

ROBERT DOWNEY JR.

DOLITTLE

ONLY IN THEATERS



ACTION GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, AND FAMILIES



BE A VOICE FOR WILDLIFE!

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ONLY IN THEATERS

Robert Downey Jr. electrifies one of literature's most enduring characters in a vivid reimagining of the classic tale of the man who could talk to animals: *Dolittle*.

After losing his wife seven years earlier, the eccentric Dr. John Dolittle (Downey), famed doctor and veterinarian of Queen Victoria's England, hermits himself away behind the high walls of Dolittle Manor with only his menagerie of exotic animals for company.

But when the young queen (Jessie Buckley, Wild Rose) falls gravely ill, a reluctant Dolittle is forced to set sail on an epic adventure to a mythical island in search of a cure, regaining his wit and courage as he crosses old adversaries and discovers wondrous creatures.

The doctor is joined on his quest by a young, self-appointed apprentice (Dunkirk's Harry Collett) and a raucous coterie of animal friends, including an anxious gorilla (Oscar® winner Rami Malek), an enthusiastic but bird-brained duck (Oscar® winner Octavia Spencer), a bickering duo of a cynical ostrich (The Big Sick's Kumail Nanjiani) and an upbeat polar bear (John Cena, Bumblebee) and a headstrong parrot (Oscar® winner Emma Thompson), who serves as Dolittle's most trusted advisor and confidante.

The film also stars Antonio Banderas, Michael Sheen (The Queen), Oscar® winner Jim Broadbent and Carmen Laniado (FX's A Christmas Carol) and features additional voice performances from Oscar® winner Marion Cotillard, Frances de la Tour, Ralph Fiennes, Selena Gomez, Tom Holland, and Craig Robinson.

ANIMALS ARE TALKING. ARE YOU LISTENING?

Join with National Wildlife Federation and Dolittle to
BE A VOICE FOR WILDLIFE!

The National Wildlife Federation is proud to be the wildlife conservation partner for *Dolittle*. Together we are encouraging everyone – especially youth to be a voice for wildlife and Do-something to protect species and our planet!

THIS GUIDE is designed to help teachers, students, and families take action to protect our planet and be a voice for wildlife!

NOTE TO EDUCATORS: The activities are ideal for project based learning and easily adapted for formal and non-formal settings for grades 3-5 and 6-8, with extensions for younger and older students. These activities meet national standards for Science, English/Language Arts, Social Studies, Technology, Civics and Visual Arts.



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**SEE THE COMPANION GUIDE
ANIMALS ARE AMAZING**
For fun animals facts and to learn how
species communicate.



BE A VOICE FOR WILDLIFE!

Speak up for wildlife and wild places. Show you care by talking with friends and family, writing letters and social media. Be creative use art, videos and social media to tell your wildlife story and get friends, family, schools, businesses and our elected official to take actions to save wildlife and protect our planet.

Let people know when you think something is important. Send an email or write a letter to a local business, a newspaper or “elected official” — such as city council member, mayor, or state or federal representative, to let them know how you feel and what you think needs to be done. This is called a persuasive letter. Persuade means “to try to get someone to do something by helping them to understand.” Writing is one way to communicate your understanding of the issues. Be creative in your delivery and provide insight and possible solutions to problems.

PARTS OF THE LETTER

THE LETTER

Your Street Address
Your City, State, Zip Code
Today's Date

Official's Title and Name
Official's Address
Official's Address

Dear Official's Name:

Closing,
Your Signature
Print your name and Age. (optional)

1) RETURN ADDRESS - Write your address here.

2) TODAY'S DATE

3) INSIDE ADDRESS - Write the name, title and address of the person to whom you are writing the letter here.

4) THE GREETING - Write “Dear,” followed by the person’s title, last name and a colon (:). For example, you might write “Dear Senator Rodriguez:”.

5) THE BODY - This is where you write what you want the person to know. Write clearly and simply.

6) THE CLOSING This is the way you end or close your letter. “Sincerely” or “Thank You” to end your letter.

7) SIGNATURE - Sign your name! You may also choose to print your name underneath your signature and include your age.

8) THE ENVELOPE - Address the envelope as shown. Be sure to include the right ZIP code!

9) POSTAGE - Use a stamp for the right amount. Put it on the upper right corner of the envelope.

YOUR NAME
YOUR STREET ADDRESS
YOUR CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

OFFICIAL TITLE AND NAME
OFFICIAL STREET ADDRESS
OFFICIAL'S CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

THE ENVELOPE

WRITE FOR WILDLIFE!

Want to write to your lawmakers asking them to protect wildlife? Go to the National Wildlife Federation’s “Action Headquarters”: www.nwf.org/action. Here you can learn about important laws such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and bills to help wildlife and save their natural habitats. Research the issues and write a letter to your local representatives or members of Congress.

USE THIS PAGE TO CREATE AN OUTLINE THAT WILL HELP YOU EXPRESS YOUR CONCERN AND WRITE AN OPINION LETTER OR ARTICLE.

OPENING PARAGRAPH Describe your main concern or the issue you would like addressed.

ARGUMENTS

1. What is the most important point you want to make?

1b. What evidence or facts support this?

2. What is your next point?

2b. What evidence or facts support this?

3. What other points do you want to make?

CLOSING PARAGRAPH

Restate your main opinion about the question above in another way.



PLANT A TREE

Trees provide food, shelter and homes for wildlife. But did you know trees also produce lots of oxygen and absorb and store carbon? So planting and caring for trees and forests is essential to combat climate change.

FUN FACTS

TREES MAKE LIFE BETTER!

BETTER TEMPERATURES

Shade trees lower air temperatures during hot summers. And trees that lose their leaves in winter let the sun shine through to warm nearby buildings.

CLEANER WATER

Tree roots hold soil in place. This reduces the amount of soil washing into streams and rivers during rainstorms.

MORE BREATHABLE AIR

Trees are sometimes called “the lungs of the Earth” because their leaves take in carbon dioxide from the air and replace it with oxygen. An acre of trees produces enough oxygen for 18 people to breathe every day. Also, by taking in carbon dioxide as well as other gases, trees help us fight pollution and global warming.

HAPPIER HUMANS

Scientists say that being near trees helps people feel happier and more relaxed. Also, kids have an easier time focusing on schoolwork after spending time outside with trees!

CLOSER COMMUNITIES

When people get together to plant and care for trees, communities grow stronger. Planting projects give people the chance to meet and become friends. Plus, helping trees grow is fun for everyone.

SHOW YOUR “TREE APPRECIATION”?

National Wildlife Federation’s Trees for Wildlife program provides trees for youth groups and lessons on how to plant and take care of them. <https://www.nwf.org/trees-for-wildlife>

GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE

You can create a haven for wildlife. Provide the essential elements for healthy and sustainable wildlife habitats to survive: Food, water, cover and places to raise young.

To start your garden whether it is a container, your backyard or school, you will want to provide the following to help wild thrive:



PROVIDE FOOD FOR WILDLIFE

Planting native plants, shrubs and trees is the easiest way to provide the leaves, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds and nuts that many species of wildlife need to survive and thrive. You can also add bird feeders and other food sources.



SUPPLY WATER FOR WILDLIFE

All wildlife need clean water sources for many purposes, including drinking, bathing and raising babies. Water Sources include nearby ponds, lakes, rivers, springs, oceans and wetlands. You can put out a bird bath, puddling areas for butterflies, or create a rain gardens. Even small water features help wildlife.



CREATE COVER FOR WILDLIFE

All wildlife need places to hide in order to be safe from people, predators, and bad weather. You can help them find shelter by adding native plants, shrubs, rocks, brush piles and logs.



GIVE WILDLIFE A PLACE TO RAISE THEIR YOUNG

Wildlife need sheltered places to raise their young. Many features that provide cover can double as locations for nesting - from wildflowers and bushes where butterflies and moths lay their eggs, to boxes where bats roost or where birds build nests.



SUSTAINABILITY

How you maintain your garden or landscape can have an important effect on the health of the soil, air, water and habitat for wildlife. Don't use chemical, compost and mulch are important steps to greener gardening. Natural gardens are better for you and for wildlife.



Find more tips for Gardening for Wildlife and to certify your garden with National Wildlife Federation go to www.nwf.org/habitats.

STOP USING SINGLE-USE PLASTICS!

Plastic pollution is harming animals in our lakes, streams and oceans; but there are solutions. You can use alternatives to plastic and urge your family, friends and local businesses to say no to single-use plastics.

If you are looking for ways to help wildlife, eliminating single-use plastics from your life is a great way to start. Why? Plastic pollution is a tremendous problem. Whether you take a stroll in your neighborhood, near your school, at a local park, or along a nearby beach, there's a good chance that you'll see some plastic pollution along the way.

Straws, plastic cups, water bottles, and plastic bags belong to a group of materials known as single-use plastics. Single-use plastics do not always make it to the landfill or get recycled. Lots of plastic pollution is getting into our streams, lakes and oceans. Plastic never really disappears but breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces called micro-plastics which are nearly impossible to get rid of and cause big problems for our environment.

BUT THIS PROBLEM CAN BE FIXED. IF EVERY PERSON MADE SOME CHANGES, WE WOULD DRAMATICALLY REDUCE OUR PLASTIC POLLUTION.

Think about everything you use that is made of plastic. Then make a list of ways you can eliminate single-use plastics with eco-friendly alternatives.

HERE'S OUR TOP 5:

- 1. GET A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE** – Duh! But this makes a huge difference. Americans use over 2.5 million plastic bottles every HOUR. And only about 27% of those are recycled.
- 2. SAY NO TO (PLASTIC) STRAWS** – Use metal or glass alternatives.
- 3. BRING YOUR OWN BAGS (EVERYWHERE)** – Reusable bags are not just for the grocery store, take them with you everywhere.
- 4. NO PLASTIC FORKS PLEASE** – When you get food to go, just tell them you don't want any plastic cutlery!
- 5. THINK BEFORE YOU BUY** – For example, when you do buy water, juice, or soda, choose the paper carton or aluminum can over the plastic bottle. While aluminum is not a perfect solution, it is a better option because about 70% of aluminum cans are made from recycled materials, and cans are recycled at a higher rate than plastic, making them less likely to end up in the landfill or ocean.



WANT TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE?

You can create an awareness campaign at your school to encourage students and staff to say no to single-use plastics in the cafeteria. National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA has lots of ideas to help you green your school at www.nwf.org/eco-schools-usa.

GO OUTSIDE

Spending time outdoors in nature instills lifelong appreciation and stewardship of the natural world. The most direct route to caring for the environment as an adult is participating in nature activities as a kid.

Did you know that when your parents were your age, kids spent twice as much time playing outside as kids do now? It's true!

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE FUN THINGS YOU COULD DO:

EXPLORE A PARK NEAR YOU!

Whether you go to a park in the city, the wilderness or anywhere in-between, you can have a great time in the great outdoors.

GET ACTIVE.

Hike a trail, fly a kite, float leaf boats down a stream, skip a stone across a pond, roll down a hill, climb a tree, play hide-and-seek in the tall grass, or build a fort.

WATCH WILDLIFE.

Listen and spot birds, roll over a log to find insects and worms, sit still and study squirrels or rabbits or other mammals, watch the clouds go by and look for different types and shapes, or enjoy the light show when fireflies come out.

CAMP OUT.

Set up a tent and sleep under the stars.

HAVE A PICNIC.

Eat a snack in a local park. Can you find other creatures doing the same thing?

BE A PHOTO JOURNALIST.

Take pictures of your favorite places in nature. It could be a neighborhood tree or a big national park. Share your photos with National Wildlife Federation and enter our Ranger Rick Photo Contest:

<https://rangerrick.org/photo-contest/>.



ASK YOUR PARENTS AND TEACHERS TO VISIT www.nwf.org/Kids-and-Family/Connecting-Kids-and-Nature to find out how to make being outdoors an easy, fun and healthy part of everyday life. Go outside and be in nature-for an hour a day!