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SCHOLASTIC

News

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Would You Visit the Titanic?

Explorers are planning a new trip to the world's most famous shipwreck. **Page 2**

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Does he belong
in a zoo? **p. 4**



Meet the creator of these
popular characters. **p. 7**



JOURNEY

Tourists are planning to visit the world's most famous shipwreck before it disappears.

As You Read, Think About:

Why are people fascinated by the *Titanic* and its artifacts?

Ever since she was a little girl, Renata Rojas has had one dream: to visit the shipwreck of the RMS *Titanic*. Like countless other people, Rojas is fascinated by one of the worst disasters in history.

On April 10, 1912, the *Titanic* set sail from England on its first voyage. It made headlines as the biggest, fastest ship of its day. Many people believed it was unsinkable.

But four days into its journey, the ship slammed into an iceberg. In just a few hours, it sank to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. More than 1,500

passengers and crew members died in the icy ocean waters.

A company called OceanGate is planning **expeditions** to the famous wreckage next summer. Rojas has signed up to be one of a group of tourists who will assist scientists as they study what's left of the ship—before it disappears.

"I'm going to be part of history," says Rojas.



Visitors to the *Titanic* have included archaeologists, filmmakers, and crews sent to recover items from the ship. They have collected thousands of artifacts, from dishes and menus to passengers' wallets, tickets, and even pajamas.

These items help us learn more about the doomed vessel—and the people who went down with it. Are more objects yet to be discovered?

A Titanic Discovery

The final resting place of the *Titanic* was a mystery for decades. Finally, explorer Robert Ballard discovered the wreck in 1985. About 200 people have journeyed to see it since then.

Rotting Away

There may not be much time left to find out. Some experts say what remains of the ship might be gone within 20 years.

For more than a century, ocean currents have slowly

After hitting the iceberg, the ship took on more than 400 tons of water per minute.

WORDS TO KNOW

expeditions *noun, plural.* journeys with specific purposes, such as exploration

deteriorating *verb.* falling apart or becoming worse over time

The *Titanic* had only enough lifeboats for about half its passengers and crew.

GO
ONLINE!

Dive deeper into the story of the *Titanic*.

This is an illustration of the sunken *Titanic*.

**TO
THE**

TITANIC

From Ship to Shipwreck

Here's what experts believe happened during the final hours of the *Titanic's* tragic voyage.

eroded, or worn away, the *Titanic*. Experts suspect that further damage was caused by explorers who bumped their small deep-sea vehicles, called submersibles, into the ship.

The most alarming threat, however, is metal-munching bacteria. These microscopic organisms are eating away at the ship, creating rusty, icicle-like formations called rusticles.

In August, explorers visited the wreckage for the first time in several years. They were shocked by what they saw. One of the most famous sections of the ship, the captain's quarters, had completely collapsed.

Into the Deep

OceanGate's goal is to analyze just how fast the *Titanic* is **deteriorating**. Crew members and tourists like Rojas will squeeze into a tiny submersible. They'll descend more than 12,000 feet into the pitch-black ocean. The trip will take about two hours in each direction.

The team will use high-tech scanning equipment to create an updated 3-D map of the wreck. Scientists will compare the new images with older ones to try to determine how much longer the famous shipwreck will last.

Rojas says there's another key reason for the expedition.

"We shouldn't forget about the disaster or the people who died," she says. "Visiting the *Titanic* helps us remember."

—by Tricia Culligan

April 14, 1912
11:40 p.m.



The *Titanic* slams into an iceberg, tearing holes in the side of the ship. Within minutes, the ship begins to flood and sink.

April 15, 1912
2:19 a.m.



Crack! The weight of the water causes the ship to break in half. The bow, or front, plunges underwater first. The stern, or back, soon follows.

April 15, 1912
2:21 a.m.



The pieces float down more than 2 miles to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

More than 5,500 artifacts have been removed from the *Titanic*. Some people say it's disrespectful to take these items, because they're part of a gravesite. But others argue that preserving these objects is a good way for us to honor those who died.

This shoe was found in the *Titanic* wreck.





**BIG
DEBATE**

Should
This

LION

Three fuzzy lion cubs roll around in the high grass. They playfully paw at each other while their mother rests in the shade nearby. The area might be mistaken for the plains of Africa. Well, except for the giggling children waving at the animals through a glass wall while their parents snap photos. You guessed it—these lions are in a zoo.

For decades, zoo animals were often kept in tiny cages with concrete floors. But in recent years, many zoos have spent millions of dollars to build bigger, more open enclosures that resemble the animals' natural habitats.

Despite these improvements, critics of zoos say there's nothing natural about keeping animals locked up for our entertainment. They argue that the animals belong in the wild.

Here are two views about zoos.

WORDS TO KNOW

conservation *noun*. the protection of animals, plants, and natural resources

captivity *noun*. the state of being held or kept under control, as in a cage or a tank

**GO
ONLINE!**

Discover the
long history
of zoos.

This lion cub is one of three brothers born at the Naples Zoo in Florida last spring.

CUB Be in a ZOO?

YES! Zoos teach us about animals.

Today, zoos are more popular than ever. More than 185 million people visited U.S. zoos last year. For most people, going to a zoo is their only chance to see wild animals up close.

"Most people won't have the opportunity to travel to Asia or Africa to see orangutans or elephants," says Rob Vernon. He works for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), which makes sure zoos meet high standards of animal care.

But zoos aren't just places to see animals. The best zoos also educate visitors about dangers animals face in the wild, such as habitat loss and illegal hunting. Also, some of the money zoo visitors spend on tickets and memberships goes toward protecting animals in the wild. Zoos spend roughly \$230 million a year on animal **conservation**, according to the AZA.



BY THE NUMBERS

What's the main reason zoos exist? That's what more than 1,000 Americans were asked in a recent survey. Which answer do you most agree with?



Note: Figures do not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. Sources: Statista; YouGov

NO!

Zoos can't compare to the wild.

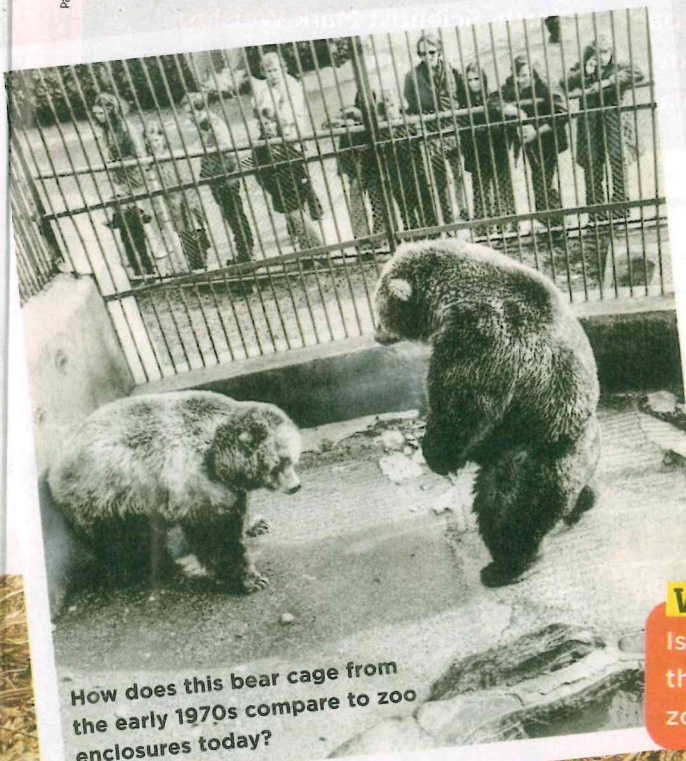
Critics argue that even the biggest zoo enclosures don't provide the same amount of space an animal has in its natural habitat. For example, wild polar bears might walk or swim hundreds of miles a day. In zoos, they often live in an area about the size of a school gym.

Many animals also need more company. In the wild, elephants live in large close-knit family groups. But in zoos, they often live in pairs—or alone. More than 25 U.S. zoos have decided to change that. They have sent their elephants to sanctuaries, where the animals live in larger groups with more room to roam.

Life in **captivity** can be difficult for large animals. Many show signs of being lonely, bored, and unhappy.

"When you see a tiger pacing back and forth, that is a very stressed tiger," says Lori Marino, a scientist who studies animal behavior.

—by Jennifer Li Shotz and Laura Anastasia



How does this bear cage from the early 1970s compare to zoo enclosures today?

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Is it OK to keep animals in zoos? Use evidence from the article to prepare for a class discussion about zoos. You can cast your vote at scholastic.com/sn56.

SLIME in Space

GO
ONLINE!See what it's
like to live on
the ISS.

What do astronauts do for fun? Lately, they've been playing with slime!

Right now, six astronauts are living more than 200 miles above Earth on a giant laboratory called the International Space Station (ISS). Astronauts from different countries stay on the ISS for months at a time. They perform experiments that help us learn more about space.

In July, a spacecraft delivered six pouches of green slime to the ISS. Since then, the astronauts on board have been blowing slime bubbles, playing slime table tennis, and even spraying the green goo at each other.

This may sound like a blast—but there's plenty of science involved too. In space, the pull of gravity is much weaker, causing objects (and people!) to float. Low gravity also has a strange effect on liquids. Water, for example, separates into tiny floating spheres. The astronauts on the ISS want to see if slime reacts differently too.

We'll know soon enough. The astronauts are taking videos of their slime time to share with kids back on Earth. Scientist Mark Weislogel planned the gooey experiments. "It's about time an astronaut got slimed!" he says.

PICTURE
THIS

The World's UGLIEST DOG

Congratulations to Scamp the champ! The little mutt beat out 18 other pooches to win this year's World's Ugliest Dog Contest in Petaluma, California. The goal of the competition is to show people that even unusual-looking dogs can make great pets.

Scamp's owner adopted him from an animal shelter in 2014. These days, Scamp works as a therapy dog. He cheers people up at a senior citizen center and visits a school, where kids practice reading aloud to him.



DAV PILKEY DOES GOOD

by Scholastic Kid Reporter
Marley Alburez

Last month, I sat down with Dav Pilkey, the author and illustrator of the best-selling Captain Underpants and Dog Man series. He was about to begin his Do Good tour. He's traveling the world to talk to readers about making a positive difference in other people's lives.

I was surprised at how humble Pilkey is about his success. He was also very open about how he struggled with ADHD and dyslexia, which made it hard for him to read and focus in school.

Marley Alburez: How did your childhood influence the characters you've created?

Dav Pilkey: I felt like a bit of a misfit as a kid. I was always getting sent out in the hallway, and I felt like

GO
ONLINE!

Watch the full
interview with
Pilkey.

I was very alone sometimes. That influenced my characters because there is a theme of loneliness in a lot of them—they sometimes feel like misfits.

MA: What can you tell us about your latest title, *Dog Man: For Whom the Ball Rolls?*

DP: Like the other Dog Man books, it focuses on humor and friendship. But there are also some more serious themes, like the importance of doing good. Not just *being* a good person but actually turning that into an action word and *doing* good as well.

Petey is trying to become a better version of himself, and Lil Petey is always trying to

encourage him. Kids are really identifying with that—it's what inspired the Do Good campaign.

MA: Why is it important to read about characters who are caring and kind?

DP: There are bullies out there, and there are people who are selfish and rude and mean sometimes. Kids really love to read about kindness because deep down inside, everybody wants to be kind and good.

MA: Would you rather be Dog Man or Captain Underpants?

DP: (laughs) I would much rather be Dog Man because he's always trying to do the right thing. He's always making ridiculous mistakes, but usually they end up OK for him. I think that says a lot about me!

What character from a book would you want to be? Why?

Here's Dav Pilkey in fourth grade—two years after he created Dog Man and Captain Underpants!

Note: The interview was edited and condensed by the editors of Scholastic News.

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