON'T MIX

Birds stay warm by trapping air between different layers of feathers. Oil sticks feathers together so they can't trap air anymore. In places like Alaska, where the temperature can go way below zero, that means birds will freeze to death.

Oil also makes birds so heavy they can't float or fly. Many sink under the water and drown.

Can you imagine a duck drowning? Jay Holcomb has seen that happen and it makes him cry. "I always have to have a couple of good cries," he says. "Then I get to work."

OPERATION BIRDBATH

By work, Jay means organizing hundreds of volunteers to search for oil-soaked birds. The birds are brought to a cleaning center and washed with Dawn dishwashing detergent.

"Dawn breaks up oil best of all," Jay says. The clean birds are put into pens until they dry and recover.

"We like to set them free right away or they get sick and die just from being around people," says



Jay and some clean team volunteers take care of an injured puffin.

Jay. "There are a lot of diseases that spread quickly among wild birds."

It's not surprising that Jay spends his days helping animals. "Even as a kid, I loved animals," he says. "I was always taking care of injured seagulls or turtles. Once I found a fawn in the woods and raised it. I get along better with animals than I do with people."



Jay helps inspect a bald eagle's wing.

YOU CAN HELP

Since the Exxon Valdez disaster, there have been at least three more killer spills.

• **November 14, 1989:** A Greek oil ship spilled oil in the Bering Sea Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

• **December 31, 1989:** An Iranian ship leaked 37 million gallons of oil into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of North Africa.

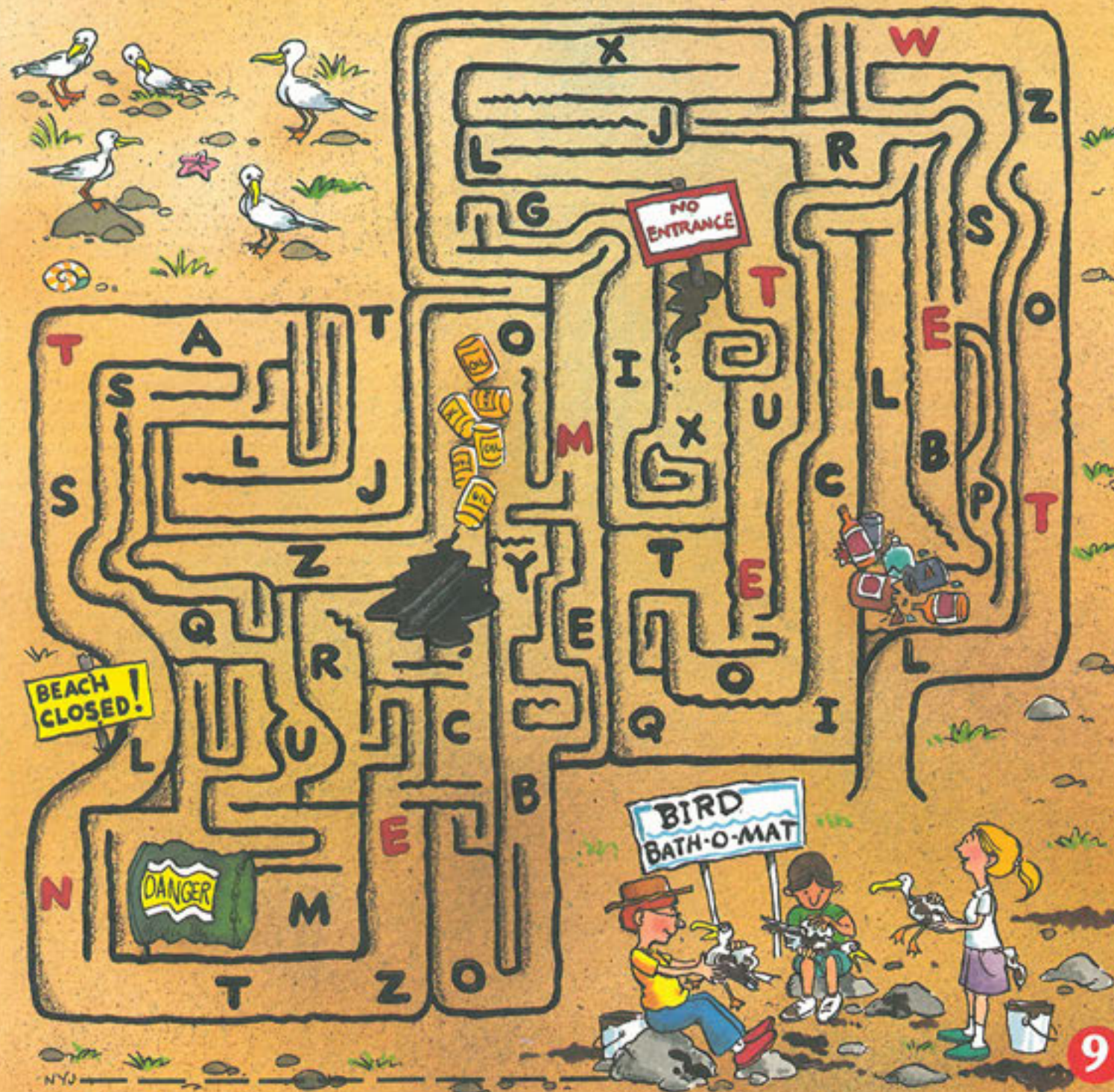
• **January 1990:** An Exxon pipe ruptured and 200,000 gallons of heating oil spilled into water near a bird sanctuary in New York City.

"It's easy to blame oil companies but we all use too much oil," says Jay. "It's important to find out what we use oil for so we can all cut back." (For more on what we use oil for, see page 10.)

P3 says "Way to go!" to Jay Holcomb and all the people around the world who work to save the birds after killer spills. Thanks for being Earth's friends!

ONLY BOID

Maggie just finished cleaning the oil off this bird's feathers. Now she's ready to set the bird free on a clean beach. Help Maggie find her way from the Bird Bath-O-Mat to the bird's new home. Every time you cross over a red letter, write it on one of the blank lines below. When you've filled in all the blanks, you'll have the answer to this riddle: *What do birds get when they're sick?* Answer on inside back cover.



STOP OIL

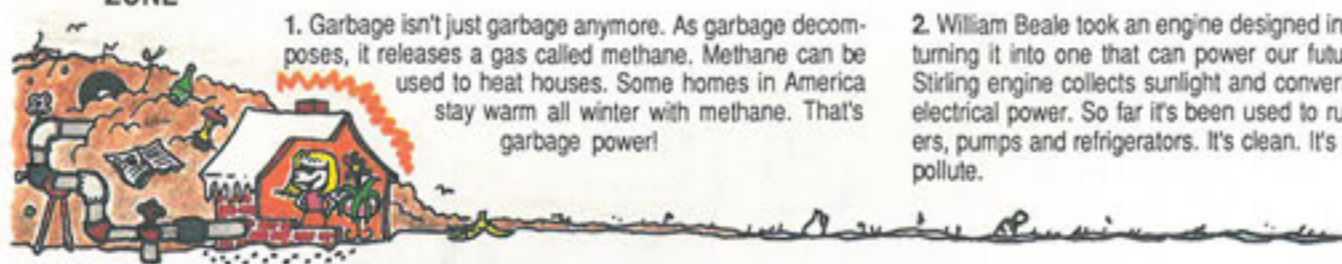
What Oil's In

One way to stop oil spills is to use less oil. The best way to do that is to stop using the car so much. But there are other ways to cut down on oil, too. Here's a short list of things you use that have oil in them. Can you cut back on any of them?



THE OIL-FREE ZONE

There's plenty of energy that doesn't pollute. People around the country are working hard to bring it to your home.



1. Garbage isn't just garbage anymore. As garbage decomposes, it releases a gas called methane. Methane can be used to heat houses. Some homes in America stay warm all winter with methane. That's garbage power!

2. William Beale took an engine designed in the past and is turning it into one that can power our future. The Beale Stirling engine collects sunlight and converts it into steady electrical power. So far it's been used to run air conditioners, pumps and refrigerators. It's clean. It's quiet. It doesn't pollute.

MAX & his mom



SPILLS

THE BAD NEWS

Most of the world's oil is moved by ship. Too many ships spill too much oil into our oceans. Here's what happens to animals after a killer oil spill.

1. Otters' fur keeps them warm in frigid water. Even a little bit of oil on an otter's coat destroys its fur's insulation. They freeze to death.

2. Eagles, deer and bears don't live in the water but killer spills can still kill them. When deer eat oil-soaked grass and eagles and bears eat oily fish, the oil coats their stomachs and they can't digest food. They starve to death.

This is very frightening. The number of animals killed by oil is making a lot of people think twice about how we get our oil.



THE GOOD NEWS

The United States Congress told Manuel Lujan, Secretary of the Interior, that there won't be any new oil wells drilled in Alaska for at least one year. Secretary Lujan didn't like it. He wants to drill for oil where other animals live. But Congress voted to put a stop to that...for now.



WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Break the oil habit! Start here!

1 Use beeswax crayons to color with. Beeswax has no oil in it. To find out where you can order beeswax crayons, turn to page 25.



2 Write to your Congressman. Ask him to declare some parts of America oil-free zones. Ask your parents or teacher who your Congressman is. Send your letter to your Congressman at the United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20510.



3 Wash out and re-use plastic bags. You don't need any new ones and it takes oil to make them.



4 Try not to buy plastic toys. Plenty of toys are wood and natural rubber and they don't use oil.



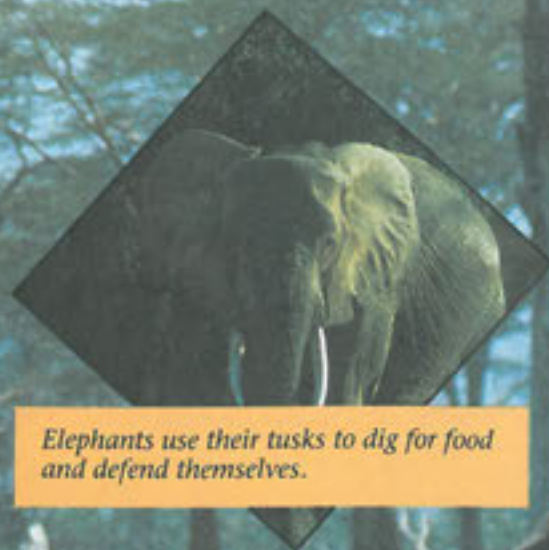
5 Walk or ride your bike whenever you can.



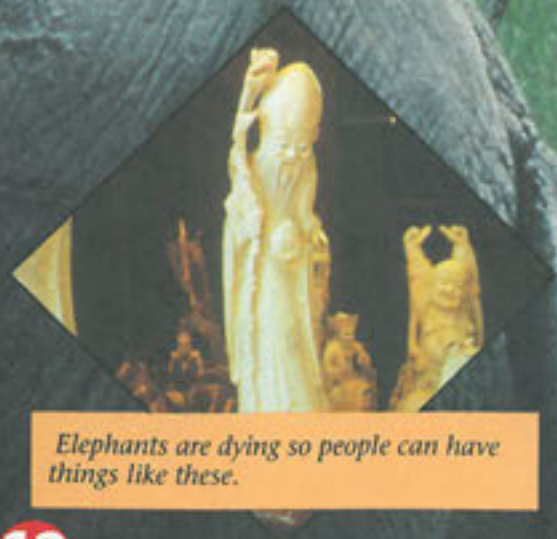
Fill It Up With SUPER SUN!

By the time you get your license, you might drive a solar powered car instead of one that burns fossil fuels. This ultra-sleek solar racing car is working out the kinks in solar auto technology. It's called the Sunvox and it was built by students at Dartmouth College. So far, this Formula 1 solar car has raced in Switzerland and New England. This summer Sunvox will be speeding from Florida to Michigan in an all-American sunpowered road rally. Maybe it will pass through your town!





Elephants use their tusks to dig for food and defend themselves.



Elephants are dying so people can have things like these.



ELEPHANT emergency!

Elephant families are in big trouble! You can help save them!

If elephants could dial "911", they would have called for help a long time ago.

African elephants are being killed by people who want their tusks. Tusks are made of ivory and lots of people like ivory very much. They buy ivory jewelry, ivory boxes and ivory chopsticks. So many people want so much ivory that too many elephants are being killed. In fact, if the killing goes on, there won't be any elephants left in Africa when you grow up.

continued on next page



Who will take care of this baby if its mother is killed?

continued here

That's a scary thought. Elephants have been on Earth for a very long time. Their ancestors roamed the continents when glaciers covered most of Earth. They were the huge mastodons and even bigger mammoths who lived almost 1,800,000 years ago. People have been on this planet for only 100,000 years—the blink of an eye in Earth time.

FAMILY TIES

Male elephants live by themselves. Female and baby elephants live in families. The head of the family is always a big, strong female. Elephant families do everything together. They eat together. They take mud baths together. They sleep together. Elephant families touch each other, lean against each other and care for each other. When an elephant has a baby, the whole family helps her protect it.

Male and female elephants both start growing tusks when they're about two years old. The older the elephant, the longer the tusk. So the older elephants are being killed. A lot of them are mothers. That leaves a lot of orphans. Baby elephants have a hard time surviving on their own. They need older elephants to protect them and teach them important elephant skills like how to use their trunks.

What's happening to the elephants is making plenty of people around the world sad. It's making them mad, too. Mad enough to do something. They're writing letters to politicians. They're sending money to people working in Africa to save the elephants. And they're not buying ivory.

Last summer, President Bush showed he cares enough about elephants to ban ivory from the USA for one year. It's a good start. But we have to care about elephants for more than one year. There's a lot of work to do before elephants are really safe.

Joyce Poole, ELEPHANT ACTIVIST

Joyce Poole loves elephants so much she lives with them. She spends her days following elephant families around Amboseli National Park in Kenya, East Africa. She watches them eat. She watches them play. She watches them take care of their babies. Joyce Poole

knows what kind of trouble elephants are in. So when she's not watching them, she's talking about them. She travels around the world for the African Wildlife Foundation and talks to world leaders. What does she tell them? Only elephants deserve to wear ivory!

E l e p h a n t s A t A G l a n c e

FAVORITE FOOD: Grass, leaves and bark

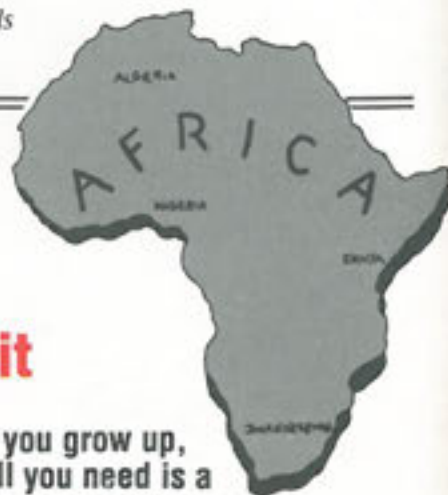
FAVORITE GAMES: Spraying mud on each other, sliding down hills, charging each other

WEIGHT AT BIRTH: 260 pounds

AVERAGE ADULT WEIGHT: 13,000 pounds

AVERAGE HEIGHT: 13 feet

P3's Easy-to-Read RECYCLABLE Do-It-Yourself Save the Elephants Kit



If you want elephants on Earth when you grow up, here are a few things you can do. All you need is a pen, a piece of paper, an envelope and a stamp.

- People in Japan use more ivory than any other country. Japan has not yet joined the world ban on ivory. You can write a letter to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in Japan and ask him to say no to ivory.

Here's his address: Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, 1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100 Japan

Remember: You need a 45¢ stamp to send a letter to Japan.

- President Bush banned ivory for a year. Do you think the ban should be longer? Tell President Bush what you think. Send your letter to: President George Bush, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20501

- You can write a letter to the UN Environment Program and tell them you want elephants around when you grow up. You can ask what you can do to help. Send your letter to:

Mr. Mostafa K. Tolba, UN Environment Program, PO Box 30552
Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa

You need a 45¢ stamp for this letter, too.

• Don't buy ivory. Tell your parents not to either.

RANGER OF THE MONTH



If you like the job Ranger Finley did at Everglades, write him a letter and tell him. He's now working at Yosemite National Park. The address is: Ranger Mike Finley, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite National Park, California 95389.



For-Everglades!

Everglades Park is a one-of-a-kind wilderness. Eagles soar over its marshes. Panthers hunt in its forests. Alligators float in its freshwater rivers. When Ranger Mike Finley came to work at Everglades, he knew the the Park and the animals that lived there were in danger.

The problem was the rivers. Florida tomato farmers outside the park were lowering the rivers so they could grow more tomatoes. Florida sugar farmers near the park were using fertilizers that washed into Everglades' water and destroyed a tiny, delicate water plant called algae (AL-gee) that fish and birds eat. Builders on all sides of the park wanted to build more houses for more people. That meant more sewage in the river, more garbage around the river and more noise near the river.

Ranger Finley didn't waste any time getting to work. He talked to people all over Florida. He told them Everglades needed more land. He told the tomato and sugar farmers what they were doing to the water in the Park.

People listened to Ranger Finley. Just last year, Congress passed a law that added a lot more land to Everglades Park. The farmers agreed to take better care of the water.

"It's a good beginning, but Everglades isn't safe yet," Ranger Finley told your Earth-based reporter. "Only one person can pull everyone together to keep Everglades beautiful for all Americans. That person is the President."

Tell President Bush how you feel about the future of Everglades National Park. his address is: President George Bush, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20501

ELEPHANT WALK

Here are two elephant moms and their babies taking a stroll on their planet — Planet 3. Groups like the World Wildlife Fund and the African Wildlife Foundation are working hard to make Africa a safer home for elephants.



AN OFFICIAL P3 POSTER

ANY PLACE IN TIME

Where the past and present meet

A ▶

A ▶

Winters were intense during the Ice Age. Herds of mastodons stayed warm thanks to their thick, shaggy hair. They used their large, curved tusks to dig for leaves buried under the snow. Mastodons roamed all over North America and were hunted by early humans. Just five thousand years later (10,000 years ago), mastodons were extinct.

Newburgh, New York,
15,000 years ago.

◀ B

◀ B

Newburgh, New York,
1990

To see what Newburgh, New York looks like today, fold these two pages in so the arrows marked "A" meet the arrows marked "B".
THE FOLDED-IN PAGES WILL RESULT IN A
COLOR PHOTOGRAPH OF DOWNTOWN
NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, 1990.



TIME TRAVEL opportunity
Is there a place in time you'd like to see?
Write down the name of the place and the time in Earth's history you want to see it on a postcard. Make sure your name and address are on the postcard and send it to:

Any Place In Time
P3 Magazine
P.O. Box 52, Montgomery,
Vermont 05470.

The Earth Rangers



JERRY HAINES



EDDIE YETI



ROSEMARY COOPER

IN--

STOP THE CHOP!

OKAY, LET'S REVIEW! I'M GOING UNDERCOVER AS A THIRD GRADE TEACHER ON MY SUMMER VACATION! YOU'LL BE DISGUISED AS A SITKA SPRUCE TREE! YOU'RE THE BAIT! WHOEVER SHOWS UP WITH AN AXE GETS ARRESTED!



THAT'S A ROGER, ROSE! YOU KNOW, SOME SITKA SPRUCES IN THAT FOREST ARE 1200 YEARS OLD! I'M GOING AS ONE THAT'S 38 YEARS OLD! I HOPE I LOOK MATURE ENOUGH TO CHOP DOWN!

*S.I.D.--SATELLITE INTERCEPT DEVICE --AN ULTRA-HIGH TECH COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.



MEANWHILE, IN THE TUKAMUK NATIONAL FOREST...

DON'T MISS THAT BIG ONE ON THE LEFT, BOYS!

LET'S SEE, 70 TREES AT 8¢ A FOOT. THAT'S 500 FEET PER TREE TIMES .08. THAT'S...POTS OF MONEY! WE'RE RICH AND GETTING RICHER!



00000-WA-WA-WA-HEE-EEEE!
00000-WA-WA-WA-HEE-EEEE!
YO!

PEOPLE ARE CHOPPING DOWN THE OLDEST TREES IN OREGON! I'M SENDING YOU TO THE TUKAMUK NATIONAL FOREST! I WANT YOU TO STOP THE CHOP!

WHOEVER THEY ARE, CHIEF CHIEF, WE'LL GET THEM! NO ONE CHOPS DOWN TREES THAT BELONG TO EVERYONE AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!

I HIKE IN THOSE WOODS WHEN I WAS A KID, CHIEF CHIEF! AND BY GOLLY I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST TO SEE THAT MY KIDS CAN HIKE THERE, TOO... WHEN I HAVE KIDS, THAT IS!

I LOVE TO COME HERE TO EAT!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! GREAT FOOD! GREAT CONVERSATION!



BOSS! WE WERE CHOPPING WHERE YOU SAID TO CHOP!

THEN WE HEARD IT!

THEN WE SAW ITS FOOTPRINTS! IT'S A YETI!

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A YETI!

OH, YEAH? COME SEE THE FOOTPRINT YOURSELF!



IF THAT'S NOT A YETI FOOTPRINT, WHAT IS IT?

YEAH, JACK, WHAT IS IT?

IT'S A TRICK TO GET OUT OF WORK! FOR SPENDING MY TIME MAKING YETI FOOTPRINTS, EVERYBODY WORKS AN EXTRA HOUR TONIGHT!!



...499...500 RINGS IN THIS STUMP! THIS TREE WAS 500 YEARS OLD! WHO WOULD CHOP DOWN A TREE THAT WAS ALIVE WHEN CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS WAS A TODDLER?

I CAN THINK OF TWO PEOPLE WHO MIGHT DO THAT... JACK AND ZACK AXE!

I USED TO LIVE IN THAT TREE.

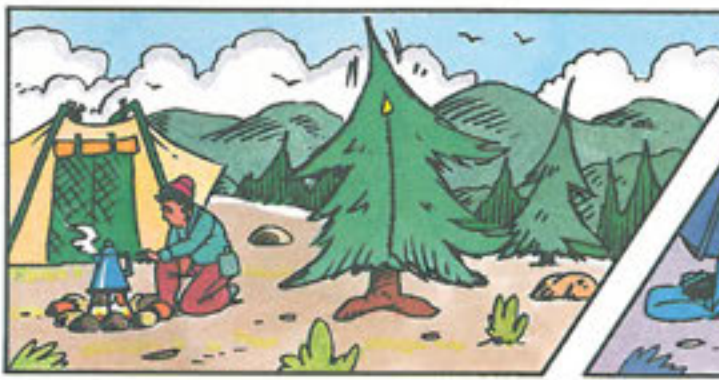


WE'RE PRETTY SURE IT'S THE AXE BROTHERS, CHIEF CHIEF. WE'RE ALMOST SET UP! STAND BY FOR A S.I.D. VIDEO RELAY OF JERRY'S SITKA SPRUCE DISGUISE.

DO MY NEEDLES LOOK NATURAL?

THE AXE BROTHERS? THEY HAVE A GOVERNMENT CONTRACT SO BE CAREFUL! AND TELL JERRY HE LOOKS VERY CONVINCING! IF I WERE A BIRD, I'D MAKE A NEST IN HIM!

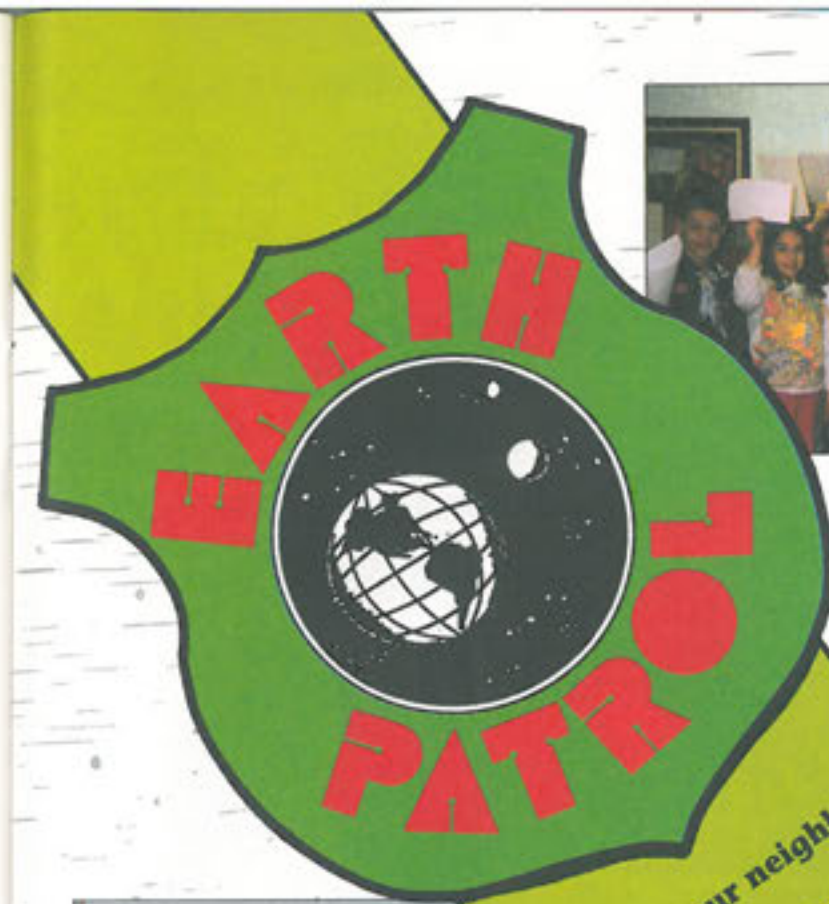
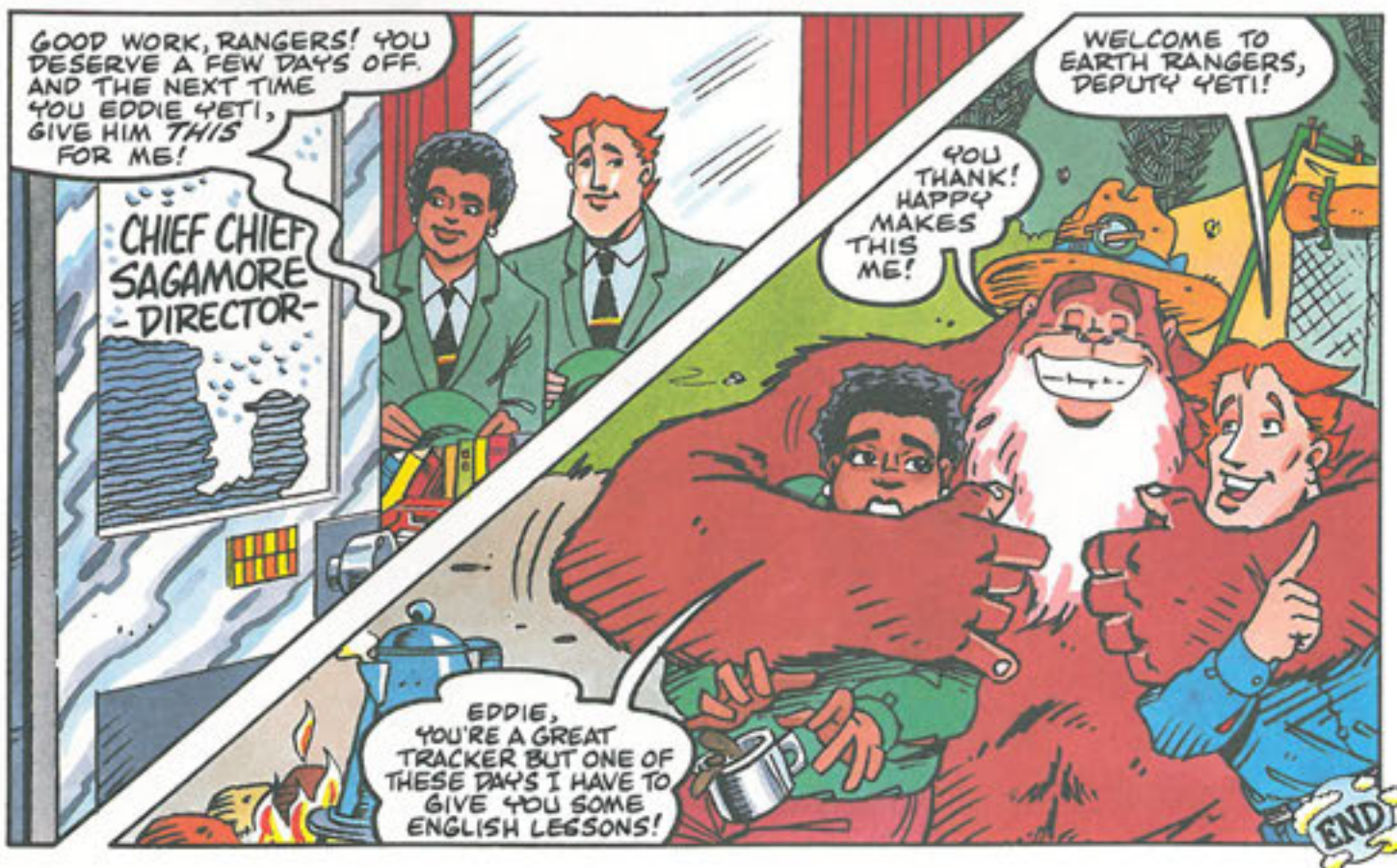
I AM A BIRD AND I WOULDN'T!



WHAT ABOUT THAT BRANCH? THOSE NEEDLES LOOK COMFORTABLE.

MY MOTHER TOLD ME NEVER TO LAND IN A SNORING TREE!





Two years ago, John Glasser, Danny Pavone and Eric Johnson saw that their school lunch was bad for Earth. It wasn't the fish sticks. It was what the fish sticks were served on: polystyrene trays made with CFC's a chemical compound that destroys Earth's protective ozone layer. Jonathan and Danny wrote to their school superintendent. They asked him to stop buying CFC trays and start using trays that could be recycled. Eric wrote to a company called Plastics Again to find out about recycling. Today, the Porter School recycles a lot of garbage. "Protecting our planet is something we all have to do," the boys say.



Thanks to Alan Newman, Jeff Hollander and the Seventh Generation staff, you can shop for a better world by mail! Remember those oil-free crayons and cellulose bags you read about on page 11? They're in this catalog. You can even order recycled toilet paper! "Reading about environmental problems is scary," says Alan Newman. "Buying products that don't hurt Earth is a simple way to do something that helps."

For your free copy of the Seventh Generation catalog, just call 1-800-456-1177.



John Javna wanted to cut down on oil, save water and recycle garbage. But he couldn't find a book with the information he needed. So he wrote one. **Fifty Simple Things You Can Do To Save the Earth** tells people what they can do to help protect their home planet. Now John is writing a book called **50 Simple Things KIDS Can Do To Save the Planet**.



Earth Patrol is Looking for Good Earthlings!

Tell us about someone you think belongs in Earth Rangers. Send us a postcard about that person. Don't forget to put your name and phone number on the postcard, too! We'll honor new Earth Rangers in every issue of P3. Send your nominees to: **Earth Patrol, P3 Magazine, PO Box 52, Montgomery VT 05470**

They're your neighbors!
They're your teachers!
They're your friends!
They're you!
They're the elite members of Earth Patrol!
And every day, in their own way, they're making Earth a better place to live.
P3 is proud to promote the following people to the rank of Earth Ranger.
Congratulations!

THINK-O-RAMA

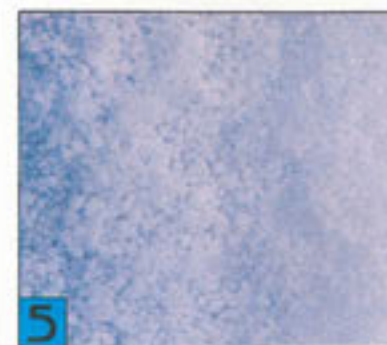
Mastodons on Main Street!

A bizarre time warp has transported 13 hairy mastodons from the Ice Age to this modern town. Naturally, they're hiding. Can you circle them all? Answer on inside back cover.



What ON eArTH?

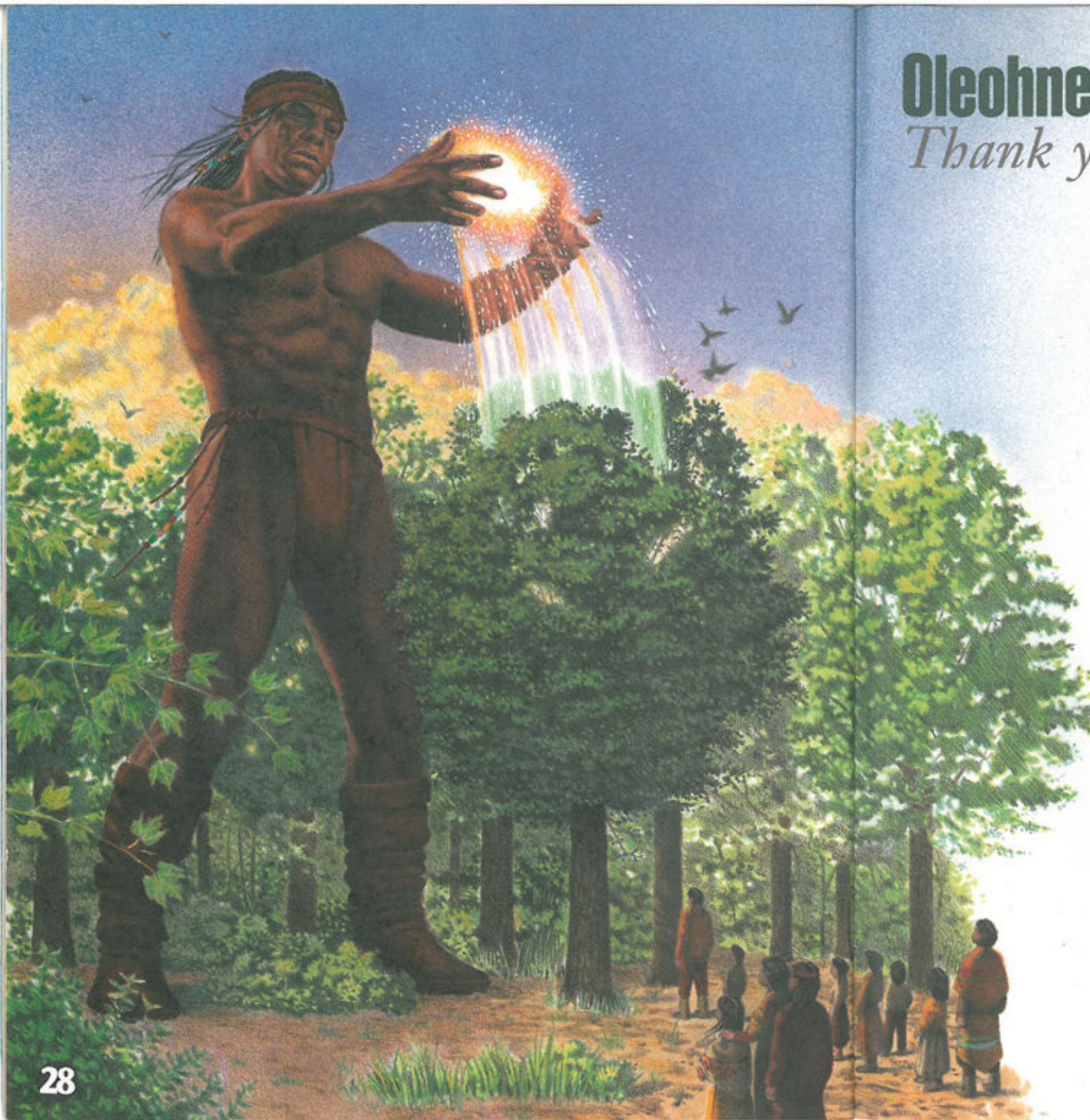
It's time to get up close and personal with your planet. All of the things pictured below can be found here on Planet 3. How many of these close-ups can you identify? Answer on inside back cover.



PACHYDERM PUZZLE

Towering tusks! There are more elephants in this one elephant than meet the eye. How many can you find? Don't forget to count the big elephant! Answer on inside back cover.





Oleohneh Senomoziaak!

Thank you, Maple Trees!



MY NAME IS SOZAP. My ancestors are of the Abenaki Nation. My people have lived on this land since long before white people came to North America. This is the time of year my people call "Sogalikas Kisos" (soh-gal-lee-KAHS key-SOHS). That means "Sugar Making Moon". When the days are warmer and the nights are below freezing in the place you call New England, sap begins to flow in the maple trees. Winter is almost over, the maple trees tell us. Soon it will be Spring.

Maple sap is one of Earth's sweet gifts. People can make it into sugar, syrup or candy. There are many Native American legends about the maple tree, which the Iroquois, our neighbors to the West, call The Leader Tree.

Long ago, pure maple syrup ran in the maple trees instead of sap. The people didn't have to boil the sap to make the syrup. They just had to break a twig and open their mouths. The sweet, sticky syrup dripped out of the trees and onto their tongues. Maple syrup was so easy to get that the people became fat and lazy.

One day, Gluskabi decided to visit his friends the Abenaki. When he reached the village, no one was there. Gluskabi looked in their houses. He looked in their fields. He looked down by the river.

"Where are those Abenaki?" Gluskabi asked himself.

The people were in the forest. They were lying on their backs under the maple branches with their mouths wide open to catch maple syrup as it dripped from the trees.

"The syrup is too easy to get," said Gluskabi. "I must do something so people don't take this gift from Earth for granted. I must think!"

Gluskabi paced up and down by the river. He tapped his lips with his finger. He scratched his head. Then he smiled. "I have it!" he said.

Now there's something you need to know about Gluskabi. He's not like you and me. He can change his shape and size whenever he wants to. So Gluskabi made himself taller than the tallest maple. He cupped his huge hands, and scooped a small pond's worth of water out of the river. He leaned over and poured the water into the top of all the maple trees.

The water mixed with the syrup and made it thin and weak. It was no longer ready to eat. The Abenaki people sat up and shook their heads.

"There," said Gluskabi. "Now if you want maple syrup, you'll have to work for it. You'll have to clean up dead wood from the forest and make fires to boil the water out of the sap. And don't expect sap all year long either. It will only flow at the end of winter."

Today, we know that maple syrup is a precious gift. Every year, at the end of winter, Abenakis and others who live in the northeastern woods bundle up and collect the sap. They boil it for hours. They watch its color and taste it as they wait for the water to steam away and leave syrup.

The Abenaki people thank the maple trees by leaving a small gift — some maple syrup or maple sugar — near the tree. If you like maple syrup, why not walk up to a maple tree the next time you're in the woods and say, "Oleohneh Senomoziaak!" (oh-lee-oh-NEE seh-no-moe-ZEE-ak)

I'll have another story for you at the time of the Planting Moon. That's May. Until then, walk lightly on Earth.

Your nidoba (friend), Sozap



BY KIDS ★ TO KIDS ★ FROM KIDS

FOR KIDS

FOR KIDS

P3

is a new magazine so we haven't gotten any mail yet. You can help us fill in these letter blanks. We want to hear from kids all over the country about what they think of P3 — the planet and the magazine! Write to us!

Your letter here!

Your letter here!

Your letter here!

DON'T FORGET TO WRITE

You're an important part of the P3 Team! P3 wants to hear from YOU! Tell us what YOU think of life on Earth! Tell us what YOU think of P3! Send us your letters, cards, poems, photos and drawings. We'll print as many as we can every month. Send all that mail to:

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PO Box 52
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Vermont 05470

Don't forget to put your name, age and address on your letters!

Oily Boid Maze

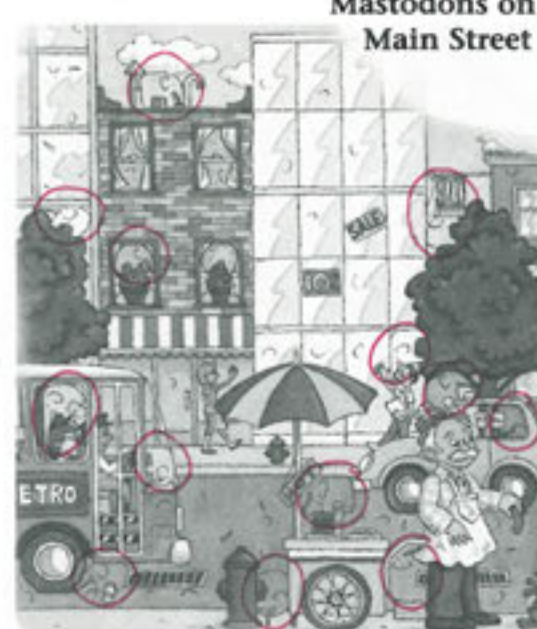
Page 14



Answer to riddle: TWEETMENT

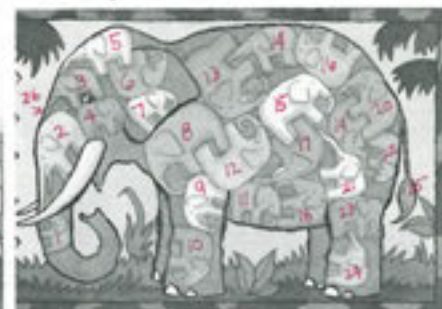
Think O-Rama

Pages 38 and 39



Mastodons on Main Street

Pachyderm Puzzle



We counted 26 Elephants

What on Earth

1. A pheasant feather
2. The bark of a paper birch tree
3. The palm of a four-year-old girl's hand
4. A day lily
5. Snow
6. A Holstein cow's ear

Photo and Illustration Credits

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Pages 4-5: Illustrations: Holly Kowitz

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Pages 12-13: Elephant photos, African Wildlife Foundation, Frank Wisnath; Ivory Photo, Jorgen B. Thomson, World Wildlife Fund

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Pages 26-27: Think-O-Rama logo, Richard McNeil; Mastodons on Main Street and Pachyderm Puzzle, Nathan Y. Jarvis; What on Earth?, Gustav Verderber

Pages 28-29: Doron Ben-Ami

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- **Earth Day 1990** - Join P3 for the global celebration!
- **Gore Does More!** - Senator Albert Gore is working hard in Washington DC to help the USA lead the way to a cleaner, healthier planet. P3 takes you to his office in the US Senate for an exclusive interview!
- **Heat Wave!** - The Greenhouse Effect is a hot topic all around the world. P3 brings you a report on what it is, why it happened and what we're doing about it!
- **Earth Rangers in Crocodile Rock** - Rosemary Cooper, Jerry Haines and Eddie Yeti sweat it out in the Everglades while finding out who's poisoning the water!

And more! Only in P3!

BACK TALK



starring
ALF

YO!
EARTHMEISTERS!
TAKE CARE OF YOUR
PLANET! DO IT FOR
MY SAKE! IT'S A
GREAT PLACE
TO CRASH!

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