Arctic Alert!

Save the planet:
- Coastal Cleanup
- Cool Recycling
- Family Project
- Tiger Rescue

Free!
Awesome Animal Quiz Cards

Bonuses:
- Rugby World Cup Poster

National Geographic Kids
Issue 85 September 2011 R25.95 (VAT incl.)
MONSTRO CITY NEEDS YOU!

moshi monsters

BECOME A SUPERMOSHI NOW AT WWW.SUPERMOSHI.COM
The good news is that nearly one third of plastic produced in South Africa is being recycled, the bad news is the rest is ending up in landfills or scattered about all over the place like confetti at a wedding.

NG KIDS took part in the coastal cleanup last year and it was pretty shocking to see what ends up on the beaches. We’ll be going again this year and hopefully there will be less to pick up! If you are in Cape Town on Saturday 17 September and want to join us, send me an e-mail and I’ll give you the details closer to the time.

When it comes to saving our environment and animals the more voices we have shouting about it the better. Artists, through their work, can reach people who might not know as much about environmental issues as other people.

On the Inside Scoop page this month we feature a Dutch artist who is making a sculpture called Plastic Reef from plastic fished out of the sea. He feels that artists have a different perspective on the problem. “Something familiar and beautiful like a coral reef made out of something so disgusting and ugly (melted plastic debris) is more likely to stay in someone’s mind and also the issue that created it in the first place,” says Maarten.

Art can change the world and so can photography. We at NG KIDS want more kids to take up photography. It’s a great hobby which can lead to a very fulfilling career. Turn to page 22 to find out how to become the next NG KIDS Young Photographer of the Year.

Dare to Explore!

Did you Know?
In 2010 bottle caps were the item collected most on beaches on coastal cleanup day. Turn to page 45 to see how this litter bug can be turned into a cool curtain.

DEAR FIONA,

MY NAME IS KOLBE AND SOON I WILL BE EIGHT YEARS OLD. MY DAD WORKS ON A GAME FARM IN BRITS. WE HAVE JUST HAD SOME BABY OSTRICHES AND THEY ARE IN A CAMP TO MAKE SURE THE OTHER ANIMALS DO NOT KILL THEM. I LOVE LIVING ON THE FARM AND I LOVE ALL THE ANIMALS AROUND US.

KOLBE GULLEMMAN, 7, BRITS

This month’s lucky subscribers are, Christopher Southey (10), Jana Fouche (12), Kate Duff (9), Matthew Smith (11) and Taan Blommerus (11).

They have each won a box of Gellibaff children’s bath and pool jelly plus a G-Spa Therapeutic Gel Bath for mom too! Gellibaff gives children a fun bath time while cleansing and softening the skin. This two pack powder turns any children’s bath or pool water into jelly like goo and back again. Visit www.gellibaff.co.za for more information.

Go to page 44 to subscribe. You might be next month’s lucky winner!
Inside

Arctic Alert!
What happens when the ice begins to melt.

Tiger Rescue
A tiger cub gets a second chance.

Young Photographers Competition
Get your cameras ready! You can win awesome prizes!

Sea Otters
Sea otters are cute... but very tough!

Breakfast Around the World
See how different cultures enjoy breakfast.

6 Inside Scoop
38 Cool Inventions
44 Subscription Page
7 Extreme Weirdness
39 Fun Stuff!
47 Just Joking
10 Amazing Animals
40 What in the World?
48 Art Zone

DEPARTMENTS

On the Cover

COPYRIGHT:鎮SONE POLAR BEARS: GILLIAN FLEETON; POLAR BEAR AND YOUNG: ©JANET BLEZEN (FLEETON PHOTO LIBRARY)
BUILD-A-BEAR WORKSHOP

COLOURS OF BEARITAGE

Arrives in store
15 September

Visit a store &
experience the joy of
making your
own furry
friend

stores in
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dress them in
these pawsome
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bears simply answer
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Sms PROUD + your
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Sms’ charged at R1.50/sms. Free sms’ do not apply. Errors billed. Entrant must have billpayer’s mission. We may contact you with future offers via sms till you opt-out. Closing date is 30/09/11. You may enter as many times as you wish. The first correct entry (entries) drawn will win the prize. Prizes not redeemable for cash. Judge’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Winners must be able to collect their prize from a Build-A-Bear Workshop store. 5 winners will be selected and contacted telephonically.
Dumping plastic

“We’re as far from land as we could possibly be in all directions and what do you expect to see? How about a plastic water bottle,” wrote Dr Marcus Eriksen, while leading a plastic tracking expedition on his boat the Sea Dragon.

Plastic is very useful to us: it’s light, doesn’t break easily and is cheap to produce. But it’s very bad for the environment. Up to a quarter of all plastic ends up in the ocean and it doesn’t disappear because it doesn’t biodegrade. In the ocean it is broken up into tiny pieces, making a deadly soup for our marine animals, as fish and birds mistake the bits for food. Researchers have found that a lot of ocean plastic is caught in ocean gyres. These are huge, swirling stretches of circulating currents. Charles Moore, who first discovered the ocean dumping ground, estimates that there is three million tons in the North Pacific Gyre alone.

Maarten van den Eynde is an artist who co-founded the plastic tracking project. On a journey covering 3,000 kilometres they fished out 396 kilograms of plastic bits and bobs – from lighters to safety helmets and lots of plastic bottles. He displayed the ocean plastic outside his studio, then melted it down to make a plastic reef which is on show in an art gallery. There’s no excuse now – we know about the dumping ground and must do what we can to stop it. Reduce, recycle and refuse!

FOR YOUR DIARY

30th End of term

24th Heritage day

5 Fast Facts about the Rugby World Cup

1. The 2011 tournament takes place in New Zealand and starts on 9 September.

2. The South African team, the Springboks, are the current world champions. They are only the second team in the world to win the World Cup twice.

3. The winning team receives the Webb Ellis Cup named after William Webb Ellis who “invented” the game.

4. There have been six Rugby World Cup tournaments and all but one of these have been won by a team from the southern hemisphere.

5. The first tournament in 1987 was hosted by both New Zealand and Australia.

SAVE THE TIGERS

Sometimes younger kids (not you, our dear NG KIDS reader!) think that tigers live in Africa along with lions and leopards. But tigers as we know them have never lived in the wild in Africa. That is until now. In 2000 a charity called Save China’s Tigers was founded by Li Quan in a desperate attempt to save the critically endangered South China tiger. Cubs were taken from zoos in China and sent to Laohu Valley in South Africa for rewilding. Some people thought it couldn’t be done but a decade of hard work has shown that tigers can learn to be wild again. Some are now waiting to return with their African survival skills to their real home in China.
EXTREME WEIRDNESS

COW SAYS AAAHHH

WHAT: Massages for cows
WHERE: Throughout Sweden
DETAILS: It's stressful being a cow; someone is always mooing in your face and there's all that standing around. But in Sweden dairy cows chill out by nuzzling up against one of these devices. That starts the rotating brush, giving the bovines a soothing rubdown and a dry bath as it flicks dirt from their hides.

BIKE DOESN'T SINK

WHAT: Floating bicycle
WHERE: Wuhan, China
DETAILS: You think you're protecting Earth by drinking water from gigantic bottles. But what can you do with all that plastic? Make a floating bike! That's what one inventor did by attaching eight empties to a regular bicycle. Mini-paddles on the spokes help the bike power through the water.

OCEAN GETS ART SHOW

WHAT: Underwater artist
WHERE: Black Sea, off Ukraine
DETAILS: The last thing you want to do is dunk fine art in water, unless you're underwater artist Alexander Belozer. His specialty is painting underwater landscapes on location. Using a treated canvas and ultrathick paint that doesn't react to seawater, Alexander gives new meaning to the term "watercolour."

KAYAK MEETS BIRDS

WHAT: Skyaking
WHERE: Somewhere over Mexico
DETAILS: What do you get when you cross a kayak with a skydiver? This guy! Miles Daisher is a "skyaker" who jumps out of aeroplanes strapped into a kayak. Using the kayak sort of like a skateboard, Miles spins and twirls in the air until he opens his parachute and lands on a tiny strip of water. At least he hopes he lands on a strip of water.
Start collecting now!

Emerge victorious with the ultimate collection!

- Use the check boxes below to keep track of your Pokémon TCG cards!


- = standard set  ○ = standard set foil  ◦ = parallel set  ★H = rare Halo  ★ = rare  ● = common  ★U = rare Ultra
Spruce Grove, Canada

Don’t call Bailey Jr. a backseat driver. That’d be impossible, since the bison takes up seats in the front and back while riding to the local burger joint or the mall.

Bailey Jr. has been riding in cars since he was a baby. As an orphan he was adopted by Jim Sautner, who needed to bottle-feed the little bison every few hours. So the rancher created a makeshift seat belt, placed the animal in the backseat of his pickup’s cab and took him to work every day.

But soon the bison—who eats 13 kilograms of oats and hay a day—quickly outgrew the backseat. Instead of leaving him at home, Jim got a four-door car, removed the car’s roof and passenger seats and reinforced the floorboards. “If he sees me leaving without him, he runs along his fence and follows,” Jim says. Bailey Jr. doesn’t care what kind of car he rides in, as long as his buddy, Charlie Brown the cocker spaniel, can come, too. The bison doesn’t mind sharing the ride... as long as the pooch will sit in the back.

—Jamie Kiffel-Alcheh
**DOG PROTECTS PIGLET**

Hörstel, Germany

When Roland Adam found an orphaned newborn Vietnamese potbellied pig alone and shivering on his farm, he wasn’t sure what to do. But Katjinga the Rhodesian Ridgeback did. She snuggled up to the small pig (now called Paulinchen), cleaning it with her tongue and nursing her as she would her own puppy. “Katjinga lay down, fed her, and kept her warm,” Roland says. In fact, this isn’t the first time Katjinga cuddled up with orphaned animals—she’s also tended rabbits and ducks.

“Recently we found her warming up one of our sheep that was sick,” Roland says. Sounds like one protective pooch!

—Sarah Wassner Flynn

**CAT GETS BIONIC FEET**

Surrey, England

When Oscar the cat lost his back feet in an accident last year, his owners thought he’d have to be put down. Cats need their back feet for survival. But veterinarian Noel Fitzpatrick had an idea.

Noel and a team of engineers created the first-ever realistic prosthetic cat feet for Oscar. The new feet were based on the way antlers grow from a deer’s head. The cat’s skin and bones could grow into the prosthetics so they’d become part of his body. Rods were fused into Oscar’s leg bones, then special curved “feet” were attached. (Cats rock on their feet to move themselves forward.) Finally, Noel attached tirelike rubber to the bottom of each foot so Oscar wouldn’t slip.

Today Oscar does anything that four-footed cats do, including jumping onto beds, crawling up curtains and even scratching his ears with his plastic feet. Mice, beware: Oscar is on the prowl!

—Jamie Kiffel-Alcheh

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**TAKE A COOL ANIMAL QUIZ—ON YOUR PHONE!**

Got a smart phone? With a parent’s help, follow these instructions.

1. Go to your phone’s app store.
2. Search for and download a free mobile bar code scanner.
3. Open the scanner.
4. Aim your phone at the mobile bar code (above) so it’s in the middle of the screen.
5. Watch what happens!

No smart phone? Take a quiz online at kids.nationalgeographic.com/almanac-2012.
Check out these outrageous facts.

A traffic jam in China lasted for more than a week.

Kids’ fingerprints disappear from surfaces faster than adults’ do.

It’s impossible for turtles to stick out their tongues.

Rotten eggs float in water.

Mexico City has sunk seven metres in the past 100 years.

Ancient Greeks used Hula Hoops.

A five-seat bicycle is called a quindem.

A Finnish man wrote a novel made up of 1,000 SMSs.

You can buy worms from a vending machine in Japan.
Prestik’s been Smurfed!

To celebrate the return of the Smurfs, Prestik has turned blue! This is for a limited period of time so collect all six packs of Prestik Blue before they sell out. You can win Smurftastic prizes like PS3s, PS3 games, movie tickets, Bostik goodies and much more! See back of pack for details!

Make a Smurf pencil topper using Bostik Crazy Clay and stick it onto your favourite pen or pencil using Prestik Blue.

WIN!

Let’s get Smurfed! Can you get creative and think of other cool uses for Prestik Blue? Send us your blue-illiant ideas and stand a chance of winning a fantastic Bostik hamper filled with goodies.

E-mail your ideas to competitions@ngkids.co.za and be sure to put Bostik Smurfs in the subject line of the e-mail.

THE SMURFS
IN 3D

Blue alert! The Smurfs got chased from their village by the evil Gargamel and now have to try and survive in New York, America! But don’t let that make you feel blue. The Smurfs are very smart and don’t forget that dynamite comes in small (blue) packets!

In cinemas 30 September 2011.
FOR POLAR BEARS ICE IS BOTH HOME AND HUNTING GROUND. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THAT ICE BEGINS TO MELT?

A lumbering bear plods along an ice floe. Swimming under the ice, seals can hear it. They don’t want to come up for air as long as that hungry polar bear is there.

The bear can smell them. A polar bear can smell seals from more than one kilometre away and under one metre of heavy snow.

This bear scans the horizon and finds what it is looking for—a hole in the ice. Seals use a dozen or more breathing holes at a time. The bear knows that eventually a seal will pop up for air. It just has to be really quiet and really patient first.

Tucking its massive legs beneath its body, the bear sits on the ice. Its nose stretches forward within reach of the hole and waits and waits.

More than an hour passes. Then, in an instant, an unlucky seal pops out of the hole to catch a breath. In that same instant the polar bear pounces. Dinner has arrived.

BY JOHNNA RIZZO
PUTTING ON THE KILOS
Under good hunting conditions a polar bear will usually eat one seal every four or five days. One bear can eat 45 kilograms of blubber or fat, in one sitting. Eating the fat from the bodies of its prey adds blubber to the bear’s body.

Fat is important to polar bears. Blubber helps keep it warm. Female polar bears weigh 150 to 300 kilograms. Males usually weigh double that and much of that weight is blubber.

THE ICE KINGDOM
Wild polar bears are found only in the Arctic. The Arctic is the region around Earth’s North Pole, which is in the middle of the Arctic Ocean. It is bitterly cold with temperatures falling to as low as minus 40 degrees Celsius.

Although it is an ocean, you could walk across it as the surface freezes into ice. When ice forms over the sea, it doesn’t make an even layer like on a skating rink. At first the ice is thin enough for the wind and waves to break it into pieces.

As the pieces of ice get colder, they get thicker. They join together to make larger blocks. As winter comes, the blocks freeze together, forming pack ice.

Most polar bears live and hunt on pack ice. Pack ice is usually about three metres thick and is strong enough to hold a polar bear’s weight, as well as that of many Arctic animals.

Many polar bears live in southern regions of the Arctic. There, the pack ice melts in the summer. In places where the ice melts completely, polar bears move onto land.

Land isn’t the best place for polar bears because they’re cut off from their main food supply. Their ideal habitat is floating slabs of ice close to the water, which teems with fish and seals.

TOO HOT TO HANDLE?
A polar bear’s whole life is tied to the seasonal changes in Arctic sea ice. A bear can travel up to 4,800 kilometres a year. It moves from ice to land to ice again. But the ice is changing.

Scientists measuring Arctic temperatures have discovered an alarming trend. The Arctic is heating up. As it becomes warmer, pack ice melts earlier in the year. This gives the bears less time to hunt on the ice, forcing them onto land sooner. But hunting on land is hard work. A polar bear might need to stalk, or silently follow its prey for long distances. The bear must be careful not to overheat. This can be a tall order.

As Earth’s largest land predator, a polar bear uses twice the energy to walk than most other mammals. Just 12 seconds of running can burn more energy than it would get from eating a whole seal! Stalking that seal for hours, or even days, can be exhausting.
A POLAR BEAR POKES THROUGH ICE IN THE ARCTIC.

A POLAR BEAR CUB CLINGS TO ITS MOTHER.

DANGEROUS ICE

The problem of an earlier melt goes beyond just having to hunt on land. As pack ice melts, the remaining ice is further from shore. Chunks of floating ice are also further apart. Now the gap of open water between the ice and the land is larger. Waves gush through the gaps, tossing ice about. Swimming from shore to pack ice becomes much more dangerous.

Normally, swimming long distances comes naturally to a polar bear. It can swim up to 100 kilometres to get to a hunting ground. And it’s fast—swimming up to ten kilometres per hour to catch a fast-swimming seal. It can dive as deep as six metres to chase a seal.

Yet even this strong swimmer can tire. Rougher seas and greater distances between ice floes can prove too challenging for polar bears. With warmer temperatures a polar bear may get out for the next chunk of ice but not be able to make it safely back to shore.
Polar bears depend on thick sea ice to hunt and breed.

WATCHING AND WAITING
Scientists are tracking the temperature in the Arctic closely. They have found that rising temperatures are causing the pack ice to melt an average of two weeks earlier than it did just 20 years ago.

That might not seem like a lot, but to a polar bear a few weeks makes a big difference. For each week the ice breaks earlier, the bears come ashore weighing nine kilograms less than they have in the past seasons.

Scientists measuring summer ice in 2010 reported a large melt by June, the beginning of summer in the Arctic. It continued to melt well into September, when it normally begins to freeze over.

Warmer weather is a disaster for polar bears. In some areas, the bears already must eat enough food in only three or four months to last them for the rest of the year.

What does the future hold for polar bears? Scientists in the Polar Bear Specialist Group have been studying 19 groups of bears. Only one of these groups is bigger than during the previous study. It’s a small hope that polar bears can adapt. The main threat is global warming. If we can reduce the warming, it will help the polar bear survive.
SEPTEMBER 2011 IS CLEAN-UP SA MONTH

Clean-up & Recycle
Keep litter off our streets and out of our rivers, dams and oceans.

12 – 17 September
Clean-Up SA Week
www.cleanup-sa.co.za

16 September
National Recycling Day
www.recyclingday-sa.co.za

17 September
International Coastal Clean-Up

Recycling 1 ton of plastic bottles saves 1 1/2 tons of CO₂

Plastic recycling saves energy

I choose to clean-up & recycle.

5 x recycled PET bottles = 1 x T-shirt

Proudly supporting Clean Up South Africa month

The Plastics Industry Taking Action.

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CAPE PROVINCES
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john.kieser@plasfed.co.za

www.plasticsinfo.co.za
AMUR TIGER

Scientists teach an orphaned cub to fend for himself.

BY ALINE ALEXANDER NEWMAN

Like a homeless kitten, a lone Amur tiger cub wanders aimlessly around an isolated village in southeastern Russia. Its scrappy, matted fur makes the little creature appear more ragged than cute. The February day is a wintry minus 15 degrees Celsius and a blanket of snow covers the ground. The lost, lonely cub is starving.

At only twelve weeks, this little tiger is much too young to know how to hunt. His mother is nowhere to be seen. He could not survive on his own.

Two wildlife experts find the cub huddled in a doghouse. They easily capture the cub, which is too weak to resist and take him to a veterinarian. On the examining table, the grubby kitty looks half dead. He's so scrappy, his bones stick out. He has dried blood caked on his fur and he's covered with dog bites.

The vet washes the cub’s wounds and gives him antibiotics to ward off infection. Afraid the cub might catch pneumonia, the vet puts him in an enclosure away from other animals. This “tiger isolation ward” has an exercise area and a comfy wooden den with a pile of sweet-smelling hay where the tiger can relax.

The cub gets a high-calorie porridge rich with nutrients, which he eagerly devours. And the staff gives him a name: Oleg.

Oleg Gains Weight.

To everyone’s relief he’s healthy. Now a difficult decision must be made: what should they do with him? Most rescued tigers end up in zoos, which have played a major role in preventing the species from becoming extinct.

But there are only about 350 Amur tigers living in the wild. Since Oleg was born free, Ian Robinson of the International Fund for Animal Welfare thinks he deserves to stay that way. “We believe wild animals belong in the wild,” he says.

The trouble is that the big cats are dangerous predators, especially if they lose their fear of people. “The main goal with tigers like Oleg is keeping them wild,” says Ian. “Rehabilitated ones might become problem animals that attack and kill livestock. Or humans.” Even so, he believes Oleg can be rehabilitated—if it’s done right.

Ian Thinks otherwise. “Hunting is an instinct, not learned,” he says. “Our job is getting Oleg strong for the chase.” His plan moves forward. Oleg’s caregivers establish two rules. No one is allowed near the tiger’s pen and he is fed only natural prey from the forest—never lamb or beef. That way he won’t develop a taste for farm animals. By September the tiger weighs a healthy 69 kilograms.

It’s Time to Let Him Go.

Oleg is put into a transportation cage and driven to a forest in a wildlife reserve. A scientist opens the cage door by remote control. “The tiger came out like a rocket,” says Ian. “He was gone!”

No one has seen Oleg since. But he wears a satellite radio collar and scientists monitor his movements. Ian bets that Oleg will stay healthy and wild. Then the experiment will prove a success. Scientists will release more tigers and the wild population will continue to grow.
IT'S TIME TO ENTER THE SIXTH NG KIDS YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS COMPETITION! GET THOSE CAMERAS READY: YOU CAN WIN AWESOME PRIZES!

WAYS TO ENTER:
1. Turn to page 24 for entry form.
2. E-mail and MMS your entries to: ypc@ngkids.co.za. Remember to write NG KIDS YPC in the subject line and include your photo title, category and age group.
3. Post your entry to: NG KIDS Young Photographers Competition, PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8001.
4. Visit the NG KIDS SA fan page on Facebook.
5. Deliver your entry to: NG KIDS, 8th floor, Media City, 1 Heerengracht, Cape Town

WHAT TO DO:
- Take a picture of anything that catches your eye in one or more of the categories using a camera or a cell phone.
- You can enter up to four pictures (one for each category).
- You don’t need a top-of-the-range camera to take a winning picture. It’s more about looking at the world in a different way so that when you see something interesting or inspiring you’re ready to go “click”!
- Entries open on 24 August and close on 15 November 2011.

CATEGORIES:

I love South Africa

Animals

People

That’s Funny!

CHRISTEL BREMER, 13, UTRECHT TITLE: “STEKHAAR”

AMANDA WATT, 13, DURBAN TITLE: DURBAN BY NIGHT

ANDREW STONE, 11, JOHANNESBURG TITLE: MONKEYING AROUND

SINEAD WORTLEY, 11, JOHANNESBURG TITLE: BUSI FROM ITHEMBA HOME

A PANEL OF EXPERTS WILL JUDGE THE ENTRIES BASED ON CREATIVITY (50%) AND PHOTOGRAPH QUALITY (50%). THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL.
WIN!

Each of the 12 finalists (three in each category) will win a R350 Spur meal voucher, a year’s subscription to NG Kids, a Nikon Coolpix S3100 camera and a pair of action 8x40 binoculars courtesy of Nikon!

This is where you’ll stay if you win.

Sanbona Wildlife Reserve

Open to all kids between the ages of 6 and 14.

Turn the page for our terms and conditions as well as an entry form.

The winner will also be entered into the International Photography Contest 2011 for kids and could win a trip to Washington in America to visit the National Geographic Society!

BE QUICK! The first 30 entrants will receive a R100 voucher from Spur.

Grand prize:
The overall winner will get a fantastic Nikon D3100 camera and kit worth R6 500 AND a family holiday for four (two adults and two children up to the age of fifteen) courtesy of The Shamwari Group at Sanbona Wildlife Reserve. Only three hours from Cape Town, Sanbona boasts 54 000 hectares of undulating mountains and plains, indigenous flora and fauna, rock formations and rock art. The winner will enjoy three nights at the lodge including all meals, game drives and selected beverages. The holiday is worth R54 000. Visit www.shamwarigroup.com. E-mail reservations@sanbona.com or call 041-407-1000 for more information.

NG Kids Young Photographers Competition is proudly sponsored by Spur.

Prizes sponsored by:

Shamwari Group
Sanbona
Shamwari Wildlife Reserve
Nikon

Spur Steak Ranches
A taste for life
## NG KIDS YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

**FULL NAME:**

**AGE:**

**BIRTH DATE:**

**SCHOOL:**

**PHOTOGRAPH TITLE(S):**

**CATEGORIES:** (you can enter up to four pics)
- ANIMALS
- I LOVE SOUTH AFRICA
- PEOPLE
- THAT’S FUNNY

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

- HOME
- GUARDIAN’S CELL

**NAME OF GUARDIAN:**

This is my own original work and I give NG KIDS permission to publish and display my photographs.

I agree that the photographs become the property of NG KIDS and that all rights are transferred to NG KIDS.

**SIGNATURE**

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. The competition opens on 24 August and closes on 15 November 2011.
2. It is open to all readers who are between 8(8) and fourteen (14) years of age on 1 November 2011. All photographs must be the entrant’s own work.
3. Only one photograph for each category per entrant will be accepted.
4. All entries must be accompanied by a physical address. No P.O. Box addresses will be accepted. NG KIDS and the National Geographic Society reserve the right to use all entered photographs in the competition and throughout the world.
5. We reserve the right to publish photographs without attribution to the photographer. The entrants have the right to decline to have their name and photograph reproduced. In this instance NG KIDS/NGS reserves the right to publish their photograph without credit, and no forwarding will be undertaken by the competition organizers. The entrant accepts full responsibility for the photograph. If feasible, a full-release form will be used so that the entrant will not be contacted regarding the publication of the photograph.
6. The entrants and winners will be notified telephonically by mid January 2012.

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**PAYMENT OPTION 3: Cheque or postal order**

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**SIGNATURE**

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*Ask an adult’s permission first! SMS cost R1. Free SMS don’t apply. This offer is open to the first 2,000 subscribers. Offer valid until 30 September 2011. We reserve the right to replace the featured gift with one of equal value. Offer is open to SA addresses only. Please call 0860 103 578 for International rates.*
More Meerkat Madness

More hilarious adventures featuring Uncle Fearless, Skeema, Mimi and Little Dream—the all-star cast of Meerkat Madness.

Now available in all good bookstores.
SPRINGBOKS IN NEW ZEALAND

THE SPRINGBOKS WILL BE COMPETING AGAINST 19 OTHER TEAMS AT THE RUGBY WORLD CUP IN NEW ZEALAND. RECORD THE SCORES FOR THEIR GAMES IN POOL D AND HOPEFULLY THE WHOLE WAY THROUGH TO THE FINAL!

Six cool facts NEW ZEALAND

- Wherever you live in New Zealand you are only an hour away from the ocean.
- Wellington where the Boks will play their first game is the capital of New Zealand.
- It is situated about 900 kilometres east of Australia across the Tasman Sea.
- English, Maori, and New Zealand sign language are the official languages.
- New Zealand is made up of two main islands called North Island and South Island.
- It has a very long coastline. At just over 15 000 kilometres, this is five times as long as South Africa’s coastline.

The Springboks are in Pool D with teams from Fiji, Namibia, Wales and Samoa. New Zealand is in a different time zone. Match times are for South Africa.

**POOL D MATCHES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>SOUTH AFRICA</th>
<th>VS</th>
<th>WALES</th>
<th>VS</th>
<th>FIJI</th>
<th>VS</th>
<th>NAMIBIA</th>
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<th>SAMOA</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday, 11 September in Wellington at 10:30 am</td>
<td>VS</td>
<td>Wednesday, 17 September in Wellington at 8 am</td>
<td>VS</td>
<td>Friday, 22 September in Auckland at 10 am</td>
<td>VS</td>
<td>Friday, 30 September in Auckland at 9:30 am</td>
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**QUARTER-FINAL MATCHES:**

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday, 1 October in Wellington</td>
<td>VS</td>
<td>Saturday, 8 October in Auckland</td>
<td>VS</td>
<td>Sunday, 15 October in Auckland</td>
<td>VS</td>
<td>Sunday, 9 October in Auckland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The players on this page are named as part of the Rugby World Cup Preliminary Squad. The final squad could include other players.

**SEMI-FINALS:**
- VS
  - Saturday, 15 October in Auckland at 10 am
  - VS
  - Sunday, 16 October in Auckland at 10 am

**BRONZE FINAL:**
- VS
  - Friday, 21 October in Auckland at 9:30 am

**FINAL:**
- VS
  - Sunday, 23 October in Auckland at 10 am
They are extraordinarily tough animals.
SEA OTTERS: Supercute, Supertough
These fuzz balls have incredible survival skills.

BY RUTH A. MUSGRAVE

Bursting from the depths of frigid Alaskan waters, a sea otter holds her prize: a lifeless giant Pacific octopus. She quickly rolls onto her back to use her stomach as a table. The enormous octopus drapes over her body like an oversized tablecloth. As astonished researchers watch the otter devouring the feast, they can only imagine the epic battle that must have occurred under the water. “I’ve never seen an otter bring up such large prey, but it’s not surprising,” says marine biologist Chris Marshall. “They’re extraordinarily tough animals.”

A sea otter may look like a cute, gentle ball of fur, but they are rugged, resilient, wiry predators that battle prey, the environment and other otters every day. In fact, most humans couldn’t do what otters do. Here’s why they deserve a reputation as the tough guys of the ocean.

SEA SURVIVOR
A sea otter is about the same size as an 11-year-old kid—but it’s a whole lot tougher. Otters spend nearly their entire lives just beyond the breaking waves. Whether it’s stormy or calm, winter or summer, they eat, sleep, fight, mate and give birth on the surface of the sea.

Otters live within 800 metres of the shore and stay within a three-kilometre area year round.

Sea otters are found along the coast of the North Pacific Ocean in North America and Asia.
Only a female and her pups will hunt in groups or share food.

An otter has as many as one million hairs in one square centimetre of skin.

People would be lucky to last 20 minutes in an otter’s home before hypothermia—a deadly drop in body temperature—sets in and their bodies shut down. That’s because you lose body heat 25 times faster in the water than in the air. Other marine mammals such as whales and walruses have blubber—a thick layer of fat—to keep them warm. Sea otters don’t. They rarely, if ever, climb out of the water. So how do they survive?

**ULTIMATE FUR COAT**

A sea otter wears a luxurious fur coat. You have about 100,000 hairs on your entire head. An otter has about 800 million hairs on its body. The fur is the otter’s shield from the sea. Only the outer layer—the tips of the hairs—gets wet. The thick coat and natural oils keep the skin and underfur dry. Air trapped between the fur and skin keeps an otter insulated from the icy water.

If the fur gets dirty or damaged and its skin gets wet, an otter can die quickly of hypothermia. Because its fur is the only thing protecting a sea otter from the heat-stealing ocean water, the marine mammal spends nearly half of its day cleaning, combing, and fluffing its coat.

**FEEDING FRENZY**

To stay warm, an otter also relies on a fast metabolism. This internal furnace is always set on extra hot. To fuel that furnace and because an otter doesn’t store fat to turn into energy, it must eat massive amounts of food every day. Their prey includes sea urchins, crabs, octopuses and fish as well as shellfish such as abalones, mussels and clams.

“Otters are ravenous eaters,” says marine biologist Lori Timm. “To survive, an average adult sea otter needs to eat 6,750 calories a day. That’s three times more calories than a kid needs!”

A daily menu might be seven abalone, 37 cancer crabs, 50 sea urchins, or 157 kelp crabs—or some similar combination of prey. That’s equal in calories to 28 hot dogs with buns, 42 scoops of chocolate ice cream, 127 apples or almost 2,000 small sweets.

Having to eat 2,000 small sweets might sound good, but what if you had to make 2,000
Otters have nostrils and ears that close in the water.

Male northern sea otters weigh up to 45 kilograms. Large females weigh up to 32 kilograms.

SUPER STRENGTH
Using tools such as rocks to crack open shells is all the rage with otters in California, but it isn’t always necessary. That’s because sea otters are like superheroes when it comes to strength. Alaskan sea otters crack open dinner with their teeth! A hard clam or mussel shell is no match for an otter’s powerful jaws and strong teeth.

A person would have to make several dives, use a special sharp tool and have lots of luck to pry a firmly anchored abalone from its rock. An otter has only its paws and an occasional rock. The otter also uses its strong paws to snatch and overpower large crabs while avoiding their dangerous claws.

Superswimmers, supereaters, superdrivers—sea otters definitely deserve their reputation as supertough marine mammals.
If you’d like a change from oats or eggs in the morning, take a look at what other kids eat in different countries.

**BALI**

**PISANG GORENG (FRIED BANANAS)**

Bali is a tropical island in Indonesia. It is known for its friendly people and is a popular tourist destination.

**WHAT YOU NEED**
- 4 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 bananas
- 50 grams palm sugar (from coconut palm tree sap)
- Cinnamon – ½ - 1 teaspoon
- Water or 1 egg

**HOW TO MAKE IT:**
1. Mix the flour, sugar and salt in a bowl. Add one banana and mash it into the mixture.
2. Pour some water (or one egg) into the mixture and mix it in (it should be quite wet).
3. Slice the other bananas into halves (ask a parent to slice for you).
4. Heat lots of oil (not olive oil) in a wok or big pan.
5. Dip your sliced banana into your flour and banana mixture. Make sure it's well covered with the mixture.
6. Carefully place the dipped banana pieces into the hot oil (ask your parent to help). Let the bananas sizzle in the oil until they're crispy brown.

**TO MAKE THE SYRUP**
Heat the palm sugar and cinnamon in a small pan with a little water, so it’s a thick but runny mixture. Use low heat and keep stirring!

When the bananas are ready to serve, pour the palm sugar and cinnamon syrup over the top.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

For breakfast, kids in Indonesia also eat nasi goreng (fried rice with vegetables, fish, meat or tofu and a fried egg on top), bebek inin (black rice pudding made with black rice and coconut) or ketela pohon (tapioca with coconut).

NITA ANGGRA DYANTO (12) DECORATED HER FRIED BANANA WITH FRANGIPANI AND HIBISCUS FLOWERS. SHE CUT THE BANANA LEAF INTO THE SHAPE OF A SUN.
**DRC SWEET POTATOES WITH GROUND PEANUTS**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is situated in central Africa on the Equator. The DRC is famous for its gorillas and chimpanzees, the Congo river (the second longest river in Africa) and tropical rainforest.

**WHAT YOU NEED**
- Sweet potato (one each depending on size)
- Peanuts with skins
- 1/2 cup or 1 tablespoon peanut butter
- Pinch of salt

**HOW TO MAKE IT:**
1. Wash and peel the potato and cut into small pieces.
2. Put the potato into a saucepan. Add a little water, just covering the bottom. Add a pinch of salt.
3. Cover with a lid and heat until tender (about 15 to 20 minutes).
4. Take off heat and mash the potato.

**TO PREPARE THE PEANUTS**
Fry the peanuts in a saucepan and stir until they are slightly brown. Don’t use oil. Let them cool a little. Pound the nuts in a mixer or with a pestle and mortar.

Add the nut paste to the mashed potatoes. Put it in a bowl—you can add some honey or a banana. Eat it warm.

---

**FRANCE BAGUETTE WITH BUTTER AND JAM, DIPPED INTO HOT CHOCOLATE**

France is famous for its Eiffel Tower, fashion and food!

**WHAT YOU NEED**
- Baguette
- Butter
- Drinking Chocolate powder

**HOW TO MAKE IT:**
1. Heat two cups of milk in a saucepan.
2. Add four teaspoons of drinking chocolate.
3. When it’s hot (not boiling), pour into a bowl.
4. Slice some baguette and spread with butter and your favourite French jam.

Drink your hot chocolate from a bowl and dip in your baguette.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
As a treat kids also eat croissants or “pain au chocolat” – a bit like croissants with chocolate in the middle!
INDIA
MANGO LASSI WITH DOSAS AND CHUTNEY

India is a huge country with 1.2 billion people. The Himalayan region in the North has some of the highest mountains in the world. Some of India’s famous protected areas are in South India like the Project Tiger reserves set up to protect one of India’s most endangered animals.

WHAT YOU NEED
- one ripe mango
- one cup yoghurt
- 1/2 cup milk
- three teaspoons sugar
- some ground cardamom

HOW TO MAKE MANGO LASSI:
1. Peel the mango and cut it into pieces. Throw the pip away. Then chill the mango, milk and yoghurt in the fridge or freezer. A lassi is nicer cold.
2. Now put the mango, yoghurt, milk and sugar into your blender and blend them for two minutes.
3. When your lassi is smooth and a little bubbly on the top, pour it into a tall glass, sprinkle with a little ground cardamom and pop in a straw. It’s ready! Some kids in South India prefer a salt lassi to a sweet lassi. If you want to try this, use 1/2 teaspoon of salt in your lassi instead of the sugar. (Some people also leave out the mango.)

TO MAKE DOSAS
Mix the dosa flour with water to make a thin batter. Heat the pan. Pour in a little dosa batter and cook a thin, crispy pancake. While it’s still warm, roll the pancake up and eat it with coconut chutney or tomato sauce. Do it again!

WHAT YOU NEED
- water
- dosa flour or Dosa Mix

South Indian facts:
- Many people in South India speak Tamil. Practice this: Vanakkam! It means “hello” in Tamil.
- Dosas taste great with coconut chutney. In fact, a lot of South Indian food has coconut in it. That means South Indians have to practice climbing tall coconut palms a lot. It’s scary.
- South India is not a country – it’s only the southern part of India. People have been living in South India since 8000 BC. Today, more than 230 million people live there.
- You get tigers in South India. Tigers are beautiful but they are a rare and endangered species. The Nagarjunasagar Wildlife Sanctuary is one important Tiger reserve in South India.
- Did you know that most South Indian people prefer to eat all of their meals using their hands (and not knives or forks)? Try it sometime. It’s not easy, but it’s fun!
Help National Geographic Kids Set A Guinness World Record!

Can exercise be fun? Of course, especially when you’re setting a Guinness World Record while you are breaking a sweat! Join NG KIDS readers around the world who will be doing Jumping Jacks for one minute.

**WHAT TO DO**

- Check out the rules first! For official record rules, registration details, games and more, go online to:
  - kids.nationalgeographic.com/lets-jump.
- Prepare for the jumping. Practise doing your Jumping Jacks for one minute.
- The attempt will take place during the week of 10 October 2011. Check the website for more details closer to the time.
- On the Guinness World Record day you can do the one minute of Jumping Jacks on your own, with a bunch of friends or your entire school.

**LET’S MOVE!**

The event kicks off in Washington D.C, America with First Lady Michelle Obama doing Jumping Jacks at the White House.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The White House has a swimming pool, a tennis court, a jogging track and a bowling alley.

A group of NG KIDS SA readers doing Jumping Jacks on Table Mountain.

COOL INVENTIONS

UNDERWATER SCOOTER

Explore an underwater cave, follow a school of clownfish or look a dolphin in the eye. With the HydroBOB you can paddle around the ocean depths without a mask, flippers or mouthpiece. Just dive into the water, pop your head inside the bubble helmet and swing your leg over the seat. Use the handlebars to steer left and right, press a button to keep the vehicle moving and use its air bag to control depth. The clear dome allows you to breathe underwater for an hour (thanks to an on-board air tank) and gives you a 360-degree view of your surroundings—from that friendly turtle on your left to the dark, darting shadow on your right. Uh-oh, maybe it’s time to scoot.

FRIDGE OF THE FUTURE

You are hungry and head for the refrigerator. Reaching into the green goo, you pull out some fresh cheese. The Bio Robot concept fridge uses a green gel to store and cool food. The gel is spongy enough for you to swap items in and out, but solid enough that it doesn’t cling to your food. To put the cheese back in the fridge, find an open spot and push it into the gel. The gel moulds itself around the cheese as tiny “computers” figure out what it is. The computers then adjust the temperature of the gel to keep the cheese fresh. Everything is easy to see, so you no longer need to worry about forgotten food turning into science projects.

TRICKY TRIPOD

From a shot of you grinding the rails at the skate park to evidence that your brother’s been sneaking ice cream from the freezer, the Gorillapod lets you take pictures and videos like never before. This flexible tripod holds small cameras. Its twelve-centimetre-long legs are bendable, so they can be secured to unusual places. The Gorillapod also has magnets for feet, so it can be attached to magnetic surfaces. Want to catch your kid brother in action? Stick the Gorillapod to the fridge, turn on the video camera, and wait for his next food raid. Busted, bro'
Fun Stuff

games, laughs and lots to do!

Colour Coded

Some items on this Hawaiian beach have mysteriously changed colour. Find 12 things that are the wrong colour. Answers on page 48.
What in the World?

Green Things
These photographs show close-up and faraway views of green things. Unscramble the letters to identify each picture. Let's go green!

Answers on page 48

Amechleon
Tfficra ltigh
Argden heos

Ragpes
Ealf
Rofg

Pleaps
Croliobc
Umbosgot
Photo Funnies

What do you think this chimp is thinking?

Do we get free refills?

1. Fill in the thought balloon.
2. Cut out the entire picture (or make a photocopy of it).
3. Mail it along with your name, address, phone number and date of birth to NG KIDS Photo Funnies, PO Box 2271, Cape Town 8000. Selection for publication in a future issue will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.

From the June Issue

I’ll talk. Eddie, you dial, Bob, you listen and Frankie... go find a plug for this thing!
Vassili Michaelides, 12, Klerksdorp

Why did giraffe have to steal our Blackberry?
Gaby Rautenbach, 13, Pinetown

This is one big banana... the banana is speaking!
Justin Philpott, 11, East London

Haloo? Lion, is that you?
Cindy Louw, 10, Johannesburg

It’s hard to make small talk on a big phone like this!
Cameron Vermaak, 13, Cape Town

Elephants never forget... to phone back.
Jacob Thomas, 13, Potchefstroom

Who needs a Blackberry when you can have a yellow banana?
Nia le Roux, 11, Franschoek

A big phone for big ears!
Emma Smith, 11, George
SHARPAY'S FABULOUS ADVENTURE
DStv Disney Channel 303
Our favourite diva, Sharpay Evans from High School Musical is back! This time, she is on her own adventure! After a talent scout spots her performing with her dog Boi, Sharpay sets off for the bright lights of New York City, ready to be super famous! Soon Sharpay has a reality check when she meets the devious owner of a pampered dog named Countess and a scheming Broadway teen who will do anything to be the best! Fortunately Sharpay also meets a handsome student filmmaker called Peyton, who finds her fascinating...
Sharpey's Fabulous Adventure premieres on Disney Channel (DStv Channel 303) at 10.30 am on Saturday 10 September 2011.

Pokémon TCG: Black & White
Collectors Cards
In the Pokémon Trading Card Game, you choose from among hundreds of different Pokémon, supportive Trainer cards and power-giving Energy cards to find the perfect combinations that will lead you to victory. You and a friend face off with your decks, using your own Pokémon to knock out your friend's Pokémon and taking Prize cards for each battle won. The first player to take all of their opponent's Prize cards wins the game! With the new Pokémon TCG: Black & White expansion, you can discover a legion of over 70 never-before-seen Pokémon from the newly explored Unova region, including new starter Pokémon Serio and Tepig, as well as powerful new Pokémon like Zoroark, Galvantula and Reuniclus! Some Pokémon have all-new special skills called Abilities and cards with these Abilities are extra valuable.

WIN THIS!
You can win one of three Pokémon TCG: Black & White Collector's Boxes, including all new Pokémon cards from the Black & White expansion. Follow @PokeCardSA on Twitter and you could also win a prize bag full of fun games, puzzles and activities and jokes about spies and dogs including Lara the Spy Dog, her friends and enemies. The activities and games will keep you busy for hours! You can also read the new story and a special introduction by LARA's creator, Andrew Cope.

150 years of South African Rugby
Wim van der Berg
If you love sport, especially rugby, be sure to read this amazing collector's item! The first rugby game ever played on South African soil was in 1861. That is exactly 150 years ago! Read about how rugby developed to a national obsession and follow the teams and players through the history of South Africa. You can read about how far this game has come and how the game's spirit survives. What is even greater is that it's just in time for the 2011 Rugby World Cup!

WIN A BOOK!
You can win a copy of the 150 years of South African Rugby book! Follow @PokeCardSA on Twitter and your name and address will be entered into a prize draw!

DID YOU KNOW?
The writer of the book has a dog called Lara. She inspired the Spy Dog books!
SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW NOW AND RECEIVE A FREE BOOK!

Mister King’s Incredible Journey

David du Plessis

Mister King’s Incredible Journey is a tale of courage and compassion. The story follows a king penguin captured by fishermen visiting its remote South Atlantic island. Through various adventures, both below and above the waves, the penguin eventually lands up on a beach on the mainland and seems to be destined for the local museum – until nature intervenes!

The book is available at all major bookshops. Visit www.randomstruiik.co.za for more information.

SMS "NGK SEP" to 32361* and we’ll call you back.

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Discovery Vitality members can subscribe to National Geographic Kids for only R87 for 12 issues! Subscribe now by visiting VitalityMail at www.discovery.co.za, and remember, you can use your Discovery Miles, accumulated VitalityMail credit or a combination of these methods to pay. The number of magazines you can subscribe to annually at a reduced rate depends on your Vitality status. Terms and conditions apply. Vitality HealthStyle (Pty) Ltd is an authorised financial services provider.
Family Project

PLANET-SAVING PLASTIC FUN

Plastic is convenient but not so good for our planet. Now you can recycle plastic and make something cool for your room! Try this colourful curtain for a window or a door and stop these plastic bottle caps from ending up in a landfill.

Always ask a parent for help when using scissors!

WHAT YOU NEED

- About nine one-metre-long strands of colourful wool
- As many plastic bottle caps as you can find.
- Scissors
- A thin rod

WHAT YOU DO

- Wash the bottle caps with warm water and let them dry.
- Use the scissors to make holes in the middle of each bottle cap (ask a parent to help you). This is where you will thread the wool.
- Take one strand of wool and tie a knot at the bottom.
- Choose a bottle cap and thread the wool through the hole.
- Push the bottle cap down until it reaches the knot.
- Measure six centimetres from the knot and make another knot. Repeat the steps until the whole string of wool is covered with bottle caps.
- Tie your strands to a piece of wood and hang it in front of your window!

DID YOU KNOW?

Plastic bags and other plastic rubbish thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1 million sea creatures every year.

DID YOU KNOW?

It takes about 450 years just for a plastic bottle to break down in the ground!

September is time to spring clean! Cleanup South Africa Week takes place from 12 to 17 September 2011, culminating in the National Recycling Day on Friday 16 September 2011. The 26th International Coastal Cleanup Day is on Saturday 17 September. It’s not only the ocean but also rivers and dams that need cleaning. Visit www.cleanup-sa.co.za for more information.
SIGNS
OF THE TIMES

Seeing isn't always believing.
Two of these funny signs are not real. Can you figure out which two are fake?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 48
KNOCK, KNOCK.
Who's there?
Lena.
Lena who?
Lena little closer and I'll tell you.

TONGUE TWISTER!
Say this fast three times:
Two twins twirled twelve twigs.

Q Why do dogs run in circles?
A Because it's hard to run in squares.

Q How did the crab call his friends?
A He used his shell phone.

Q What do you get when two dinosaurs crash into each other?
A Tyrannosaurus Wreck.
NG KIDS readers sent us drawings of their favourite rainforest animals.

Happy Tree Frog
Yemaja Morley, 10, Wilderness

"Reënwoordpaepgaai"
Jeadrie van Staden, 7, Wierdepark-Suid

Crazy Chameleon
Jethel Naidoo, 9, Johannesburg

Stalking Leopard
Andrew Phipott, 9, East London

A Lemur
Jesse le Roux, 10, Hoekwil

Toucan Sam
Dylan Jordaan, 8, Queensburgh
Tigress
Micaela Abreu, 11, Cascades

“Die Blou Toekan”
Madiéne van Wyk, 12, Princesa

Twilight
Michelle Alberts, 4, Durbanville

Jaguar
Michael Slopen, 12, Framsays

PLAY WITH CRAZY CONCEPTS!
Crazy Concepts aims to provide safe, durable toys that spark kids’ imaginations and allow for hours of fun. Our top quality products cover a wide range of items from the smallest goods up to the biggest play structures imaginable suited for schools and party venues.

You can win an Extreme Coaster valued at R480. E-mail your name, age and contact details to sharlene@crazyconcepts.co.za to enter.

Visit www.crazyconcepts.co.za for more information.

ROLLERKIDZ FUN
Turn your favourite pair of shoes into roller skates. Adjust the size to fit your shoes, strap the skates on and roll away!

Roller Kidz Heel Skates are also a fun way to exercise!

Win one of five pairs of heel skates valued at R350 each.

E-mail your name, surname and contact number to
prizes@rollerkidz.co.za.

Visit www.rollerkidz.co.za or call 083-445-3165 for more details.

ENGENIUS OPENING SPECIAL
This awesome opening special is valid for Centurion Mall only!

Present this original voucher at Engenius Toys, Shop 318A Centurion Mall, to receive 35% percent discount off your purchase! New store opens 1 September 2011. Voucher valid at Engenius Toys Centurion store for the month of September only. Only one voucher can be used per purchase.

Visit www.engenius.co.za.

*SMS cost R1.50. Free SMSs don’t apply. Competition closes 20 September 2011.
Introducing the Green City Challenge Set!

An introduction to robotics course for students!

In January 2011, LEGO® Education launched the first LEGO-branded and developed introduction to robotics themed set!

The Green City Challenge Set and Green City Challenge Activity Pack center around the theme of renewable energy and are ideal as a classroom beginner package or in-class competition set.

Students are introduced to the world of robotics by first exploring basic programming maneuvers utilizing one of three training mats.

Each training activity focuses on one of the four main LEGO sensors – light, ultrasonic, touch, and sound – and enables students to explore and enhance their programming and sensor knowledge.

After students have completed the training phase and are confident in their robotic building and programming skills, they are presented with the Green City Challenge.

The challenge consists of a number of missions simulating real-life engineering problems, each environmentally focused and conducted on the Green City Competition Mat.

As students complete each challenge mission, they are awarded an energy brick. When all missions are complete, students use their collected energy bricks to power the “Green City.”

Each of the Green City Challenge missions are designed with three skill levels in mind: basic, moderate, and high. This enables teachers to select a level most appropriate for their students based on class progress or individual understanding of robotics.

The three levels can also be used to offer extension challenges to further expand classroom curricula.

The Green City Challenge Set contains three training mats, a challenge mat, and more than 1,300 elements to build challenge models such as a wind turbine and power plant.

The Green City Challenge Activity Pack offers seven easy-to-follow training activities plus challenge missions. Student worksheets, building instructions, programming examples, teacher notes, extension ideas, and mission rules are provided to ensure an easy-to-implement and easy-to-facilitate classroom environment.

A Green City Challenge Combo Pack is also available and includes both the Green City Challenge Set and Green City Challenge Activity Pack at a discount bundle price.

The Green City Challenge Set and Activity Pack are designed for use with the LEGO MINDSTORMS® Education NXT Base Set and LEGO MINDSTORMS Education NXT Software, each sold separately.

For a full selection of LEGO Educational products and Courses contact Engenius Toys Fourways (011) 465 5386 or Engenius Toys Irene Village (012) 662 0818
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