Eco-Heroes, Agents of Change



Inspirational eco-actions and amazing eco-kids!

Sharon Parsons

Nelson Literacy Directions

ECO-HEROES, Agents of Change

For teachers' inspection ONLY



Dear Reader

Every day, we hear about unsustainable practices around the world. Fortunately, there are many eco-heroes who are passionate about reversing the adverse effects of environmentally harmful practices.

Who do you think are the best eco-heroes on Earth? In my opinion, they are the plants and animals that have co-existed in their natural habitats for millions of years. But people can be amazing eco-heroes, too.

INSPIRATIONAL KIDS WIN INTERNATIONAL ECO-HERO AWARDS – SEE CHAPTER 3.

One of my favourite eco-heroes is Roz Savage, who is rowing solo around the world to bring attention to the serious problem of widespread plastic pollution in our oceans. She started in 2005, and Roz is still rowing today!

I hope you enjoy reading about Roz and the other eco-heroes featured in this book.

Sharon Parsons

My sincere thanks to the following people for their time, information, images and enthusiasm for this book:

Beryl Kay, Shimon Schwarzschild and the team at Action for Nature, San Francisco, USA

Alexander Zerphy and his family, Maryland, USA

Roz Savage, London, UK

June Barnard, Perth, Australia

Australia Post, Melbourne, Australia

Brendan Condon, Melbourne, Australia

NELSON CENGAGE Learning
For learning solutions, visit **cengage.com.au**

Contents

ECO-HEROES, Agents of Change

For teachers' inspection ONLY

1 Everyone Can Be an Eco-Hero

Small changes to everyday activities can make a difference. page 4

2 Earth Day – One Billion Eco-Heroes

Learn about the amazing ways people around the world celebrate this day! page 8

3 Eco-Hero Kids

Meet some kids who decided to become eco-heroes. page 12

4 An Eco-Hero Procedure

Here's how one young eco-hero made a difference, and you can, too. page 15

TEXT TYPE Procedure PAGES 15–17

5 Rainforest Eco-Heroes

The rainforests are a unique environment under threat. page 18

For teachers' inspection ONLY

6 Postie Eco-Heroes

Learn how one organisation decided that they would make a change for good. page 22

7 Can Cars Be Eco-Heroes?

Car designers are always thinking up new designs and features to save our natural resources. page 24

8 Wanted: More Ocean Eco-Heroes

Our oceans are under threat, too – and there are plenty of ways to help. page 26

9 Stormwater Eco-Heroes

Recycling stormwater is one effective way of making our cities more sustainable. page 30

Index and Glossary page 32

1 Everyone Can Be an Eco-Hero

For teachers' inspection ONLY



The toco toucan is the largest in the toucan family and is found in parts of central and eastern South America.

Nature at its Best

The best eco-heroes on our planet are the many species of plants and non-human animals that have lived on Earth for millions of years. In their natural habitats, these plants and animals live sustainably, in a balance with the other living things around them.

For a long time, humans coexisted with nature in sustainable ways. But as people around the world invented more and more advanced technologies, environmental problems appeared. Some of these are:



a white-faced capuchin in the Costa Rican rainforest

1. widespread pollution in the environment and atmosphere

2. the increase of mass consumerism, leading to increased waste

3. more extinct, endangered and threatened species



For teachers inspection ONLY

Eco-Heroes Worldwide

In recent decades, millions of eco-heroes have emerged around the world. These are people working to prevent further environmental deterioration. Environmentalists campaign in all kinds of ways to protect the air, water, soil and ecosystems. Despite all the good work being done for our environment, we can do more.

The most important message is that everyone can be an eco-hero. It does not matter how small your actions are, every eco-action adds up to one big positive impact on Earth.

compost bins

What **Eco-Actions** Can You Do Today?

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Save Water When You Brush Your Teeth

Tap Off for First Brush



Tap On to Rinse Brush



Tap Off for Second Brush



Tap On for Final Rinse



For teachers' inspection ONLY

Recycle for Rabbits

Give Leftover Leafy Vegetables and Phone Books to Your Pet Rabbits



Health

The RSPCA's Guide to a Healthy Rabbit Diet

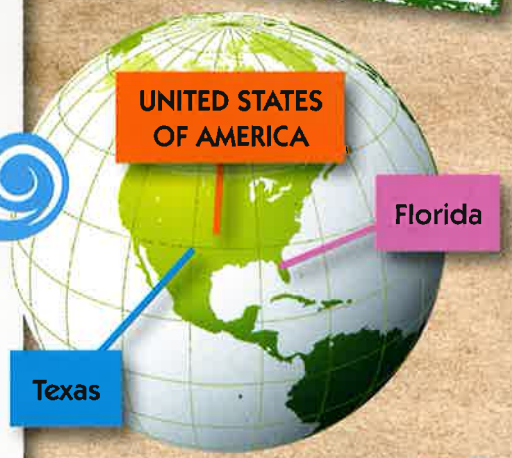
The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) suggests: two packed cups of leafy green vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, carrot tops, parsley or spinach + one or two tablespoons of treats, such as fruits and carrots + plenty of fresh water + old phone books to chew on. Avoid: grains, nuts, seeds, corn, beans, peas, bread, biscuits, sugar and chocolate.

2 Earth Day – One Billion Eco-Heroes

For teachers' inspection ONLY

On 22 April 1970 the first Earth Day was launched in the USA. That year, about 20 million people discussed pollution affecting Earth's atmosphere, land, oceans and waterways. Earth Day discussions inspired the United States government to:

- pass clean air and water laws
- pass laws about protecting endangered species
- establish the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA's role is to research, investigate environmental issues and enforce environmental laws.



Earth Day in Florida – Soldiers Pick Up Trash



On Earth Day 2011, soldiers picked up trash at a Naval Air Station in Florida, USA.

Earth Day in Texas – Clothes Made From Trash



Eco-fashion girls model clothes made from trash for the TRASHIONISTA eco-fashion show at an Earth Day Festival in Texas, USA.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Earth Day Inspires Positive Actions

Every year, Earth Day is celebrated on 22 April. About one billion people in over 170 countries participate in all kinds of eco-actions in homes, schools and communities. Earth Day reminds everyone, including governments, that it is important to continue caring for planet Earth and all living things.

ECO-ACTION

An "eco-action" is any action or activity that makes a positive contribution to the work of protecting and caring for our environment.



Thai Buddhist Monks in prayer at the Dhammakaya Temple north of Bangkok, Thailand.

Thousands in Thailand

Thai monks were joined by around 200 000 visitors who all dressed in white for Earth Day 2009.

The celebration was also to mark the completion of a temple decorated with one million small bronze Buddha statues!





A crowd spells out "CO_2" with a down arrow on Earth Day 2010 in Taipei, Taiwan.

