

Protecting Wildlife and our Planet

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Did you know that over the past 5-10 years there have been wildfires all over the world? And that millions of animals have died? I believe that protecting animals is very important to our lives and our world and informing people of this fact; that protecting wildlife and natural habitats, is also very important. However, we cannot do this all by ourselves. In order to protect all creatures and the environment we need to work together, because if we do not, our planet will be without any wildlife left. And people also may not have a healthy and safe planet for all of them unless we protect wildlife and the planet.

Let me tell you how endangered wildlife is today. Wildfires all over the world; in California, the Amazon Rainforest and Australia, have killed millions of animals and destroyed their habitats. In addition, over 7,000 species of creatures are endangered. So, it is clear that we need to take care of our planet, because other bad things are destroying our environment. The oceans are filling with plastic trash and dangerous chemicals, and these are killing sea life and their habitats. And if we continue this way, all living things in it will die, and we too could become extinct and die off.

So, what can we do here in school and at home, to help save our planet? What are some things we can do? These are the things we should do. First, we must follow the 4Rs. The 4Rs stand for, Recycle, Reduce, Reuse and Refuse. Recycle means collecting clean plastic, metals, glass, paper, cardboard, and many other things that can be turned into other products. Reduce means using less products like single-use plastic (containers like bottles, bags, straws, lids, cups, silverware, dishes, swabs

or q-tips, plastic toothpicks, harmful chemicals, gasoline, etc.), oil and energy. Reuse means using things over and over again and then, if possible, recycle them. Refuse means to stop using and/or buying harmful products like single-use plastic items and chemicals, many more that harm the environment and wildlife. Second, we must follow 4Rs in our classroom, in our schools and our homes. Third, we must do this 24/7, all the time and everywhere! Fourth, will you apply your CR? Your civic responsibility and do all of these things at home, in school and wherever you go? Will you be willing to share this information with your family, friends, and our political and business leaders? Will you talk and/or write to them and ask them to their part in saving our wildlife and planet.

So, what will you do to help save our planet and wildlife? Will you be willing to apply the 4Rs? Will you recycle plastic? Will you be willing to reduce your single-use plastic items like bags, bottles, cups, plates, and straws? Will you reuse all the things you can use over and over? You can wash and reuse all your plastic silverware, spoons, forks, and knives. And you can wash and recycle all plastic containers that have a little triangle and a number inside it, numbers 1-7 can be cleaned and recycled; these are plastic bottles/containers, cups that hold yogurt, milk/juice drinks, applesauce, and peanut butter, and many more. Will you refuse, stop buying and/or using, plastic products like plastic bags, bottles, cups, dishes, plastic balloons, straws, and stirrers and many more? Will you be willing to do something and help out? The choice to save wildlife and our planet is only ours.

Source: Mr. O, Ottavio Lo Piccolo, ESL/ENL teacher. 3/17/21