



DAY 24
GREENER
BIODIVERSITY

TEAM NATURE NERDS

NATURENERDS

JENNIFER | ALICE | JOANNE | RICHARD
WEARETHENATURENERDS@GMAIL.COM

JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL

REFLECTION

All of these resources were informative and inspiring. I've looked into the severity of climate change and the importance of biodiversity before, but some of the facts that I learned today were simply shocking. It's scary to imagine that half of Earth's animals have vanished since the 1970s. And even as I'm writing this, I have to correct myself because they haven't "vanished", they died. And, this was essentially because of humans. These pieces of information were a major reminder of the urgency of climate change. It was great to learn about the seed vault in the Arctic. I've read that bananas are mostly all clones of each other and are therefore vulnerable to a single disease. With the huge amount of monocropping in our food industry and the loss of biodiversity, the vulnerability of our plants is something I'm glad is being addressed.

In particular, I was moved by the film "My Africa" from Conservation International. Many of the events shown were absolutely breathtaking. Right from the beginning, I held my breath as the lion looked around, only a few meters from the camera. Hearing the rhythmic thudding of the stampeding buffalo was incredible, as was seeing a lion pounce on its prey. I loved seeing the local people interact with the local animals, especially the scene in which the narrator handed a bleating baby giraffe to another person while older giraffes looked on! I think that the visuals helped a lot in giving me a clearer idea of what life can be like in Africa.

REFLECTION (CONT.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK_vRtHJZu4I feel that the narrator, Naltwasha Leripe, and her community are incredibly strong. Naltwasha's father has to dig wells every year and haul out buckets whenever they need water. She and her husband have to walk long distances each day in the heat, potentially encountering wild predators.

It was interesting to see the relationship between the animals and the local people. Naltwasha mentions that although the elephants can be dangerous, they help clear land for her animals to graze on. In addition, the education and economy of her community relies upon the tourist industry, which relies upon the animals. For that reason, her community goes to further lengths to protect their creatures. I'm glad that both the people and animals are benefiting.

I think that what I took away from this film is that no matter how tough life can be for some people, they can still see some beauty in it. Naltwasha has so much pride in her culture and animals, and I find that incredibly inspiring.

RESOURCES

RESOURCE 1:

"Why is Biodiversity Important?"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK_vRtHJZu4

This video by TEDTalk does an amazing job clearly explaining the importance of biodiversity using great animation, rainforests, and oceans.

RESOURCE 2:

Slow Food USA

"Preserve Diversity, Preserve the Planet"

<https://www.slowfoodusa.org/biodiversity>

The USDA has launched the Slow Food Program, which promotes local agriculture and supports small-scale food production. In addition to an informative video and sections explaining the program, there are links to other programs that branch off from this main program, providing ways anyone can help!