

# Springboard<sup>into</sup> Comprehension 5

|                      |                                                                   |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Main Idea            | Bukit Timah Nature Reserve<br>The Nelson Mandela Story            |
| Compare and Contrast | Animals under Threat<br>Soccer v Ballet                           |
| Fact and Opinion     | The Great Rainbow Hill Council Debate<br>The Smith Family Diaries |
| Cause and Effect     | <b>Save Our Planet!</b><br>It's Just Not Right                    |
| Bias and Prejudice   | What's Up?<br>Changing Times                                      |
| Figurative Language  | The Big Campaign<br>The Highwayman                                |



RA 10.5–11.5

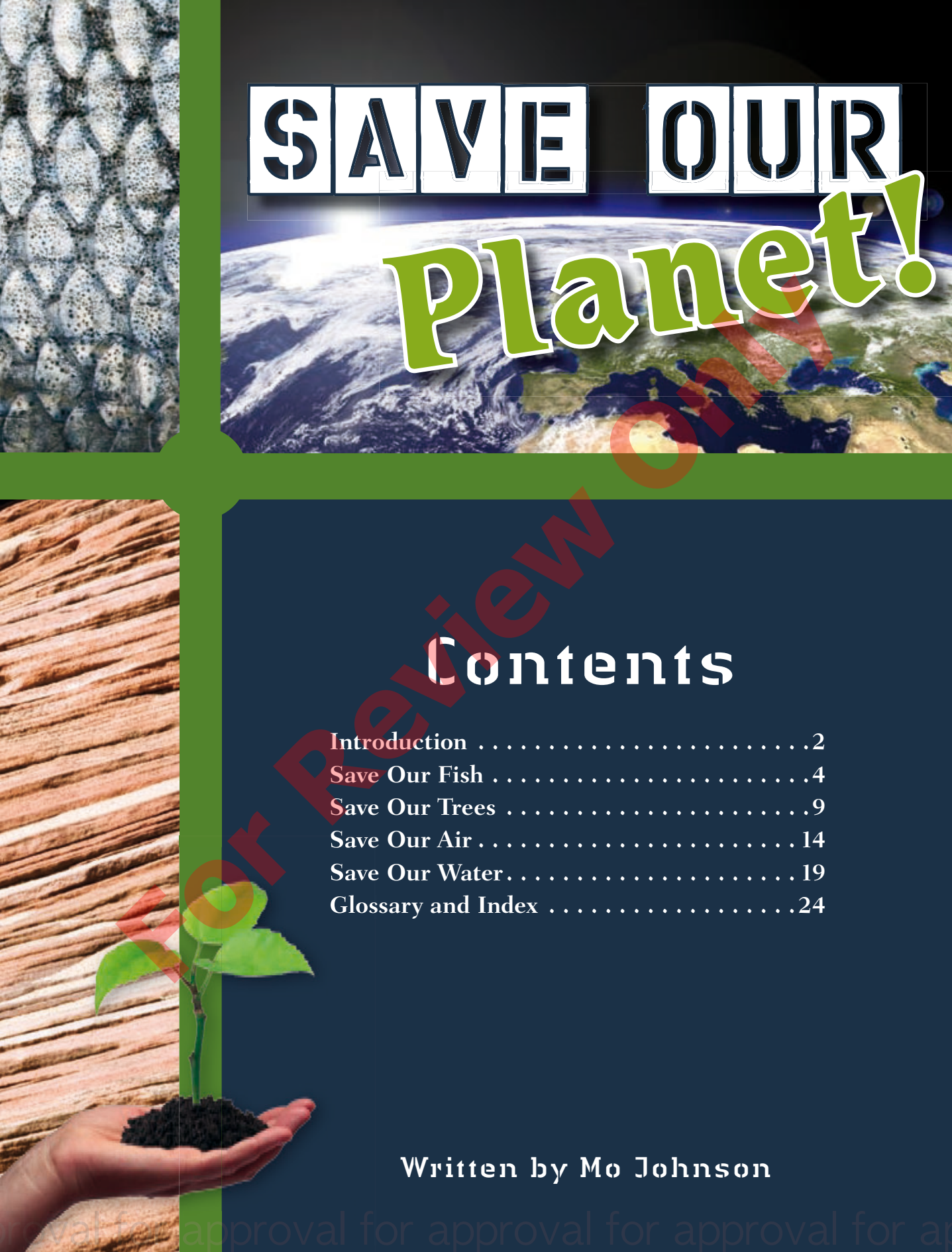


Information Report

# SAVE OUR Planet!



Written by Mo Johnson



# SAVE OUR

# Planet!

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# INTRODUCTION

Planet Earth is a truly amazing place. Most people get to see only a small part of it when they are young. As we get older, many of us choose to travel. Travel often brings a new appreciation of how wonderful Earth is.

For many years, we have used the planet's resources for our own needs. Unfortunately, we have forgotten to think about what this means for Earth. Someone who takes responsibility for looking after something is called a **steward**. Every human being has a duty to be a steward of this planet. We all need to take the best possible care of our environment.

Some children believe that they are powerless to make a difference. They feel frustrated. They think that only adults have the power to change the world. This is not true. Children can make a difference, too.

Conservation starts at home. Save energy by turning out lights. Use less water. Catch a bus. Ride a bike. Walk to school. Pick up your litter. Read newspapers. Watch documentaries. Check the Internet for information about important issues. Find out about organizations that protect the environment. Ask questions. Stay informed. Write to leaders and express your opinions. You will be amazed at what you can do to save our planet!

Get informed about your environment and share what you know. Taking public transport, picking up rubbish, and planting trees are just a few ways to make a difference.



# SAVE OUR FISH

Researchers recently surveyed the 53 countries that catch most of the world's fish. They found that most countries surveyed were breaking the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The United Nations (UN) set up this voluntary code more than a decade ago. It sets out guidelines for conserving and managing fish stocks and their habitats.

No country came out well in the survey. The best ones followed only 60 per cent of the code's principles. These were Norway, Canada, the United States, Australia, Iceland, and Namibia. However, 28 other countries failed overall. Some developing countries showed much better results than some developed countries. Namibia did much better than the United Kingdom, for example. This shows that it is possible to manage fisheries well, even with limited resources. The survey suggests that it is time to enforce the code. Perhaps it should no longer be voluntary.

## What Is Overfishing?

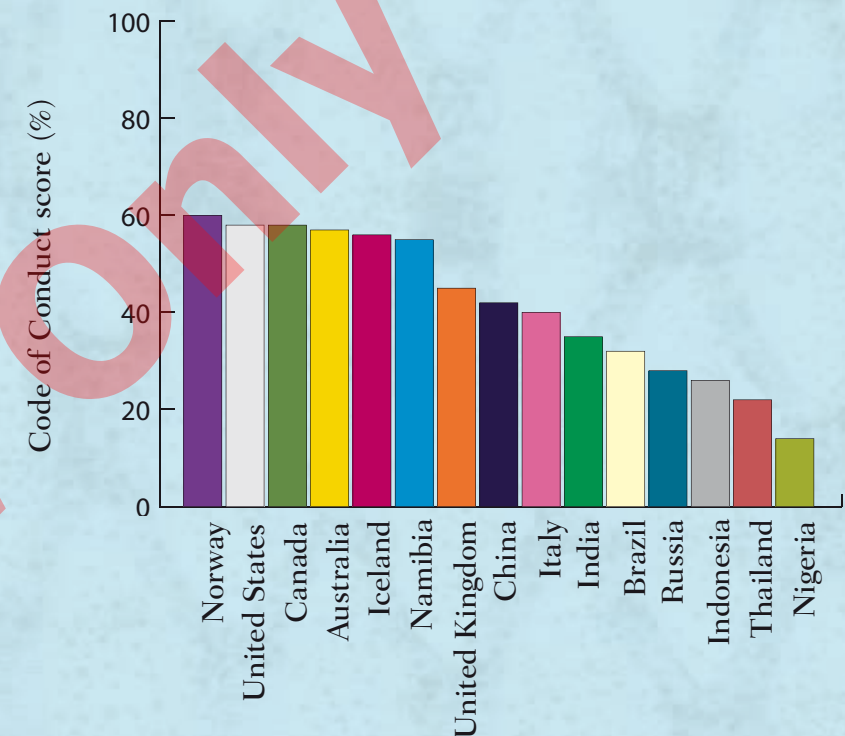
When supplies of fish are reduced to very small numbers, the water is said to have been overfished. Overfishing can happen in any body of water anywhere in the world. It is becoming a huge problem.

Some fishermen cast trawl nets deep in the water. These catch huge amounts of fish. This kind of fishing disturbs the ocean floor. Fishing with nets kills off small marine animals. It also kills fish that the fishermen do not actually want to catch. This is called **bycatch**.

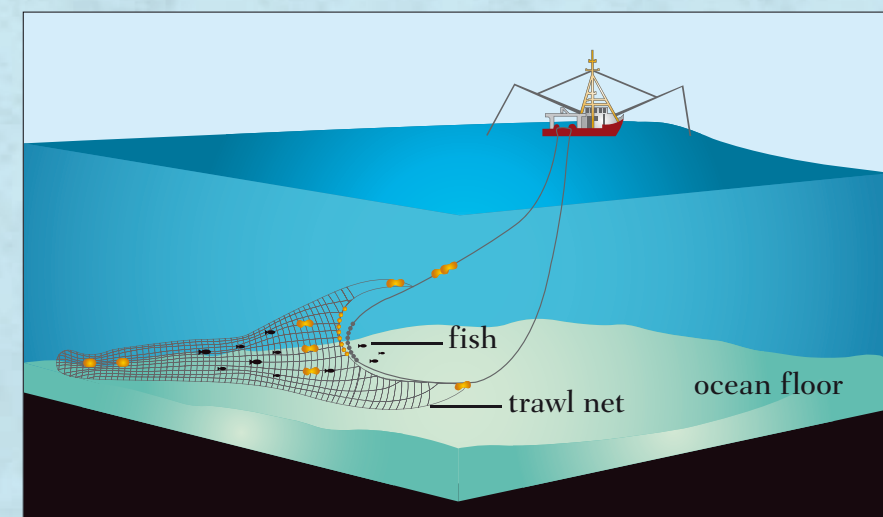
Special nets can be used to reduce the amount of bycatch.



## Code of Conduct Survey Results for 15 Countries



## How Fish Are Trawled



In bottom trawling, the nets are weighed down to drag on the ocean floor. They damage the ocean floor and deep-sea coral reefs.

## Why Is Overfishing a Problem?

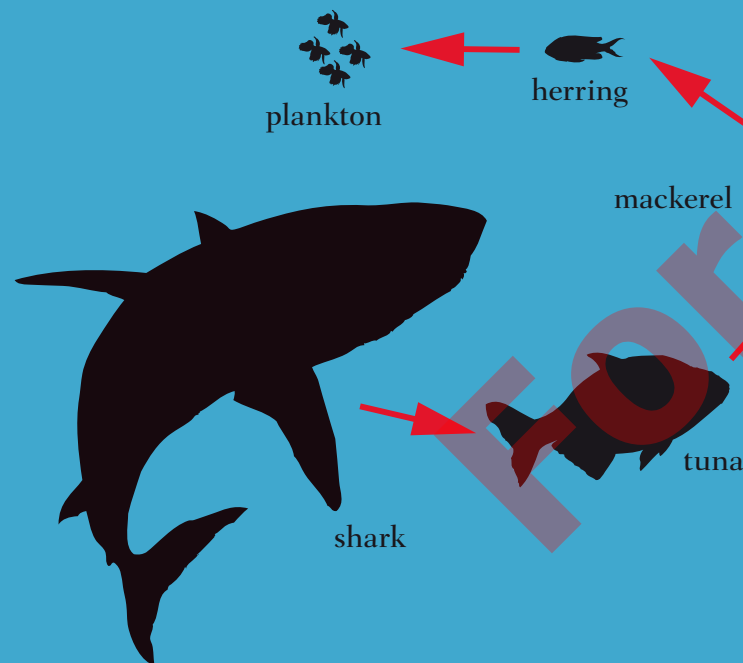
Overfishing has caused many fish stocks to become very low. When only certain kinds of fish are taken from the ocean, several things occur. Firstly, the marine animals that used to be prey for the captured fish begin to grow in numbers. Secondly, the animals that used to eat the captured fish begin to starve. Overfishing creates an imbalance between marine species. This in turn causes problems for the marine ecosystem. This could result in more and more species becoming extinct.

Overfishing creates problems for people, too. Many families are dependent on fishing for their incomes. As stocks dwindle, some fishing companies do not need as many fishermen anymore. Consequently, unemployment rises. People without jobs do not have money to spend. Therefore, other industries also lose income. Whole economies can then become unstable.

## Fishing around the World

| Ocean/Sea         | Which countries import/export the most fish?                                                                   | Which fish are in the greatest danger?                           |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Arctic Ocean      | Norway                                                                                                         | Cod, ling                                                        |
| Atlantic Ocean    | Canada, China, Denmark, France, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, United States                      | Cod, haddock, hake, ling, marlin, orange roughly, salmon, shark, |
| Indian Ocean      | China, France, Japan, Thailand, United Kingdom                                                                 | Marlin, tuna, swordfish                                          |
| Mediterranean Sea | France, Italy, Japan, Spain                                                                                    | Hake, tuna, swordfish                                            |
| Pacific Ocean     | Canada, China, France, Japan, Norway, Spain, United States                                                     | Cod, ling, marlin, salmon, swordfish, tuna                       |
| Southern Ocean    | Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom, United States | Cod, Patagonian toothfish, tuna                                  |

## Ocean Food Chain



## World Oceans

