



Mercury

- If you were to stand on Mercury, the Sun would appear 2 & 1/2 times bigger than it appears on Earth.
- If you weigh 70 pounds on Earth, you would weigh only about 27 pounds on Mercury.
- The planet Mercury is the closest of the planets to the Sun and is the 8th largest in the solar system.
- The surface of Mercury that faces the Sun can reach about 800 degrees Fahrenheit. On the other hand, the temperature on the nighttime side can plummet to almost -300 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Mercury has been now been visited by two spacecrafts, Mariner 10 and MESSENGER.



Thinktrition™



Caffeine Confusion?

Your mom says not to drink soda at night because the caffeine will keep you awake. But what is caffeine, anyway?

Caffeine is a natural chemical found in tea leaves, coffee beans, cacao and cola nuts. Caffeine is found in many common foods and drinks, such as coffee, tea, hot cocoa, soda, chocolate, and some medicines.

If you drink too much caffeine at one time, you may have the following symptoms:

- Nervousness or jumpiness
- Difficulty concentrating in school
- Shaking hands
- Difficulty falling asleep
- Stomachaches
- Headaches
- Racing heartbeat



If you'd like to cut down on caffeine, talk with your parents. They can help you understand how much you're getting and find ways to cut you down gradually. The best drinks for you are water and milk, which don't contain caffeine. Remember to stay away from drinks like sodas and sports drinks which are high in caffeine!

Did You Know? Recycling Facts!

- Americans now use an average of 100 gallons of water each day!
- If all U.S. households installed water-efficient appliances, the country would save more than 3 trillion gallons of water.
- Recycling aluminum saves 95% of the energy needed to produce new aluminum from raw materials.
- A full bath tub requires about 70 gallons of water, while taking a five-minute shower uses only 10 to 25 gallons.
- World electricity demand is expected to double between 2000 and 2030.
- Each year Americans throw away 25,000,000,000 styrofoam cups, all of which are un-recyclable.
- Glass never wears out and can be recycled forever!
- Americans go through 25 billion plastic bottles every year.
- Every American uses about one 100-foot-tall Douglas-fir tree in paper and wood products per year.



Fruit of the Month! BANANAS!

Bananas are nutritious and delicious! Here are some fun facts about this popular fruit.

- The banana "tree" is not really a tree, but a giant herb.
- The cluster of bananas sold in supermarkets is a "hand" of bananas, while the individual bananas on the hand are called fingers.
- It is believed by many experts that bananas were the first fruit cultivated by humans.
- Worldwide, bananas are the fourth largest fruit crop.
- The average American eats 28 pounds of bananas per year.
- India is the #1 banana producer in the world.
- In 2001, Britain recorded 300 incidents of injuries related to bananas. Many of these involved people slipping on banana peels!





A Shining Star!

Aitan Grossman

After reading Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth," Aitan Grossman, a 15 year old from Palo Alto California grew concerned about the survival of our planet and worried that adults weren't taking the impacts of global warming seriously. So, at the age of 12, Aitan decided he had to do something about it; combining his love for music and the environment and wrote a song about the Earth, titled "100 Generations."



But that was just a start for Aitan as he formed a band to record his song, then reached out to children in Africa, South America, Europe, Asia and North America to sing with him to help inspire others and raise awareness about global warming.

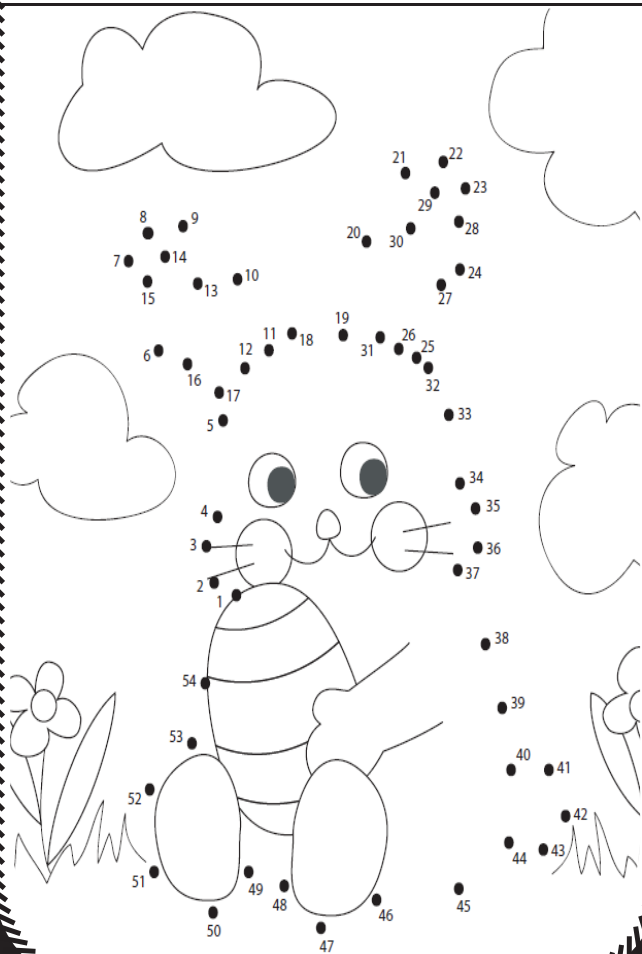
Aitan posted the song and lyrics on his website, KidEarth, so kids all over the world could find out about it and record their own version. So far, he has posted versions from France, Taiwan, Venezuela, Botswana, Guatemala and Ethiopia, and expects to receive more. In fact, since the song's release for Earth Day 2009, the song has had more than 500,000 hits on the website, from 110 countries. The song is now used as an environmental teaching tool by school districts across the U.S.



Profits from sales of "100 Generations," available on iTunes, go to environmental groups that fight global warming, including Friends of the Earth, the World Wildlife Fund and the Alliance for Climate Protection.

<http://www.parentdish.com/2010/12/06/amazing-kid-aitan-grossman/>

Connect the DOTS!



Spot the Difference!

Can you spot the 5 differences between the 2 pictures?

