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# SCHOOL OURNAL LEVEL 2 MAY 2017

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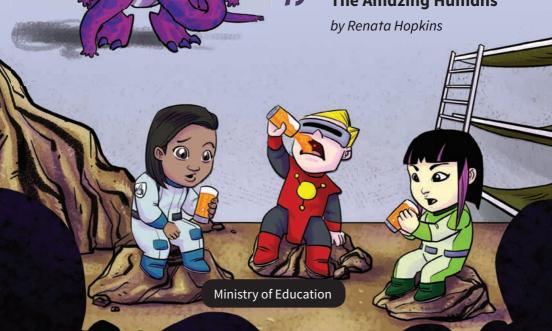
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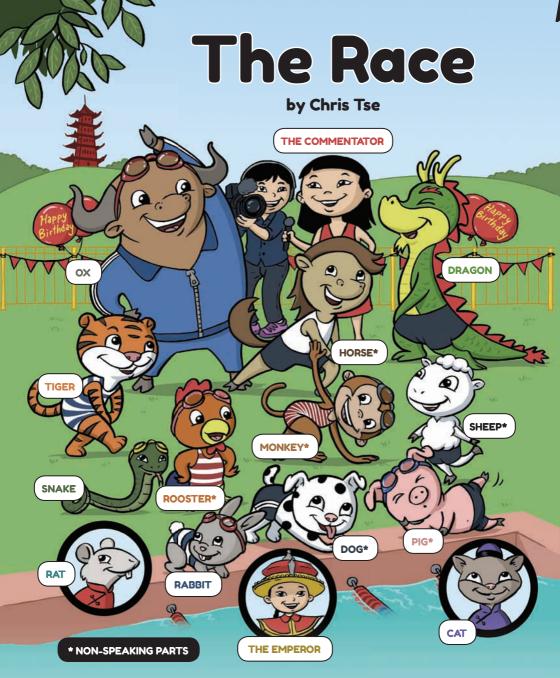
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## STORY

**The Amazing Humans** 





**SCENE.** A swimming pool, which is decorated for a birthday party. The animals are warming up and chatting excitedly about the race.

**THE COMMENTATOR.** Welcome, everybody, to this great swimming race to mark His Majesty the Emperor's birthday! And what a marvellous day for it, too. We have some great racers competing for a magnificent prize.

**RABBIT.** What's the prize?

**SNAKE.** Maybe it's sssssomething we can eat.

**RABBIT.** I hope it's carrots.

**OX.** Carrots? Don't be ridiculous! It will be something valuable.

**SNAKE.** Sssssomething golden? Sssssomething shiny?

**RABBIT.** A golden carrot!

**OX.** Whatever it is, I'm going to win it.

**THE COMMENTATOR.** You sound very confident, Ox. How have you all been preparing for this race?

**RABBIT.** I've been practising blowing bubbles in the water.

**RABBIT** demonstrates by huffing and puffing. The other animals move away and cover their faces.

**OX.** Unlike some of you, I've been doing some **real** training – one hundred laps every day.

**SNAKE.** That seems a bit excessssive.

**THE COMMENTATOR.** But it might be what gives Ox the upper hand – or upper hoof, I should say!

**RAT** appears, out of breath.

TIGER. You're cutting things fine, Rat.

**RAT.** I tried to get here as fast as possible. Have I missed the race?

**DRAGON.** No, we're still waiting for the Emperor to arrive.

**RABBIT.** Where's Cat?

**RAT.** I haven't seen Cat since last night.

**TIGER.** But weren't the two of you travelling here together?

**RAT** (*nervously*). She was still fast asleep when I left this morning. I'm sure she'll be here any second. I'd better go and change into my swimming togs.

**RAT** runs off to change.



**DRAGON.** Rat is acting a little suspiciously.

TIGER. You're right. Something doesn't add up.

**RABBIT.** Why didn't he wake Cat?

**TIGER.** He knows how important this big race is.

**DRAGON.** I smell ... a rat!

**SNAKE.** Sssssabotage!

**OX.** It doesn't matter. You snooze; you lose. Anyway, I don't think a teeny, tiny rat could ever win this race.

**RABBIT.** Rats can be very fast when they need to be.

**OX.** There's no way a rat can beat me. I'll cross that finish line before Rat has even started.

**RAT** returns, wearing his swimming togs.

**THE COMMENTATOR.** Rat, you're the smallest creature here. Some might say you're the underdog – or the under-rat – of the race.

**RAT.** Well, I've trained hard, and I think my size might actually help.

**THE COMMENTATOR.** Some of the other animals don't consider you a threat. What do you think your chances are today?

**RAT.** I think I've got just as much chance as any of them.

**THE COMMENTATOR.** Marvellous! Well, best of luck to you, Rat. Now, I've just received word that His Majesty the Emperor is about to arrive.

**THE EMPEROR** arrives, waving to the crowd. The animals cheer and greet him with birthday wishes.

**THE EMPEROR.** Thank you, you're all too kind. Welcome everyone to the great race! I know the competitors have all been working hard for this moment, and the winner will be rewarded with a great and wonderful prize.

**THE COMMENTATOR.** The race is about to start. There is a lot of tension and excitement in the air!

The animals line up along the start line. Most are looking nervous. **OX** and **DRAGON** appear confident.

**THE EMPEROR.** Get ready, everyone! On your marks ... Get set ... Go!

The animals leap into the pool. **OX** takes the lead, followed closely by **TIGER** and **RABBIT**.



**THE COMMENTATOR.** What a dramatic start to the race! Ox has taken the lead, but it looks like Tiger and Rabbit – yes, Rabbit – aren't far behind.

THE EMPEROR. How exciting!

**RABBIT.** This is harder than I thought!

**OX.** Give up now, Rabbit – this is my race to win!

TIGER. Don't be so sure, Ox!

RAT pulls a length of rope from his swimming togs and

**SNAKE.** Wait – what'sss Rat doing?

**DRAGON.** He's using Ox to pull him along!

**THE COMMENTATOR.** We have an interesting development. It looks like Rat is hitching a ride with Ox.

**SNAKE.** That'sss cheating!

lassoes **OX**'s tail.

**THE COMMENTATOR.** Your Majesty, is this allowed?

THE EMPEROR. This is my race, so I say ... I'll allow it!

As the animals reach the finish line, they begin to move and talk in slow motion.

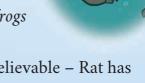
**DRAGON.** What's happening?

**SNAKE.** Why are we all moving sssssooooo sssssloooowly?

**OX.** Because this is more dramatic!

**OX** is out in the lead with **RAT** trailing behind, holding on to the rope. **RAT** uses the rope to pull himself closer to **OX**.

As **OX** nears the finish line, **RAT** leapfrogs over **OX** to take the lead.



**THE COMMENTATOR.** What's this? Unbelievable – Rat has just leapt over Ox to take the lead!

OX. Nooooo!

**RAT** crosses the finish line, winning the race, followed by a dejected **OX** and then **TIGER**.

**THE EMPEROR** (*shaking* **RAT**'s hand). Congratulations, Rat! For your cunning method of winning the race, I award you ... first place in the Chinese zodiac.

**RAT** (*pausing for a second*). Ha ha, good one! What's the real prize?

**THE EMPEROR** (*frowning*). That is the prize. Why? Don't you like it?

**RAT** (*hurriedly*). Of course, your Majesty. What a great honour. Thank you so much!

**CAT** appears, looking very angry.

**CAT.** You – Rat! Why didn't you wake me up? I missed the race because of you!



**RAT.** I ... I ...

RAT darts off.

**CAT.** Come back here, you sneaky Rat!

**CAT** chases after **RAT**.

**TIGER.** I don't think Cat is going to forgive Rat in a hurry!

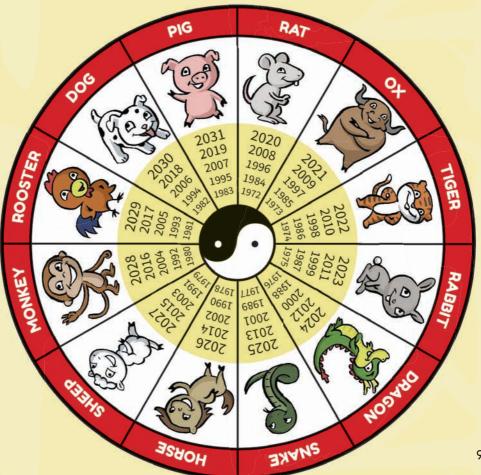
**THE COMMENTATOR.** Well, what an exciting way to end this broadcast. It's been a great day! Congratulations, racers, and to everyone at home – thanks for watching!

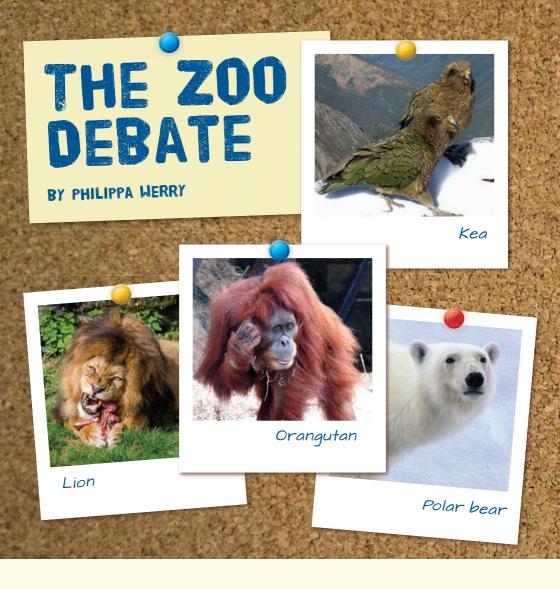
# The Signs of the Chinese Zodiac

In Chinese culture, each year is named after one of twelve animals:

Rat	Ox	Tiger	Rabbit
Dragon	Snake	Horse	Sheep
Monkey	Rooster	Dog	Pig

There are several stories about how the order of animals was decided. Chris Tse has adapted one of these stories for "The Race".





It's not always easy to see wild animals in their natural environment (the places where they usually live). Some wild animals are big and dangerous. Others are shy and hide from people. Some animals live in places that are difficult to get to, such as high in the mountains. Others are hard to find because there are not many left alive. But you can see some of these wild animals up close if you go to a zoo.

#### THE HISTORY OF ZOOS

Zoos have been around for a very long time. Archaeologists have found the remains of a zoo in the ruins of a fivethousand-year-old Egyptian city.

New Zealand's first zoo opened in Wellington in 1906. It started with just one animal – a lion that had retired from a circus! Auckland Zoo opened sixteen years later with a few lions, bears, dogs, and wolves. It also had some vultures and an emu.



A postcard showing the entrance to Wellington Zoo in the 1920s



Wellington Zoo's first animal – a lion named King Dick

#### HOW ZOOS HAVE CHANGED

In the past, visitors came to zoos to see the animals, but they also came to be entertained. They could ride on elephants and watch chimpanzees have tea parties. Many zoos kept their animals in small, concrete cages. Most people didn't think about the fact that this meant most of the animals couldn't behave naturally.

Today's zoos are very different. The animals have much more room, and their **enclosures** are more like their natural environment. Zookeepers plan things for the animals to do so that they move around and stay healthy. Most zoos also spend money and time to protect **endangered** animals. Many zoos have staff who work in the wild, using their special skills to help save these animals and their habitats.

# SHOULD WE

People have different views about what is best for wild animals and how they should be looked after.

### ARGUMENTS FOR ZOOS

Zoos teach
people about
animals and
their natural
environments.

Zoos allow people to see animals they would never be able to see normally.

Zookeepers and zoo vets care for the animals and work hard to give them a happy life.

Zoos help us to find out more about wild animals and how to protect them. Zoos have special breeding programmes to help save endangered animals.

Zoos support conservation across the world.

Zoos teach people to respect and love wild animals.

# HAVE ZOOS?

Some people believe zoos are very important while other people think we don't need them at all.

### **ARGUMENTS AGAINST ZOOS**

People can learn just as much about animals from books or television documentaries. Most animals from breeding programmes stay in the zoo - they will never be put back into their natural environment, so the number of wild animals does not increase.

Some animals in zoos can get bored and lonely.

Animals don't belong in zoos they have the right to be free.

Some zoos only want to keep big animals like elephants and tigers (because they are what visitors want to see) and not smaller, less exciting animals.

It costs a lot of money to keep animals in zoos.

# Anjalee the Elephant

In 2015, an eight-year-old elephant named Anjalee arrived at Auckland Zoo. She came from an elephant orphanage in Sri Lanka to join the zoo's other elephant, Burma.

Zoo staff say Anjalee is thriving. They think that having elephants at the zoo is a good way to teach people about these amazing animals. And some of the money from zoo tickets is sent to Sri Lanka to help save elephants there.

But **animal rights groups** do not agree. They believe that elephants don't do well in zoos.



Burma and Anjalee

They say it costs more to take elephants across the world and keep them in zoos than to look after them in the wild in their own country.

Since Anjalee arrived, another elephant called Nandi (from the same orphanage) has been gifted to the zoo.

#### LISTENING TO BOTH SIDES

Karen Fifield is the chief executive of Wellington Zoo. She believes that zoos "inspire people to find out more about wildlife and the world we live in".

Karen says that visiting a zoo is exciting, but it also helps people to learn about the natural world. She adds that good zoos care for their animals very well. The places where wild animals can live are getting fewer as the human population grows and animal habitats are destroyed. Zoos also support other organisations that work to protect wild animals in their natural environments.

Wellington Zoo is always looking for new ways to teach people about conservation, such as letting visitors watch animals being treated in the zoo hospital. "The vets have microphones and speak to our visitors while the animal is being treated," Karen says. "People are able to ask questions. It's an exciting and memorable way to learn about caring for animals. As well as treating zoo animals, the team helps a lot of injured wildlife too."



Alex Woodham works for the animal rights organisation SAFE (Save Animals From Exploitation). He feels that even the best zoos can't provide the right environment for animals that belong in the wild. He says, "Animals in zoos never behave naturally. They can't walk around freely, find their own food, or choose which animals they want to live with. And being on show can upset creatures that don't want to be seen by people.

"We don't need to imprison animals in zoos to learn more about them or to help in their conservation," he says. "Scientists who study animals in their natural environments learn far more about them than they do by studying those same animals in zoos."



# Sanctuaries, Reserves, and Safari Parks

Most regular zoos keep animals in enclosures, but there are other ways to look after wild animals or to let people see them.

- Animal sanctuaries care for creatures that have been lost, hurt, or badly treated.
- Reserves are also safe places for birds and animals. Some reserves have high fences to keep predators out, and others are on offshore islands that predators can't reach.
- Marine reserves are areas where fish and sea creatures

- get special protection. People can swim and dive in the water, but fishing isn't allowed.
- Safari parks allow animals to roam freely over large areas, and people can see them as they drive through the parks in their cars.



#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A lot of the world's wild animals are endangered. If they're not protected, some species may die out completely. Most people think that we should protect endangered animals, but not everyone agrees that zoos are the best way to do this.

What do you think?





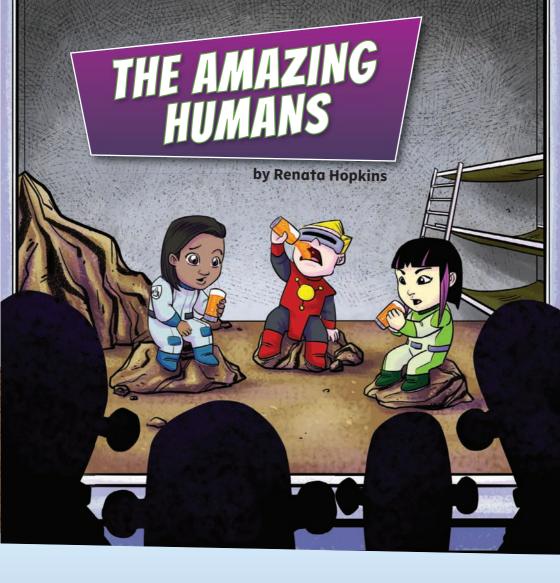
#### **GLOSSARY**

animal rights group - a group of people who believe that animals should not be used by humans but should be allowed the freedom to live natural lives

breeding programme - a plan to help an animal population increase by specially choosing the animals that will have babies (to make sure those babies are healthy and strong)

conservation - protection of animals, plants, and the natural environment

enclosure - an area with a fence around it endangered - likely to become extinct (to die out)



It was feeding time at the zoo. A big crowd had gathered to watch the animals eat their lunch. Mere, James, and Lin stared back at all the people.

"I used to like zoos," said Mere.

"Me too," agreed James, "... before I got put in one!"

\*\*\*

Two weeks earlier, the three friends had won a competition. The prize: a trip to visit a zoo on the planet Zeelon. When they arrived, the Zeelonite zookeeper showed them around. They looked at the beevack, the glow bears, and the mooalas. The last enclosure they came to was empty.

"Welcome to your new home!" said the zookeeper, opening the gate.

"Excuse me?" said Mere.

"Um, you guys," said Lin. "Look." She pointed to a sign that read: NEW EXHIBIT – THE AMAZING HUMANS!

"Wow," said James. "This is ... unexpected."



So now, here they were – on show in the zoo. Luckily, it had turned out to be quite fun.

\*\*\*

"Look at the massive queue!" Lin said on their first day. She sounded almost proud. The crowd of aliens was walking straight past the glow bears and the beevack. Boring! They wanted to see the humans.

When a huge crowd is watching, it can be hard not to show off. After smiling and waving for a while, Mere did a handstand. The aliens loved that. So James joined in with a cartwheel. Lin juggled some rolled-up socks. The clapping was deafening – partly because the Zeelonites all had eight hands.

"Hey, you guys!" said Lin. "We're stars!" She waved to the Zeelonite kids. They waved back so hard that some of their arms got tangled up.

At first, being a zoo animal was excellent. But even juggling socks for aliens gets boring after a while. Life in the zoo was always the same – nice enough, but always the same. The same crowds, the same tricks, the same orange gloop at feeding time.

"It's like having a smoothie for every meal," said James, taking a gulp of his gloop.

Lin finished hers and did a loud burp. The aliens cheered.

"I keep dreaming about cheese on toast," Mere admitted.

"Crunchy apples," sighed Lin.

"Banana muffins," James said.

It was no use pretending – the three friends were homesick. They couldn't even call Earth

because their devices didn't work on

Zeelon.

It was then that Mere noticed a little Zeelonite standing off to one side. The alien was watching them with a sad look on its face. At least, they thought it looked sad – it was sometimes hard to tell with Zeelonites. That was when the humans heard the voice inside their heads.



"Is you happy here?" said the voice. Mere, James, and Lin stared at each other.

"Who said that?" Lin whispered.

"I think it was that little one over there," Mere replied, pointing, "although it didn't move its mouth."

"It must have sent us a mind-message," James said.
"We should send a reply."

Mere pulled a face. "I'm really bad at mind-messaging. It's my worst subject at school."

"Let's all think the same thought at the same time," James suggested. "That might help."

"What should we think?" Lin asked.

"Let's try 'We miss our home'." Mere said. "One, two, three ..."

The three friends thought their message – hard. They waited for a reply, but nothing came. The little alien just stared. Then it turned and wandered off towards the beevack.

"Epic fail," said James.

"I told you I was no good at it," Mere added sadly.

"Maybe we should dig an escape tunnel," Lin suggested.

"With what?" James asked. "It's not like we have a shovel."

They tried digging with their hands, but the dirt on Zeelon was like concrete. Instead, they did some cartwheels to take their minds off things. It didn't really work.

That night, they all had the same dream. In the dream, a voice spoke inside their heads. It asked, "Is you ready to go?"

Lin snuffled. James rolled over. Mere snored. The voice spoke again, louder. "IS YOU READY TO GO?"

The three woke with a start.

"Did you hear that?" James asked.

"I think it came from outside," Lin replied. She got out of bed and led the way out of the sleeping pod.

The beevack stood in the middle of the humans' enclosure, which shone like silver in the light from Zeelon's three moons.

"Time to go," said the beevack.

The humans gaped at each other.

"Um ... go where?" James asked.

"To your home – that you miss," said the beevack.

Mere gasped. "It was you who spoke to us!" The beevack nodded. Then it pointed to a big hole in the ground.



"Whoa, it's dug a tunnel!" Lin whispered.

"You has good escape idea," the beevack said, "but I has sharper claws."

James, Mere, and Lin whooped for joy. They knew how to get to the spaceport. And Mere could pilot a Zeelon spaceship, no problem. She always got top marks in flying. She could fly anything. It wouldn't really be stealing – more like borrowing.

"Let's go," said James. "While it's still dark."

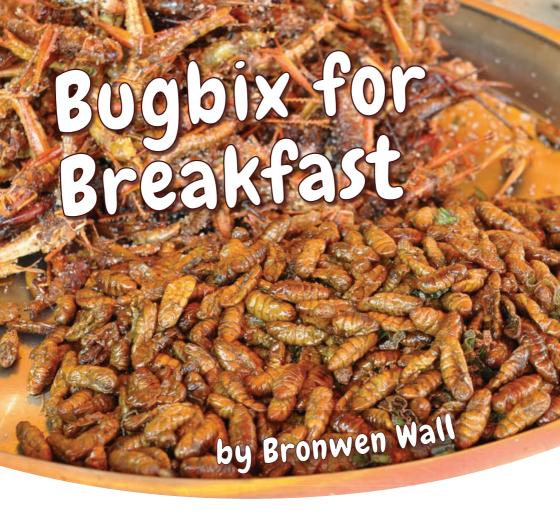
"Wait," said Lin. She turned to the beevack. "Do you want to come too?" The beevack wagged its spiky tail.

"Excellent," said James. "Cheese on toast, apples, and muffins, here we come!"

"What is muffins?" wondered the beevack.

"They're an Earth thing," said Lin. "You're going to love them."





What did you eat for breakfast this morning? Did you have some cereal or toast? Maybe you had eggs? Well, how about crickets or ants?

Over a quarter of the world's population are already entomophagists (*en-toe-mof-fa-jists*) – people who eat insects regularly as part of their meals. Every day, they munch on beetles, crickets, and other insects for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

#### Four Great Reasons to Eat Insects

1. Insects are an excellent health food. They are full of the things we need to help us grow and stay healthy, including protein, fibre, good fats, vitamins, and minerals.

#### **Comparing Insects with Other Foods**

100 grams of:	Energy (kJ)*	Protein (grams)	Iron (milligrams)
termite	2,565	14	0.75
caterpillar	1,550	28	35.5
fish	915	27	3.5
cow	710	28	1.0

<sup>\*1</sup> kJ = 1,000 joules

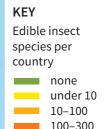
- 2. It's cheap and easy to farm insects. They take up a lot less space than cattle, pigs, or even chickens. Many insects also get most of the liquid they need from their food, so they don't need lots of extra water to drink. They really are easy-care farm animals.
- 3. Eating insects helps to protect our environment because insect farmers don't need to use as much land or water as other farmers. We can also help protect our crops by eating pest insects, such as locusts.



4. There are loads of insects all over the world. Insects make up over 80 percent of all the known kinds of animals on Earth. This means there are lots of different insects to choose from for dinner. Of course, some insects are poisonous, so if you're going to eat them, you'll need to know your good bugs from your bad bugs. But there are almost two thousand kinds of insects that are safe to eat.

#### Edible Insects around the World

Insects are eaten in almost 80 percent of the world's countries. Some are eaten as special treats, and others are a part of the daily diet.



above 300



# Why Are Some People Scared of Eating Insects?

Since there are so many insects around, why don't we *all* choose to eat insects every day? Why do some of us hate the thought of eating bugs?

Some people think of insects as creepy-crawly things with lots of legs and large bug eyes. They look too ugly to eat! Other people say that insects are dirty. They carry diseases, and they live in rotting food and other unhealthy places.

But scientists think there's another reason people won't eat insects – habit. Thousands of years ago, some areas of the world had lots of big animals that people could eat. In other areas, there weren't as many, but there were lots of insects. People got used to eating what they could find in their own environment.

#### **Wild Food**

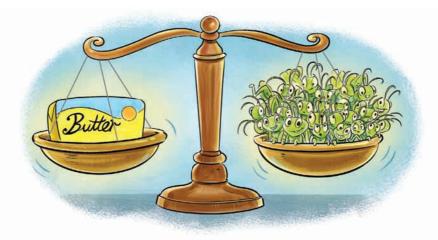
Every March, people from all over the country go to the small town of Hokitika, on the West Coast of the South Island. They go there to try out the weird and wonderful food at a big wild food festival. These festivals are becoming more and more popular around New Zealand. At wild food festivals, people can nibble barbecued huhu grubs and crunch through pan-fried grasshoppers. Yum!

Vanilla ice cream with wasp larvae ▼



#### We All Eat Insects

Even if you don't like the idea of eating insects, you might have eaten some today. Most people eat about 450 grams of insects each year without meaning to – that's about as much as a can of baked beans or a packet of butter.



This happens because insects hang around food that smells good to them. Some insects are so small it's impossible to keep them all away – especially when food is being prepared in large factories. Governments around the world know this. They allow very small amounts of insects in factory food because the food is well-cooked and it's very unlikely that cooked insects will hurt us. The heat used in cooking kills anything harmful.

In the United States, the law says it's OK to have up to thirty very tiny pieces of insect in every 100 grams of peanut butter. In chocolate, that number is even higher – up to sixty pieces!

### The God of Ugly Things

The wētā is an insect that lives in many parts of New Zealand. Māori in the Hauraki Gulf call giant wētā "wētā punga" after Punga, who has been called "the god of ugly things". Many Māori in the South Island call them "taipo", which means ghost or evil spirit. Early Māori used to eat wētā mashed with kūmara. They also ate huhu grubs. They knew a good source of protein when they saw it!



## Bug Grub to the Rescue

So we're all eating insects, even if we don't know it. Maybe these little creatures can help us to solve a big problem.

More than 7.4 billion people live on our planet. That number is increasing all the time. Scientists are starting to wonder how we'll be able to find enough food to feed our growing population. Bugs might be the best way to solve food shortages in the future.

Some people are already farming insects for food. A company in the South Island is selling ants and locusts that are gathered in Canterbury and Otago. You can order these insects in some restaurants. There are also shops that sell pizzas, muffins, and crackers made with cricket flour. And you can buy bags of chocolate-coated grasshoppers, fried bamboo worms, mixed bugs, or flying termites to munch on while you

watch your favourite movie.

That should keep you hopping!





▲ Ant lollipops



## How to Make Cricket Flour

1. Take a lot of crickets.



2. Dry them out in a hot oven.

3. Grind them up into a powder.



TOLICE.

illustrations by Scott Pearson

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