

A Green Voice for Nature!

In our forum today, four teenagers from different schools around the world talk to us about their personal interests in green issues.

A

Felipe, Mexico

I live in Puerto Vallarta. This weekend we've got a school excursion to Banderas Bay. So this time tomorrow, I'll be watching the wild dolphins there! I love anything to do with ocean wildlife and I'm sure it'll be really exciting. Our Biology teacher is giving us a talk about it first and then we'll spend about three hours on the water. We might go swimming with the dolphins, too, but that'll depend on how the experts judge their mood. If we don't, we can go snorkelling to see the tropical fish and maybe a Manta ray or two. What's cool is that part of the profit from these trips goes towards the funding of ecological research projects in the region. Watch this space and I'll report back next week on the trip!



C

Jeni, England

Next week is eco-week at our school and we're going to visit environmentally-friendly projects and places around London. One of the projects is called The Edible Bus Stop, which involves planting vegetables near urban bus stops to make them more attractive places to stand and wait. What's more, the idea of forming a green bus route is catching on. The whole thing was inspired by an idea called 'guerrilla gardening', which involves people planting greenery (sometimes illegally!) in empty public spaces. It's an awesome way of transforming the concrete jungle we live in. We're also going to spend a day at Kew Gardens, one of the world's greatest botanical gardens. It's got the biggest plant and seed collection in the world, which is part of their fantastic project to conserve plant species for future generations.



D

Levent, Turkey

Northern Turkey, where I live, is still a natural habitat for a number of wild animals such as lynx, wolves and wild bears. I've been worried about the wild bears because they're an endangered species, but I've just been doing a project about a new 'wildlife corridor' in the region. This is a protected stretch of land, mainly forest, about eighty-two kilometres long, which will enable the bears to move around freely and safely. A research team is going to monitor how bears use the corridor with 'crittercams,' which are webcams attached to collars round the animals' necks. Each bear is painlessly sedated first so that it can be fitted with the special collar. Then, as soon as it's back on its feet, the camera will show everything from the bear's point of view! So cool, isn't it?



B

Pilar, Spain

In three weeks' time, it'll be the school holidays and I'll be relaxing at my aunt Carmen's hotel near the Picos de Europa National Park – a rural paradise! I'm taking some school friends with me and I think they'll love it there. My aunt is really into ecotourism and her hotel is amazing! It's constructed from natural and recycled materials, it uses alternative energy through solar panels, it's got eco-friendly lighting and all the waste is recycled. They're self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables from their organic farm, where they don't use any pesticides. Plus they look after wildlife habitats in the area. You can see an incredible variety of birds and butterflies on the farm, so I'm definitely going to do some painting while I'm there – hopefully, I'll pick up some techniques from my uncle, who's a professional artist.



I. Read the text and answer the following questions:

1. What will Felipe do tomorrow?

2. What can they do if dolphins are not in a good mood?

3. What will the new wildlife corridor allow?

4. How is the crittercam going to be attached to the bear's neck?

5. What is Jeni going to do as part of the eco-week at school?

6. Why is Jeni going to visit the Kew Gardens?

7. What will Pilar learn when visiting her aunt?