

## *Mother Nature's Quest* Study Guide

### *About the Show...*

Earth is in trouble! Father Time thinks that Earth should be thrown out of the Universe. Why? Because Earth's Air, Land and Sea are a mess! So Mother Nature has come to save the Earth... but she can't do it without the Earth Crusaders!

As Mother Nature searches for the Earth Crusaders, she talks with the audience about topics such as pollution, recycling, the ozone, forest and energy conservation, and extinction... Mother Nature even demonstrates how to make your own compost heap! Join Mother Nature in this music filled journey on her quest to find the Earth Crusaders... and you'll be surprised to find out who they really are!

### *Pre-Performance Activities*

#### Discussion Questions

1. Do you recycle? Emphasizes to your class that anyone, young or old can recycle cans, paper, aluminum foil, or plastic bottles. Set up "recycling stations" in your classroom.
2. The ozone is like a shield in the Earth's atmosphere that protects the Earth from the sun's ultraviolet rays. Without the Ozone, nothing could survive on Earth. The Ozone is damaged in many ways. One of the causes of this damage is aerosol spray cans used for hair sprays, deodorant, spray paint, etc... Ask your class what they can do to help stop the use of aerosol spray cans. Bring an aerosol spray can to class and show the difference between these and their alternatives.
3. Discuss why being a "litterbug" hurts the Earth. What would happen if everyone were a

litterbug! What a mess we'd have!

4. Celebrate "Earth Day" on the day you attend the show. Discuss all the good things earth gives us. (Food, water, air to breathe) Why must we conserve these things?
5. Discuss the importance of conserving water. What can we do to save water?
6. Make copies of the Earth Crusader medal and have the children color or decorate it and wear it to the show. For more durable medals, use poster board or heavier paper.
7. Tell your class that there will be "audience participation" in the show so pay very close attention! Mother Nature might ask them a question or two!

### *Vocabulary List*

Choose the words most appropriate for your class.

Search	Sun	Animal	Can	On
Work	Mess	Toss	Find	Air
Water	Ozone	Garbage	Litter	Sky
Ocean	Tree	Oak	Tiger	An
Panda	Hunt	Blue	Green	Tan
Extinct	Bottle	Paper	Smoke	Can
Smog	Clear	Clean	Neat	Fog
Home	Care	Play	You	Me
Sea	Land	Food	Us	All

1. Choose the vocabulary words that rhyme and make a poem.
2. Write or make up a story using the vocabulary words.
3. Make sentences with the words.
4. Have a spelling bee with the words.
5. Make a word search with the words.
6. Make a word jumble and have the students unscramble them!
7. Make flashcards with the words and pull them out of a hat. Have the students make a sentence with the word they pulled.
8. Practice spelling with the flashcards.

### *About the Earth...*

The EARTH is the fifth largest planet and 92,897,000 miles from the

sun. It's the only planet known to support life, although some other planets have atmospheres and contain water. The Earth is not a perfect circle, but pear shaped. The Earth turns on its axis once every day. The Earth travels in its orbit around the sun once a year.

### ***Air Pollution...***

Air pollution is the contamination of Earth's atmosphere with wastes that can endanger the health of humans, plants and animals. Air pollution can make it hard to see, it damages things (acid rain) and smells bad. Air pollution is sometimes called smog. Cars and other vehicles cause air pollution. The exhaust from cars, busses, trucks, etc. is very harmful to Earth's atmosphere. When waste is released into the air, of course, it must come down. Sometimes it comes back down to Earth in the form of Acid Rain, which can harm our trees and plants.

### ***Water Pollution...***

Water Pollution is the contamination of water by chemicals or sewage. When water is polluted, it is unhealthy to drink and fish can't live in it.

Heat is a kind of water pollution. If a lake, pond or even ocean gets too warm, many of the fish can no longer survive.

### ***Endangered Species/Extinction***

Endangered Species are groups of plants and animals that are in danger of disappearing. When a species of plant or animal disappears, we say it is extinct. Extinction is a normal part of evolution. However, many animals are in danger of going extinct because of people hunting them or destroying their homes. Pollution is also a cause of extinction.

Some endangered species are:

Bat	Cheetah	Elephant
Gazelle	Gorilla	Rhinoceros
Panda	Blue Whale	Leopard
Tiger	Finback Whale	Koala Bear

### ***Post Performance Activities...***

1. Discuss the importance of being an Earth Crusader. Did you learn any new ways to take care of Earth?

2. Reenact a scene from the show, or make up your own! For instance, a student can play Mother Nature and another could play Father Time, who has finally arrived, late as usual!
3. Discuss the different aspects of the show such as the props, costume, music, etc. Did you enjoy seeing a live show? What are some of the differences between watching TV and watching a live performance?
4. Color the Earth.
5. Take your class outside on a nice day. Look around. Discuss all the different things the Earth gives us. For instance; air, food, water, trees, grass, beaches, oceans, animals, birds, etc... What would the Earth be like if we didn't have those things?
6. Emphasize the importance of using sunscreen to protect skin from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. If appropriate for your class, discuss the ozone and how it is being damaged by Chlorofluorocarbons. Discuss the danger of aerosol spray cans and how they damage the ozone.
7. Discuss the importance of keeping our lakes and oceans clean. Discuss also, the conservation of water. What can we do to save water every day? If we didn't have water, there would be no life on Earth at all.
8. What can we recycle everyday? The answer is almost everything. Be sure to recycle whenever possible in the classroom!

### ***Fun Pages...***

***Have fun with the following fun pages!***

**Hope you enjoyed the show!**