



# ZOOM in on america

A Monthly Publication of the USA Mission to Poland. Warsaw . Kraków . Poznań

Volume I. Issue 3.

## EARTH DAY— Think Globally Act Locally

On April 22, join people around the world to recognize how far we've come and keep working on what still needs to be done.



It's far better to reduce the toxicity and amount of solid waste in the first place than to cope with it after it has been created. Through source reduction, recycling, and composting, many environmental benefits and cost savings can be realized. Just remember the four "Rs"...

**Reduce.** Packaging serves many purposes. Its primary purpose is to protect and contain a product. It also can prevent tampering, provide information, and preserve hygienic integrity and freshness. Some packaging, however, is designed largely to enhance a product's attractiveness or prominence on the store shelf. Since packaging materials account for a large volume of the trash we generate, they provide a good opportunity for reducing waste. In addition, keep in mind that as the amount of product in a container increases, the packaging waste per serving or use usually decreases.

- Reduce the amount of unnecessary packaging.
- Adopt practices that reduce waste toxicity.

**Reuse.** Many products are designed to be used more than once. Reusable products and containers often result in less waste. This helps reduce the cost of managing solid waste and often



- Consider reusable products.
- Maintain and repair durable products.
- Reuse bags, containers, and other items.
- Borrow, rent, or share items used infrequently.
- Sell or donate goods instead of throwing them out.

### Recycle.

When you've done all you can to avoid waste, recycle. Producing goods from recycled materials typically consumes less energy and conserves raw materials. Yet, our landfills are packed with many packages and products that can be recycled.

- Choose recyclable products and containers and recycle them.
- Select products made from recycled materials.
- Compost yard trimmings and some food scraps.

**Respond.** Share information about recycling, and composting with others. Spread the word to family, friends, neighbors, local businesses, and decision-makers. Encourage them to learn more about solid waste issues and to work toward implementing and promoting source reduction, recycling, and composting. We all have the power to influence others and help create the type of world in which we want to live.

- Educate others on source reduction and recycling practices.
- Be creative—find new ways to reduce waste quantity and toxicity.

Source: <http://www.epa.gov>

# ■ FORESTS: OUR PLANET'S ENDANGERED EDENS



Forests are prime reservoirs of biodiversity, as well as the ancient cradle of the human race. Anthropologists believe that species ancestral to ours lived amid the trees, later emerging to grassland savannas to explore and hunt.

Forests and woodlands over the world have changed over the millennia due to changes in climate and geology. In the modern world, forests are classified into various groups, including temperate-zone and tropical forests. Not all rain forests are in the tropics -- some are in cooler climates. And there are other kinds, such as riparian forests, that separate interior areas from coastlines.

According to the U.S. State Department, "one of every six known bird species, one of every 11 mammals, and one of every 15 reptiles" makes the Amazon rainforest its home. Unfortunately, as David B. Sandalow, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, recently noted: "Tropical forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. Saws and bulldozers are leveling roughly 200 hectares per minute. A soccer field is close to two hectares, so we are losing about 120 soccer fields of tropical forest per minute, more than 7,000 soccer fields per hour, more than 170,000 soccer fields per day."

Forests are stores of food. About a dozen fruits - apples, peaches, strawberries, bananas, etc. - dominate world consumption. There are probably about 3,000 more kinds of fruits in the tropics, of which 200 are widely eaten. Tens of thousands of other grains, vegetables, and forms of plant food are out there waiting to cure starvation and create greater variety on the dinner table, if they are allowed to survive. The winged bean of New Guinea, for instance, is full of protein, is entirely edible, and can be fried, roasted, ground into flour, or served as a hot beverage. And it grows to a length of 4 meters in a few weeks. The Amazonian babassu palm, still found in a natural state, offers the world's highest yield of vegetable oil from its fruit. It can also feed livestock, produce thatching materials, and be burned for charcoal. Iguana meat is prized by many in the Southern Hemisphere. Scientists estimate forest-ranched iguanas can yield ten times the amount of meat as cattle on the same acreage of cleared land. Other less well-known, yet tasty, animals could produce much food without destroying their forest cover.

Around the world, 500 million people are thought to depend on forests for their livelihood - an incentive to preserve the health of forests and to protect them as a sustainable resource for future generations.

Source: based in part on „Forests our Planet’s Endangered Edens” <http://usinfo.state.gov/>

## Today in History

Earth Day was first observed in Spring of 1970. An estimated 20 million people nationwide attended festivities out of which came the largest grassroots environmental movement in U.S. history, and the impetus for national legislation like the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. It also sparked the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

By the twentieth anniversary of that event, **April 22, 1990**, more than 200 million people in 141 countries participated in Earth Day celebrations. Earth Day is not without historical precedent. Both **Arbor Day** and **Bird Day** were established in the late 1800s to support forestation, conservation, and the appreciation of nature.

Source: [loc.gov](http://loc.gov)



## facts

- About 4 billion trees are cut down every year. From 1990-1995, there was a net global forest loss of 112,600 square kilometers per year (equal to 33 soccer fields per minute)
- Rainforests are home to about half of the Earth’s 5 to 10 million plant and animal species.
- 78 million acres of rainforest are destroyed each year—an area larger than Poland.
- Approximately 40 percent of the world’s remaining frontier forest is under moderate or high threat.
- Over 20% of all the carbon dioxide that is being added to the atmosphere through human activities is the result of the deforestation

Source: <http://www.earthday.net>

# American Bison and European Bison

# Plant a Tree



## American bison - *BISON BISON*

Class: Animals with Milk Glands (Mammalia)  
Subclass: True Mammals (Eutheria)  
Order: Even-toed Mammals (Artiodactyla)  
Family: Bovidae.

**Name:** "Bison" is Latin for the animal, possibly derived from an

ancient word for "flowing," describing the scent glands, and similar in word derivation to the "weasel."

**Location:** United States and Canada.

**Habitat:** Terrestrial. Prairie.

**Description:** The coat is dark brown, long and shaggy on the shoulders, head, neck, and front legs, which emphasizes the powerful forequarters of the bison's body. On the forehead the hair is thick and curly, and under the chin it forms a beard. The horns are present in both sexes and are short and curve upward. The bison reaches 12 feet in length, six feet tall at the shoulder, and can weigh over one ton, with females smaller than males.

**Behavior:** In the winter, males and females gather in separate herds. Some herds move south in search of a milder climate, while others remain in their territory and search for food by digging down into the snow on the ground to uncover small grazing areas. During the mating season, which occurs in summer, the herds unite, and it is possible to witness violent fights between males over a female.

**Reproduction:** The gestation period lasts for 275 days, after which the female produces a single calf, which becomes completely mature in three years.

**Note:** As a result of wholesale slaughter in the last century, the enormous herds of bison that roamed the plains nearly became extinct. Now it is protected, and its number has grown to about 35,000.



## European bison - *BISON BONASUS*

Possibly Endangered

Class: Animals with Milk Glands (Mammalia)

Subclass: True Mammals (Eutheria)

Order: Even-toed Mammals (Artiodactyla)

Family: Bovidae.

**Name:** "Bison" is Latin for the animal,

possibly derived from an ancient word for "flowing," describing the scent glands, and similar in word derivation to the "weasel."

**Location:** central and northern Europe

**Habitat:** Terrestrial. Forests

**Description:** The coat is dense, long, and either dark brown or black. The hair is longer on the neck and head, where it almost forms a mane. The lower section of the horn projects outward, and the tip then curves upward, and they are present in both males and females. This animal reaches over ten feet in length and six feet in height, and the males can weigh up to one ton or more, while the female is much smaller than the male.

**Behavior:** In the wild, the European bison lives in herds which are led by a mature male. Older individuals of both sexes lead a solitary existence. The bison is active during the night and also to some extent during the day, but it rests in the afternoon. The mating season is in September, when there are vicious fights between adult bulls. At the present time there are no more than 300 European bison in the wild - located in the Bialowieza Forest in Poland.

**Reproduction:** The gestation period lasts for about nine months, when the female gives birth to a single calf.

**Note:** There are 15 species in the subfamily Bovinae, of which 383-388 are members.

Source: [www.americazoo.com](http://www.americazoo.com)

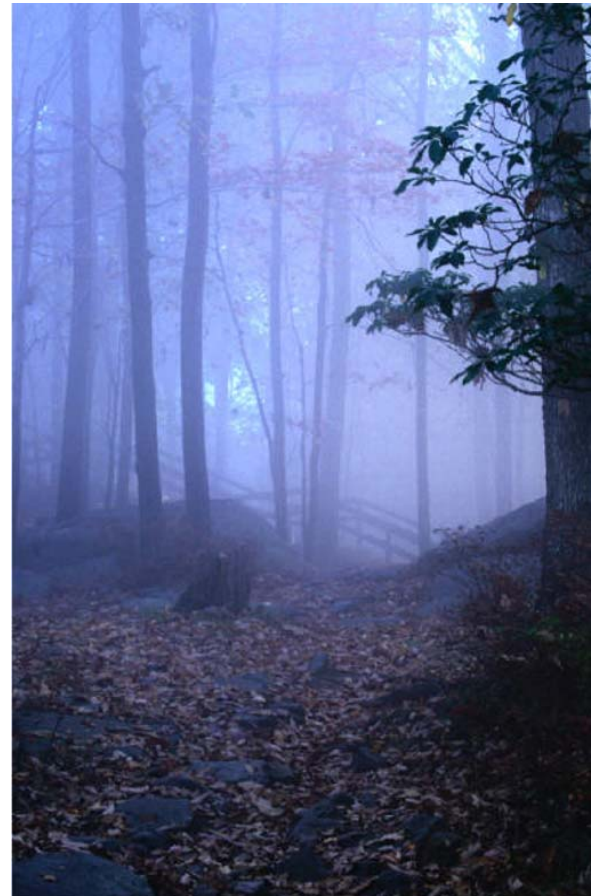
## Tree Planting Procedure

1. Prepare planting area by turning up soil in an area 3 to 5 times the size of the root ball.
2. Dig a hole in the center of the area, so that the tree rests on solid soil.
3. Backfill and use water to settle the soil.
4. Mulch a 3-6" deep ring around the tree, being careful not to pile mulch near the trunk. (Stake only if necessary due to high winds.)
5. Water every week and watch for signs of insects or disease. Signs of disease include yellowing leaves, foliage loss, discoloration of visible roots, and failure to grow.
6. Protect tree from damage caused by feet, lawnmowers, pets, etc.

Make a long-term plan for the tree's care.

Water a new tree weekly for the first 6 months and keep an eye on it for at least 3-5 years. Plan who will look after the tree in the summer and in future years.

Source: [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net)



## Win a Book!

To take part in a drawing for one of three English-language books check out our website:

[www.usinfo.pl/zoom/](http://www.usinfo.pl/zoom/) and find the answer to the following question:

*Earth Day in 1970 led to the creation of what federal agency or legislation?*

- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- All of the above

Send your answer to:  
[zoom@usinfo.pl](mailto:zoom@usinfo.pl)

State your name, address, and age. The deadline is May 15.

## Word Search

# Earth Day Every Day



AIR  
ANIMALS  
CARE  
CLEAN  
CONSERVATION  
EARTH  
ECOSYSTEM  
ENERGY  
EXTINCT  
FUEL  
HABITAT  
HOME  
LANDFILLS  
LITTER  
OCEANS  
OXYGEN  
OZONE  
PEOPLE  
PLANTS  
POLLUTION  
PRESERVE  
RAINFOREST  
RECYCLE  
RESOURCE  
REUSE  
SOIL  
VOLUNTEER  
WATER  
WETLANDS  
WORLD

V	O	X	K	R	Z	C	T	S	F	T	P	F	Y
P	Z	X	O	C	E	A	N	S	F	U	M	O	C
T	O	P	Y	M	E	C	R	U	O	S	E	R	O
P	N	K	O	G	D	N	Y	S	P	Y	T	L	N
E	E	H	G	L	E	T	D	C	G	A	S	C	S
X	N	O	S	L	L	N	N	R	L	L	Y	E	E
T	A	K	P	I	A	U	E	H	Q	E	S	V	R
I	E	V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	O	R	V
N	L	I	T	T	E	R	D	I	S	M	C	E	A
C	C	E	W	R	A	I	N	F	O	R	E	S	T
T	W	R	A	E	S	L	A	M	I	N	A	E	I
T	T	A	T	I	B	A	H	L	L	L	R	R	O
C	E	C	E	K	R	K	S	T	N	A	L	P	N
G	D	L	R	O	W	Y	B	Q	R	E	U	S	E

©1998 The Kid's Domain  
<http://www.kidsdomain.com>

# ZOOM

in on america

## About ZOOM

Zoom is online at  
[www.usinfo.pl/zoom/](http://www.usinfo.pl/zoom/)

Subscription issues  
[www.usinfo.pl/zoom/subscribe.htm](http://www.usinfo.pl/zoom/subscribe.htm)

Contact us at  
[zoom@usinfo.pl](mailto:zoom@usinfo.pl)

### American Information Resource Centers

**Warsaw**  
Ambasada USA  
ul. Piękna 14, 00-540  
Warszawa  
[airc\\_warsaw@pd.state.gov](mailto:airc_warsaw@pd.state.gov)

**Kraków**  
Konsulat Generalny USA  
ul. Stolarska 9, 31-043  
Kraków  
[KrakowAIRC@state.gov](mailto:KrakowAIRC@state.gov)

## Earth Day True or False Sentences

In the following 5 sentences, mark T or F to indicate whether the new "Earth Day word" has been used properly!

- \_\_\_ 1. Did you smell the pungent **OZONE** near the swamp this morning?
- \_\_\_ 2. The **BOTANICAL** animals were able to roam in a natural, secure habitat.
- \_\_\_ 3. Is the American Bald Eagle still on the **ENDANGERED** Species List?
- \_\_\_ 4. The **FAUNA** in Africa include the lion, leopard and gazelle.
- \_\_\_ 5. In the winter when the leaves have fallen, Adam likes to **DEFOLIATE** the trees.

**The word "ecology" comes from the Greek word meaning "....."**

Find Correct **Answers** at: [www.usinfo.pl/zoom](http://www.usinfo.pl/zoom)