

Delve Deeper into "The Chances of the World Changing"

A film by Eric Daniel Metzgar and Nell Carden Grey

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Susan Conlon and Martha Perry of the Princeton Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "The Chances of the World Changing" that premieres on July 17, 2007 at 10 PM on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

A decade ago, after an epiphany at a New York restaurant, Richard Ogust began dedicating his time and resources to rescuing endangered turtles — confiscating hundreds bound for Southeast Asian food markets. When the filmmakers catch up with the 50-year-old writer, he is sharing his Manhattan loft with 1,200 turtles, including five species extinct in the wild. But his growing "ark" and preservation efforts are threatening to exhaust him, both mentally and financially. With luminous images and a haunting musical score, the award-winning "The Chances of the World Changing" documents two years in the life of a man who finds himself struggling to save hundreds of lives, including his own.

ADULT NONFICTION

Bonin, Franck, et al. *Turtles of the World*. London: A & C Black Publishers Ltd, 2007. In this complete guide to the world's nearly 300 species of turtles, the authors reveal intimate, little-known details of these intriguing reptiles in their native habitats: what they eat, where they live, how they behave, and when and where they lay their eggs.

Carroll, David M. *Self-Portrait with Turtles: A Memoir*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004. In this memoir, artist and naturalist Carroll tells the story of his life, revealing the reasons for his fascination with turtles and their swampland environs and reflecting on the paths it has taken him on.

Ferri, Vincenzo. *Tortoises and Turtles*. Willowdale, Ontario: Firefly Books, 2002. A comprehensive guide to turtles and tortoises including habitat,

dimensions, biology and behavior. Illustrated in color.

Glavin, Terry. *The Sixth Extinction: Journeys Among the Lost and Left Behind*. New York: Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, 2007. Terry Glavin confirms that we are in the midst of a nearly unprecedented, catastrophic vanishing of animals, plants, and human cultures. He argues that the language of environmentalism is inadequate in describing the unraveling of the vast system in which all these extinctions are actually related. And he writes that we're no longer gaining knowledge with every generation, we're losing it.

Nicholls, Henry. *Lonesome George: The Life and Loves of a Conservation Icon*. New York: Macmillan, 2007. The Galapagos Islands--the wellspring of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution--are the home of giant tortoises, for which the islands are named. Science writer Nicholls tells the story of giant tortoise "Lonesome George", of his rise to conservation poster boy, and of his status as a tourist attraction.

Orenstein, Ronald. *Turtles, Tortoises and Terrapins: Survivors in Armor*. Buffalo, NY: Firefly Books, 2001. This book surveys the myriad of turtle anatomy, habitat and life cycles throughout the ages. Human activities on the land and at sea pose the greatest threat that turtles have faced in the last 200 million years. The battle to save turtles goes on, and this book provides an important voice in turtle ecology.

Safina, Carl. *Voyage of the Turtle: In Pursuit of the Earth's Last Dinosaur*. New York: Holt, 2005. The story of an ancient sea turtle and what its survival says about our future. The decline of sea turtles in Pacific waters and their surprising recovery in the Atlantic illuminate what can go both wrong and right from human interventions, and teach us lessons that can be applied to restore health to the world's oceans.

Simon, Noel, in association with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. *Nature in*

***Danger: Threatened Habitats and Species*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.**

Conservation expert Noel Simon offers a detailed picture of the many threats to the natural world, and reveals what we can do to protect the environment from overexploitation. The book offers a special section on endangered species, highlighting the perilous circumstances of orangutans, blue whales, the African elephant, the giant panda, and many other animals and plants.

Vetter, Holger. *TERRALOG: Turtles of the World, Vol. 4 - East and South Asia*. Frankfurt: Verlag A.C.S., 2006. With a total of 600 color photographs and color distribution maps for all species, this volume of TERRALOG is a unique reference for everyone, from the hobbyist to the scientist — making it a fascinating photographic overview of the amazing diversity of East and South Asian turtles and tortoises.

Wilson, Edward O. *The Future of Life*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002. From one of the world's most influential scientists (and two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author) comes his most timely and important book yet: an impassioned call for quick and decisive action to save Earth's biological heritage, and a plan to achieve it.

ADULT FICTION

Banks, Russell. *The Darling*. New York: Harper Collins, 2004. Having fled to West Africa in the late 1970s for her work as a political radical, Hannah Musgrave finds work in a shabby medical lab that houses a group of traumatized chimpanzees, and forms a deep bond with them that is more meaningful to her than relationships with humans.

Galant, Debra. *Rattled*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2006. This clever, scathing satire on suburbia pits New Jersey McMansion dwellers against endangered species activists.

Klinkenborg, Verlyn. *Timothy, or, Notes of an Abject Reptile*. New York: Knopf, 2006. This is

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the story of a tortoise whose real life was observed by the eighteenth-century English curate Gilbert White, author of *The Natural History of Selborne*. For thirteen years, Timothy lived in White's garden - making an occasional appearance in his journals. Now Klinkenborg gives the tortoise an unforgettable voice and powers of observation as keen as those of any bipedal naturalist.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Arnosky, Jim. *All About Turtles.* New York: Scholastic Press, 2000. Describes the physical characteristics, behavior, and survival techniques of different kinds of land and sea turtles. (Grades 1-4)

Few, Roger. *Macmillan Children's Guide to Endangered Animals.* New York: Macmillan, 1993. Describes endangered species throughout the world, the factors that threaten their survival, and current efforts to save them from extinction. (K-Grade 6)

Lasky, Kathryn. *Interrupted Journey: Saving Endangered Sea Turtles.* Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2001. Describes efforts to protect sea turtles, particularly Kemp's Ridley turtles, and help them reproduce and replenish their once-dwindling numbers. (Grades 3-6)

Mullins, Patricia. *V for Vanishing: An Alphabet of Endangered Animals.* New York: Harper Collins, 1994. This stunning collection of endangered animals--from armadillo to zebra--introduces children to both their beauty and their plight. The Latin name and habitat for each animal are provided with Mullins' unique collage illustrations, which makes for a book that heightens and celebrates environmental awareness. (PreS-Grade 2)

Rathmell, Donna. *Carolina's Story: Sea Turtles Get Sick Too!* Mt. Pleasant, SC: Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2005. Follow the photographic journal of Carolina, a critically ill loggerhead sea turtle, as she is nursed back to health at a

caring sea turtle hospital. Join in celebrating the day that she is released back into the ocean as a healthy and happy turtle. (PreS-Grade 3)

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Hiaasen, Carl. *Hoot.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002. Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. (Grades 5-9)

Klass, David. *California Blue.* New York: Scholastic, 1994. When seventeen-year-old John Rodgers discovers a new subspecies of butterfly which may necessitate closing the mill where his dying father works, they find themselves on opposite sides of the environmental conflict. (Grades 7 and up)

Matson, Suzanne. *The Tree-Sitter: A Novel.* New York: Norton, 2006. Julie Prince is a college student at the top of her class and seems destined for conventional success. But then she falls in love with Neil, a radical environmental activist and graduate student writing on the economics of deforestation. At his urging she abandons her privileged East Coast life to tree-sit in the forests of Oregon. Julie becomes increasingly moved by the endangered forest and, like Neil, invested in its protection. (Grades 10 and up)

Nelson, Rosemary. *Hubcaps and Puppies.* Toronto: Napoleon Publishing, 2002. When her eccentric grandmother arrives, 12-year-old Nikki relaxes at a pond inhabited by a rare species of turtle. When Nikki receives a sheepdog pup, she and her grandmother train the dog and bond. When Nikki finds out that the turtles' habitat is in danger from developers, she decides to take a stand. (Grades 3-6)

Winton, Tim. *Blueback: A Contemporary Fable.* New York: Scribner, 1997. A boy named Abel grows up loving the sea and develops an enduring relationship with a large grouper that inspires

him to become a marine biologist, and to save his coastal paradise from land-hungry developers, greedy fishermen, and pollution. (Grades 5 and up)

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

"Aamakaar – The Turtle People." A film by Surabhi Sharma, Green Planet Films, 2002. (76 min.) The inhabitants of a village in North Kerala, India fight to preserve their village, and their livelihoods, threatened by sand mining on their estuary. For the last ten years they have been conserving Olive Ridley Turtles that come to their beach to nest. They see the preservation of a species on the verge of extinction as an extension of their fight against the destruction of their estuary, their village, and their lives. www.greenplanetfilms.org

"All About Endangered & Extinct Animals." A film by John Burrud, Schlessinger Media, 2006. (23 min.) Young students learn about natural and man-made factors that lead to the endangerment and extinction of animals. Children find out why it is essential that all people take responsibility for all animals. Includes a fun, hands-on experiment. www.libraryvideo.com

"Terrapin." A New Jersey Network production, 1992. (28 min.) A brief history of the northern diamondback terrapin (turtle) in New Jersey. The terrapin, once a delicacy of the rich in turn-of-the-century America, may very well be on the road to extinction. This documentary looks at the various aspects of current terrapin conservation efforts by a variety of individuals. The program then looks at the vanishing habitat of the terrapin and speculates on the future of this species. www.njn.net