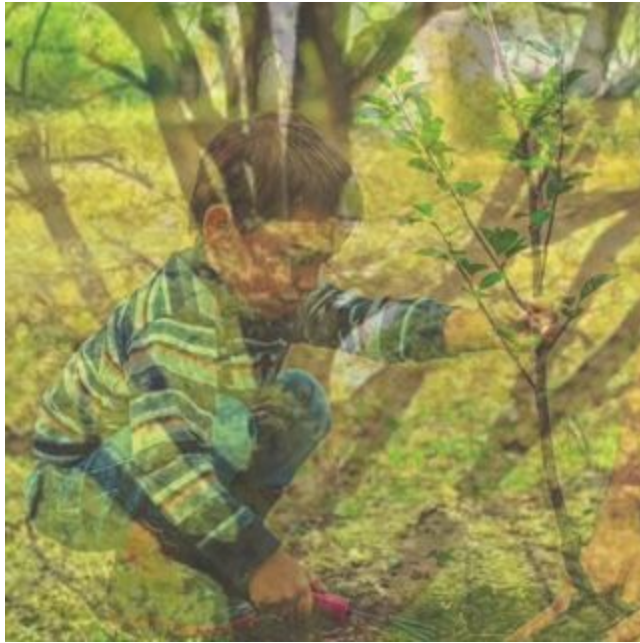


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Instead of choosing a photo that reflects the abhorrent way many humans currently treat our environment juxtaposed with a positive photo of our future, I chose to go with two photos that are both essentially positive. I feel that too many hard truths about human's role in the desolation of our planet, though they are very important and essential to know, can foster a sense of despair and fail to motivate change. Hope is the key to inspiring change; if you give people hope, they will feel empowered to do their part to make our world a better place. For this reason, I chose a photo of a young boy planting a tree, overlaid with a photo of the mature tree it grows into. To me, this symbolizes the immense positive changes that we can make, and in fact have made, each and every day. Just signing up for this challenge was a key first step for many people on their journey to reducing their environmental impact and helping protect our planet! For every step we take, we are like that little boy planting a tree (whether or not we are literally planting trees). We are turning off the lights when we leave a room, eating less meat, bringing our reusable bags to the grocery store, doing our part in hundreds of little ways. No, we are not perfect, and we make mistakes, but we can all do our part to make our world a better place for ourselves and future generations. Our actions might not seem important or revolutionary now, but in the end they turn into enormous trees- a well of positive impacts springing from one small change. If we all stay hopeful and do our part, we will have forests of trees (both literally and metaphorically) with which to replenish our earth and, ultimately, ourselves.

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Just now

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