

VIDEO

AUDIO

One Child, One Voice

Johannesburg Version

00:10 *Night*

(Music)

00:21 *yellow carnival ride*

NARRATOR VO – 1

This program is about the world we create for our children. Will our new century be a bright triumph of hope or a runaway roller coaster to nowhere? We can go anywhere we want—to a peaceful green world or one of fear and need.

00:40 *beige roof tilt down*

Wherever we go, one thing is sure, we'll be going there together. Can we make the earth secure for everyone while the moment is still ours to seize, and the time is not yet too late?

00:56 *African boy Kenneth*

ALICE VO

AMERICAN GIRL

Let us grow up in a healthy world.

(SFX of gunfire; war)

ALICE

My great-grandpa fought in the First World War.
He died in a battle for a muddy field.

There are wild flowers growing there now.

They called it the war to end all wars.

VIDEO

01:27 *bombers*

01:38 *smoke stacks*

01:42 *water outflows*

01:46 *big tree falling*

01:50 *bird*

01:52 *people*

02:03 *roller coaster*

AUDIO

ALICE VO

It seems that people are always killing to save the world.

...they don't seem to notice the other war...

...the one that goes on every single day.

It's a war against the air...

...the water...

...the trees...

...the animals...

...and even the people.

ALICE

Sometimes I feel our whole world is like a roller coaster that's out of control.

(SFX–Alice screams)

NARRATOR VO – 2

It's not hard to see why a child might worry about the world she'll inherit. In 1992, at the Rio Earth Summit, promises were made to secure the Earth for future generations. But have these promises been kept?

Unfortunately, most have not. But now, at the World Summit in Johannesburg, we could take a giant leap toward the world we dreamed of. The time has come to do what is right.

Leaf Graphic

VIDEO

AUDIO

02:43 *people walking*

CARNIVAL BARKER

Welcome to the Consumer Carnival!

The Carnival of Consumption. Where the world is your oyster, and it's always all you can eat.

Where more is never enough and tomorrow never comes.

02:57 *roller coaster*

NARRATOR VO – 3

Some people would have you believe that the Earth's resources are unlimited. They claim that no matter how much we use, there will always be more to satisfy our every need and want.

03:11 *people in roller coaster*

Yet, for every product that's manufactured, consumed, and disposed of, there's a cost to the planet. And the cost gets higher all the time.

03:21 *trash barge*

There are no free rides.

03:26 *Alice with parents*

ALICE VO

My parents always tell me not to worry so much. They say the grown-ups will take care of everything. But I'm not so sure.

No one seems to pay attention to where everything comes from, or where it's going to.

They say don't worry. But I do worry. How can I not?

VIDEO

03:42 Alice in bumper car

03:50 NYC Times Square

04:19 Bumper cars

04:33 Fortune Teller's tent

AUDIO

ALICE

Millions of cars, billions of gallons of gas, pouring tons of junk into the sky.

NARRATOR VO – 4

Our industrial societies are powered by machines, and machines are powered by the burning of fossil fuels like oil and coal that spew out carbon dioxide. The gas spreads into the atmosphere, trapping more and more of the sun's heat. Global warming.

Together, the nations of the world emit over six billion tons of carbon annually. And these emissions continue to grow.

ALICE VO

I've read that the Earth will get hotter and hotter because of all the gas and smoke from the cars and factories.

And it's getting worse.

Nobody seems to know what the future will bring, and that's the most scary thing of all.

FORTUNE TELLER VO

One thing is clear. The rich countries in the North,

FORTUNE TELLER

use far more of the Earth's resources than the poorer countries in the South.

VIDEO

AUDIO

FORTUNE TELLER VO

The sad truth is that while some are gorging themselves at a feast that never ends, others go hungry.

The world is divided between the very rich and the very poor— and yet everyone, rich and poor alike, breathe the same air.

05:06 mirror and balloons

When you look at yourself in the mirror, do you see yourself as others do?

05:14 man and mirror

NARRATOR VO – 5

Consumer appetites are voraciously swallowing up the planet that all of us must share.

A mere 20 percent of the world's population consumes 86 percent of the world's resources.

In a world of plenty, does it make sense that one out of every six people doesn't have enough to eat?

CARNIVAL BARKER

Pay no attention to that paltry illusion! The Earth's good bounty is inexhaustible!

(Heartbeat SFX begins under dialogue)

05:46 tree falling

CARNIVAL BARKER VO

There's no problem a little technology can't fix.

CARNIVAL BARKER

You deserve to have more.

Why quit when you're ahead?

(Heartbeat SFX ends)

VIDEO

05:55 supermarket

06:04 airplane

06:18 leaf

06:50 destroyed village

AUDIO

ALICE

We're always being told that the more we have, the happier we'll be. But I wonder if that's really true?

ALICE VO

I can't afford to go to the

ALICE

Earth Summit myself, so I've decided to send this in my place.

It will speak for me and say, "Please begin to save our Earth."

Fade to Leaf Graphic

NARRATOR VO – 6

If you want to help secure the earth for future generations, draw a leaf on a postcard and send it to the Tree of Life at the address on your screen.

Visit our website at earthsecure.org to learn more about what you can do to help.

PAYAL

BANGLADESHI GIRL

My home is in Bangladesh, I think it's the most beautiful country in the world. It's just about the level of the sea.

In recent years there have been huge typhoons.

PAYAL VO

My mother says they're the worst storms she's ever seen.

VIDEO

06:55 flooded field with house

07:12 aerial flooded field

08:13 aerial flooded houses

AUDIO

NARRATOR VO – 7

One terrible monsoon flood left 80 percent of Bangladesh underwater. Twenty-five million people lost their homes.

No one will ever know exactly how many lost their lives.

PAYAL

I worry when people say that more typhoons are going to happen in the future.

That my country's going to be underwater because the whole world is warming up. My teacher says this warming is caused by cars and factories. We don't have many of those, so I don't really understand.

Is it fair for us to lose the place we live because of what other countries are doing to the air?

FORTUNE TELLER

I see the temperatures rising as the centuries turn.

Two degrees...five degrees? Six? Or more...I cannot tell exactly, I cannot predict. But there are big changes to come, already set in motion.

NARRATOR VO – 8

Most scientists agree that global warming is no longer theoretical; it's inevitable.

The debate isn't if, but when.

VIDEO

08:25 *beach*

AUDIO

NARRATOR VO – 9

Much of the world's population lives in coastal cities and villages that could be devoured by rising seas.

Low-lying areas would simply cease to exist.

PAYAL

Politicians are still fussing over whether global warming is real. They say they want to study the problem more before they do anything about it. But we had better decide to do something together soon, because it could happen all over the world.

08:53 *postcard of Venice*

NARRATOR VO – 10

Some scientists believe that huge storms and flooding like those that hit Bangladesh, may only be a preview of what's in store for coastal cities like Venice, New York, Miami, Bangkok, and Shanghai as climate change takes effect.

(Music/SFX begins)

PAYAL

I've heard about the Earth Summit. One of the things they're arguing about could help save my country. I hope they can agree.

ALICE

We're going to be voting for the Earth and the EARTH SUMMIT. And we hope you will, too.

Fade to Leaf Graphic

VIDEO

09:29 *leaf with address*

10:00 *African woman*

10:33 *herding cows*

10:46 *aerial African village*

11:01 *African plowing*

11:08 *girls carrying wood*

AUDIO

NARRATOR VO – 11

You can support the United Nations Summit in Johannesburg and make your voice heard about climate change by becoming a part of the Tree of Life Campaign. Draw a leaf on a postcard and send it to the address on your screen. If you want your country's leaders to know that you care about our changing climate, make another leaf postcard and send it to them.

Visit our website at earthsecure.org to learn more about what you can do to secure the Earth.

KENNETH
AFRICAN BOY

At night, I hear my mother crying. She's crying because she can't feed all my brothers and sisters.

I don't really care about myself, because I don't need much to eat. But when it's so hard to get the wood for our fire, the water for one more drink, and the grain for one more meal, how can I think about saving the Earth?

NARRATOR VO – 12

When the West African rainforests were cut for timber, no one realized that their destruction could affect the continent's climate.

The droughts of recent years may now have become the norm.

People already have to walk miles to fetch water for their families to drink...

or search for days to find firewood.

And the forests continue to shrink.

VIDEO

12:29 *field*

13:24 *population montage*

AUDIO

KENNETH

My grandfather was the storyteller in our tribe. He says he remembers when our country was all green.

Sometimes I can't believe him, I think his brains have gone mushy. But he tells me there were animals here, fresh water, and trees. People laughed, danced and had feasts. They were happy.

But now all that has changed. There are so many people and the land has become so dry.

KENNETH

My grandfather says his stories are true, but they don't want to be told anymore, because now they're only sad.

But I still love to hear them, so I beg him until he tells me just one more.

KENNETH VO

I know the Earth grows enough food for everyone.

KENNETH

So why are there people who still don't get enough to eat? Many go to bed hungry, and many starve.

The children who are starving are so quiet. I wonder what they are thinking?

When the trees are cut down, the deserts grow. Once, even the Great Sahara was covered by forest. The trees hold the soil and the water. They shade the land. Without them, the Earth becomes cracked and dry.

FORTUNE TELLER

In the century to come, over one half of your fertile soil could vanish, and at the same time,

FORTUNE TELLER VO

billions more people will be born. I see a doubling, almost as if a new Earth had come into being.

VIDEO

14:35 *leaf*

AUDIO

But there is only one world. You will have half the farmland and twice the people to feed.

(Music begins – “Dear God”)

KENNETH

Once our good soil is gone, It's gone forever. This soil is all that will stand between my children and starvation.

ALICE

We want the same green world our parents had when they were children.

Fade to Leaf Graphic

NARRATOR VO – 13

If you want to help sustain the earth, her peoples, land, plants and animals, draw a leaf on a postcard and send it to your country's leaders. Let them know that you care about the Johannesburg Summit. Send another to the Tree of Life at the address on your screen.

Then, visit our website at earthsecure.org to learn more about what you can do to help.

BRADY

JAPANESE BOY

My father is a businessman for a big corporation.

He tells me it is a time of progress and success.

He says world trade has never been better and people produce more than ever before.

It must feel so powerful to be able to buy and sell the world with just a phone call.

VIDEO

15:25 stock market

*16:04 aerial rainforest
destruction*

16:27 felled tree

AUDIO

BRADY

Do they know that what's good for business can be bad for the Earth?

Somewhere in the world a man yells, 'sell'...and a tree that has lived a thousand years falls to the ground.

We can turn a tree into money, but we cannot turn money back into a rainforest.

A chopstick is cheap, but what does it really cost?

(SFX – sounds of rainforest and trees falling)

FORTUNE TELLER VO

I hear the roaring of the chainsaws in the rainforests of Sarawak...

FORTUNE TELLER

...turning ancient trees into billions of throwaway chopsticks.

NARRATOR VO – 14

On average, every second of every day an entire football field of tropical rainforest is wiped away forever...

At current rates of destruction, in less than 50 years, almost every rainforest on earth could be obliterated.

BRADY

My uncle is a Zen priest, he tells me that the Earth is owned by no one. That real wealth comes from the health of the Earth and all living things.

But the plants and the animals, the sea and the air can not speak to us...we have to give a voice to the voiceless.

VIDEO

17:06 eagle

17:17 forest

17:34 whale

17:42 otter

17:48 deer

18:04 eagle

18:22 rhino

18:27 elephant

AUDIO

NARRATOR VO – 15

Can a bird lobby for cleaner air to fly in?

How does a redwood tree get an injunction to stop a chainsaw?

Where do the whales go to vote against ocean pollution?

What ballot initiative can an otter sign to prevent oil spills?

Or the deer, before his wetlands are drained?

To whom does the eagle protest the pesticides that destroy her eggs?

Speaking on behalf of the Voiceless.

Preserving the planet's wealth of life.

Ensuring our bio-diversity is a major issue at the World Summit in Johannesburg.

DANIELLE

BRAZILIAN GIRL

In the old days, coal miners took canaries down into the mines to warn them of poisonous gases.

When there was too much poison in the air, their canaries died, and the miners knew they could die too, and didn't go any further.

The plants and animals and people in the rainforests...are like those canaries. If they die, we might too.

DANIELLE

What we do to the Earth, we do to ourselves. The Earth is just like us. It can get sick if we don't look after it.

The rivers and seas are like the veins of our bodies. Would we pour poison into them?

VIDEO

19:41 *cut trees*

20:09 *ram*

20:01 *antelope*

20:31 *lizard*

20:40 *wolf*

AUDIO

DANIELLE VO

Why are we cutting down the tree of life?

DANIELLE

Yet many people think that nature is so strong, nothing can ever destroy it. You can cut down the trees, kill the fish and animals, and they'll just grow back.

But I don't agree with people who think like that.

Extinction is forever.

NARRATOR VO – 16

The death of an entire species is irreversible. And when it's caused by our policies toward the Earth, shameful.

How will we possibly explain to our grandchildren why a particular animal exists only in photographs or museums?

We think we know the reason dinosaurs became extinct.

But we will know exactly why African elephants, cheetahs, mountain zebras, snow leopards, Peregrine falcons...and many others disappear from the Earth forever.

ALICE

If we speak with one voice, if we follow our hearts, we will find a way. Each of us can do something, no matter how big or small, about the health of the planet.

Fade to Leaf Graphic

VIDEO

21:38 *Kenneth holding leaf
Postcard*

21:54 *trees*

22:07 *aerial trucks*

AUDIO

NARRATOR VO – 17

Get your pencil so you can join the Tree of Life Campaign and vote for the Earth at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

NARRATOR VO – 18

We cannot—we must not—leave it to chance alone that these men and women at the World Summit will act wisely to stop the destruction.

So shatter the silence:

Join others from around the world by becoming a part of the Secure the Earth campaign. Draw a leaf on a postcard and send it to the Tree of Life at the address on your screen.

These millions of postcards will be made into a magnificent Tree of Life in Johannesburg at the U.N. World Summit. It will stand as a powerful symbol of our commitment to protect The Earth.

Then vote for the Earth by letting your political leaders know that you do care about the health of the planet. Send them a leaf postcard.

Your card will arrive with my card, along with our neighbors' cards. All our cards together.

This deluge will make it impossible for our leaders to ignore our unified voices.

Insist that they must act NOW to reverse environmental damage, and prevent it in the future.

Tell them, even, that your future support of them depends on it.

Do it now—right now.

The U.N. World Summit is our chance to tell our leaders to keep their promises to make our air clean, our water pure, and our future safe.

(Music begins – “Conviction of the Heart”)