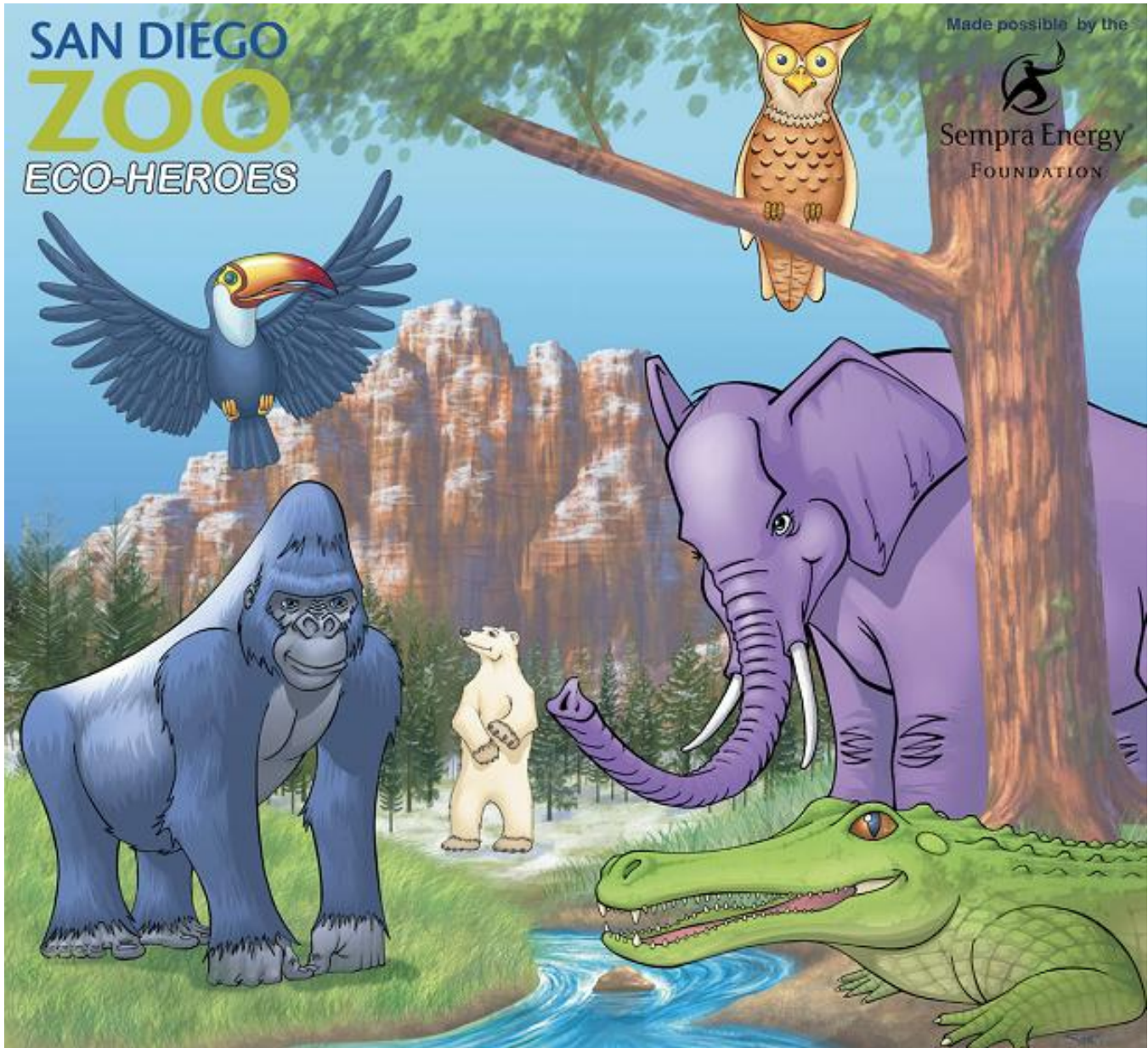


SAN DIEGO
ZOO
ECO-HEROES

Made possible by the


Sempra Energy
FOUNDATION



Teachers,

Our new EnviroSchool program presents “Eco-Heroes!”

We encourage you and your students to become champions of the Earth through easy action steps. Meet our animals—nature’s eco-heroes—and learn how simple changes in your daily activities can help keep their habitats healthy. Dr. Zoolittle and Eco-Hero Educator are Zoo characters that will entertain and educate you; while your students become eco-heroes themselves as Polar Protector, Water Warrior, Gorilla Guru and more!

We hope you enjoy the program,
San Diego Zoo Education Department

SAN DIEGO
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To help more kids better understand global warming, below are five key questions about global warming, how it occurs, and how they can help to stop the process.

Do scientists agree about global warming?

Scientists who study the climate are still arguing about how fast the earth is warming and how much it will warm, but they do agree that the earth is warming and that it will keep warming if we don't do anything about it.

What is causing global warming?

Scientists agree that the burning of fossil fuels like oil and coal cause greenhouse gases to escape into the air and that these gases are causing most of the warming. Another cause is deforestation (cutting down trees). Trees soak up carbon dioxide, one of the greenhouse gases, from the air.

What is the difference between "global warming" and "climate change?"

"Global warming" refers to the increase of the Earth's average surface temperature, due to a build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

"Climate change" is a broader term that refers to long-term changes in climate, including average temperature and precipitation.

What will happen if global warming continues?

There are already some changes happening because of global warming. Sea level is rising and some animals are already moving to new homes.

It's already too late to stop global warming completely. If the warming gets worse, as scientists expect, there may be some kinds of plants and animals that become extinct (disappear completely) because they can't move to new homes. There may be more storms and floods. Sea level may rise so much that people have to move away from the coasts. Some areas may become too dry for farming.

What can I do about global warming?

You don't have to wait until you are grown to do something about global warming. Scientists agree that the burning of fossil fuels is causing global warming. Since these fuels are burned for energy, and everyone uses energy, everyone can help stop global warming just by using less energy. Think about the things you do each day that use energy. The lights in your house use electricity. The TV and computer use electricity. The washing machine, dishwasher and dryer all use gas or electricity. Every time you ride in your car, it uses gasoline.



There are some simple things that kids can do to be “Eco-Heroes”:

- ✓ Turn off the lights when you leave a room. Use compact fluorescent bulbs in your room.
- ✓ Turn off your computer or the TV when you’re not using it.
- ✓ Unplug chargers when not in use.
- ✓ Wait until you have a lot of clothes to wash before using the washing machine.
- ✓ Take shorter showers. Heating water uses energy.
- ✓ Close the blinds on a hot day if the sun is shining in. Dress lightly instead of turning up the air conditioning. Or use a fan.
- ✓ Dress warmly inside your house when it’s cold, instead of turning up the heat.
- ✓ Offer to help your parents keep the air filters on your AC and furnace clean.
- ✓ Walk short distances instead of asking for a ride in a car.



TEACHER RESOURCES

http://www.sandiegozoo.org/teachers/classroom_activities.html

Want downloadable classroom curricula about animals and habitats—check out our site.

<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/index.html>

Looking for info about ANY kind of animal—we've got it!

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/energyfacts/>

Many sources provide us the energy we need to live our busy lives. To find out more about the different types of renewable and non-renewable energy, check out this website.

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/kids>

This kids page focuses on the science and impacts of global warming or climate change, and on actions that help address our changing climate.

<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/schools/Curriculum/CTL/TOC.htm>

Includes a full curriculum for K-6, *Closing the Loop*, designed to introduce students to integrated waste management through awareness, understanding, and action, and to encourage students to address today's solid waste problems. The lessons focus on becoming aware of natural

resources and understanding alternatives to burying waste through reducing, reusing, and recycling, thereby conserving natural resources and extending the life of landfills.

<http://www.teacherquicksource.com/environment/default.aspx>

Connects conservation concepts to classroom activities! This convenient resource will help you explore ways to educate children on the importance for caring for the environment to help make the earth a healthier place.

<http://www.wastefreelunch.org>

Provides information for students, parents, and school staff on how to reduce lunch and snack waste.

www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/geninfo/pdf/educators.pdf

Integrated waste management resources for the classroom.

