

COMING UP NEXT ON NEWSDEPTH...

SCIENTISTS UNCOVER AN ANCIENT ARCHAEOLOGIC DISCOVERY THAT SOME FOLKS BELIEVE; IS EVEN OLDER THAN THE PYRAMIDS.

OLDER STILL - MIGHT BE SOME OF THE ANIMALS THAT ROAMED OHIO LONG BEFORE PEOPLE DID - WE'LL LEARN WHERE THEY WENT...

SPEAKING OF ANCIENT ANIMALS - THIS MAN WORKS TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE DINOSAURS REALLY LOOKED LIKE - AND IT MIGHT 'NOT' BE LIKE THE STARS FROM JURASSIC PARK!

THEN - JUST A FEW 'HUNDRED' YEARS AGO - THIS GUY WAS ROAMING AROUND THE EARTH.... BUT WE NEVER KNEW WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE - UNTIL RECENTLY!

WE'LL SEE HIS REDISCOVERED FACE....

NEWSDEPTH IS NOW!

TOP ATHLETES RUSHED THROUGH BEAN-TOWN FOR AN ANNUAL EVENT THAT'S BEEN RUNNING ON FOR 120 YEARS!

HELLO EVERYONE, I'M RICK JACKSON. THANKS FOR JOINING US TODAY.

LAST WEEK, THE WORLD'S BEST RUNNERS FLOCKED TO MASSACHUSETTS TO PUT THEIR BEST FEET FORWARD - IN THE BOSTON MARATHON.

A MARATHON IS A RUNNING RACE WITH AN OFFICIAL DISTANCE OF ROUGHLY 26.2 MILES – A DISTANCE WITH HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, DATING BACK TO ANCIENT GREECE.

MARATHONS ARE HELD WORLDWIDE – BUT THE BOSTON MARATHON IS PERHAPS THE BEST-KNOWN – AND THE OLDEST. THE BOSTON RACE WAS FIRST HELD IN 1897.

IN ADDITION TO RUNNING, THE MARATHON ALSO INCLUDES SEPARATE RACES FOR ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES, LIKE THE HAND-CYCLE RACE.

CURRENTLY, MEN AND WOMEN COMPETE IN SEPARATE RACES – BUT FOR A LONG TIME, WOMEN WERE BARRED FROM THE COMPETITION ALTOGETHER. IN 1967, THE FIRST OFFICIAL FEMALE RUNNER, KATHRINE SWITZER, COMPETED IN THE EVENT BY REGISTERING WITH ONLY HER INITIALS, AS NOT TO REVEAL HER GENDER. OFFICIALS ATTEMPTED TO RUN HER OFF THE TRACK WHEN THEY DISCOVERED SHE WAS A WOMAN, BUT SWITZER WAS EVENTUALLY ABLE TO COMPLETE THE RACE THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF HER FELLOW RUNNERS.

DURING LAST WEEK'S RACE – AND 50 YEARS SINCE HER UNAUTHORIZED RUN – KATHRINE SWITZER COMPETED ONCE AGAIN – THIS TIME, CHAMPIONED AS A GROUNDBREAKER.

WHILE ATHLETES RAN, SCIENTISTS MARCHED – THE GLOBAL MARCH FOR SCIENCE, HELD OVER THE WEEKEND, WAS, IN PART, A CELEBRATION FOR EARTH DAY – BUT

IT WAS ALSO A PUSH TO PROMOTE THE UNDERSTANDING OF SCIENCE, IN LIGHT OF RECENT CALLS TO CUT FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS THAT FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE.

WE'VE TALKED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE BEFORE – MOST SCIENTISTS AGREE THAT OUR GLOBAL TEMPERATURE IS RISING, WITH CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES -- BUT POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN SLOW TO ACT ON THE THREAT.

ANDREW SPENCER HAS MORE ON WHAT THE DEMONSTRATORS ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH.

FROM NEW YORK TO LOS ANGELES, CROWDS GATHERED AND MARCHED ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES PRESSING BACK AGAINST LEGISLATORS AND POLICY MAKERS THAT, THEY SAY, ARE IGNORING FACTS AND RESEARCH.

ORGANIZERS BILLED THE MARCHES AS POLITICAL BUT NON-PARTISAN -- AN EFFORT TO SUPPORT SCIENCE AND EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH...

SPEAKING TO A CROWD IN WASHINGTON, SCIENCE ADVOCATE BILL NYE SAID "SCIENCE MUST SHAPE POLICY" -- NOT JUST IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT AROUND THE WORLD.

Bill Nye / CEO of The Planetary Society: "Our lawmakers must know and accept that science serves every one of us: every citizen of every nation and society."

THE MARCHES HAVE BEEN WORLDWIDE, WITH DEMONSTRATORS TAKING TO THE STREETS FROM SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, TO GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

...AND FROM THE ARCTIC TO THE ANTARCTIC, RESEARCHERS AND SCIENTISTS ADDED THEIR SUPPORT TO THE CAUSE.

AT NEUMAYER STATION ON ANTARCTICA, THEY SUMMED UP THE MOVEMENT WITH A QUOTE FROM MARIE CURIE: "NOTHING IN LIFE IS TO BE FEARED. IT IS ONLY TO BE UNDERSTOOD. NOW IS THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND MORE, SO THAT WE MAY FEAR LESS."

I'M ANDREW SPENCER, REPORTING

WHILE THESE PROTESTING SCIENTISTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET – OTHERS ARE BUSY RESEARCHING ITS PAST. ONE GROUP OF SUCH SCIENTISTS ARE CALLED ARCHEOLOGISTS. ARCHAEOLOGISTS STUDY MAN-MADE OBJECTS FROM THE DISTANT PAST TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF VARIOUS CIVILIZATIONS.

AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA HAVE UNEARTHED A VILLAGE THOUGHT TO BE OLDER THAN THE PYRAMIDS.

SOME OF THE TOOLS THEY FOUND ARE ABOUT 14-THOUSAND YEARS OLD. THE DISCOVERY ALSO PROVES STORIES THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN IN THE REGION FOR GENERATIONS.

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM REPORTS.

ON A REMOTE BC ISLAND THERE IS A HOLE AND INSIDE IS A WINDOW TO OUR PAST.

Alisha Gauvreau/ Student:

"I remember when we got the dates back and I just sat back and said 'holy molly' this is old."

500 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF VICTORIA IS TRIQUET ISLAND.

THE ROCKY SPIT IS FAR FROM CIVILIZATION BUT SCIENTIST SAY ARTIFACTS EXHUMED HERE PAINT A PICTURE OF HOW OUR CIVILIZATION BEGAN.

Alisha Gauvreau/ Student:

"What this is doing is changing our idea in the way in which how North America was first peopled."

WHAT WAS FOUND HERE IS INCREDIBLE.

TOOLS FOR LIGHTING FIRES, FISH HOOKS AND SPEARS, ALL DATING BACK 14,000 YEARS

THE DISCOVERY LEADING EXPERTS TO BELIEVE A LARGE HUMAN MIGRATION MAY HAVE OCCURRED ON BC'S UNFROZEN COASTLINE.

BUT MORE REMARKABLE MAY BE THE COLLISION OF FIRST NATION LEGEND AND SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY.

William Housty/ Heiltsuk First Nation:

"It's very special, not just to me but the entire tribe."

LIKE LIVING HEIRLOOMS, HEILTSUK FIRST NATION ELDERS HAVE PASSED DOWN STORIES OF ANCIENT COASTAL VILLAGES, CULTURAL FABLES NOW CEMENTED IN FACT.

William Housty/ Heiltsuk First Nation:

"To think about how these stories survived all of that, only to be you know, supported by this archeological evidence is just amazing."

UNEARTHED THE BC VILLAGE IS THE OLDEST TO BE DISCOVERED IN NORTH AMERICA.

BUT WORK HERE NOT DONE

TROWELS IN HAND, SCIENTISTS WILL DIG ON OTHER BC ISLANDS AND TRACK THE ANCIENT FOOTPRINT OF MAN AS FAR AS IT GOES.

THANKS, SCOTT.

ACROSS THE OCEAN, IN ENGLAND, ARCHEOLOGISTS HAVE MADE ANOTHER DISCOVERY. THIS ONE'S NOT QUITE AS OLD, BUT THEY REALLY BROUGHT IT TO LIFE.

A LARGE CEMETERY, DATING BACK TO THE 13TH CENTURY, WAS DISCOVERED IN CAMBRIDGE - DURING RENOVATIONS AT ST JOHN'S COLLEGE.

THE MASS CEMETERY, WHICH IS FAR LARGER THAN THE SMALL BURIAL GROUND ARCHAEOLOGISTS WERE EXPECTING, CONTAINS ABOUT 400 COMPLETE SKELETONS OF POOR AND SICK RESIDENTS. THE CEMETERY WAS ATTACHED TO A HOSPITAL AND CHARITY DURING THE MIDDLE AGES – THAT'S THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE 5TH AND 15TH CENTURIES.

MUCH TIME AND ATTENTION IS PAID TO THE ENGLISH ROYALTY OF THE MIDDLE AGES, BUT RESEARCHERS DON'T KNOW NEARLY AS MUCH ABOUT THE ORDINARY POOR AND THEIR LIVES, SO THEY'RE USING THIS DISCOVERY TO LEARN MORE.

TO PUT A FACE TO THE DISCOVERY, ARCHAEOLOGISTS ENLISTED THE HELP OF A FORENSIC RECONSTRUCTION ARTIST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE, TO RECONSTRUCT THE FACE OF ONE OF THE SKELETONS.

THE 13TH-CENTURY MAN, KNOWN AS CONTEXT 958 BY RESEARCHERS, WAS LIKELY A MEMBER OF THE POOR URBAN WORKING CLASS, POSSIBLY A LABORER OR CRAFTSMAN. AND HE LIVED TO A GOOD AGE FOR HIS PERIOD, BETWEEN 40 AND 70 YEARS OLD.

BUT THIS KIND OF ART IS NOT LIMITED TO DRAWING HUMANS – IN FACT, SOME ARTISTS WORK WITH PALEONTOLOGISTS. PALEONTOLOGISTS ARE SCIENTISTS THAT STUDY FOSSILS – AND YOU CAN THANK A PALEONTOLOGIST FOR EVERYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT DINOSAURS!

UP NEXT, WE HEAR HOW A COMIC BOOK ARTIST MARK SCHULTZ TEAMED UP WITH A PALEONTOLOGIST AND GOT ANIMATED ABOUT DINOSAURS.

[MARK SCHULTZ/DINO ARTIST]

WHILE ARTISTS LIKE MARK BASE THEIR ILLUSTRATIONS ON FOSSILS AND RESEARCH, SOME THINGS REMAIN A MYSTERY – EVEN FOR THE MOST FAMOUS DINOSAURS, LIKE THE TYRANNOSAURUS REX.

BUT NOW, AFTER STUDYING A WELL-PRESERVED FOSSIL OF A NEWLY DISCOVERED T. REX RELATIVE, PALEONTOLOGISTS THINK THEY HAVE REVEALED SOME IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE PREDATOR’S FEARSOME FACE.

THE TYRANNOSAUR FAMILY HAD NO LIPS AND HAD FACES COVERED WITH SMALL PATCHES OF ARMORED SKIN AND LARGE, FLAT SCALES MORE SIMILAR TO CROCODILES THAN TO LIZARDS.

THE TEAM ALSO DISCOVERED THAT TYRANNOSAUR SNOOTS AND JAWS WERE MOST LIKELY LACED WITH NERVES THAT MADE THEIR SKIN SUPERSENSITIVE, COMPARABLE TO A HUMAN’S FINGERTIPS. THE EXTRA SENSITIVITY MAY HAVE HELPED THEM IN HUNTING.

T. REX FOSSILS ARE FOUND MOSTLY IN MONTANA AND SOUTH DAKOTA, BUT HERE IN OHIO WE’VE UNEARTHED FOSSILS OF MANY DIFFERENT PREHISTORIC CREATURES – HERE TO TELL YOU ABOUT SOME OF THEM IS KNOW OHIO’S MARY FECTEAU.

MARY:

I DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I’VE GOT SOME PRETTY FIERCE PREDATORS IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD! LIKE, ONCE, I SAW A SQUIRREL THAT WAS, LIKE, THIS BIG. TERRIFYING. OH – AND THERE WAS THIS SPIDER IN MY BASEMENT WAS THAT, I SWEAR, WAS HUGE – AND, LIKE SORT OF HAIRY! AND DON’T GET ME STARTED ABOUT *THIS* FEROCIOUS BEAST I FOUND IN MY LIVING ROOM! I MEAN, I REALLY HAVE TO WATCH MYSELF AROUND HERE...

BUT, OK, I WILL ADMIT THAT THE ANIMALS THAT LIVE AMONG US TODAY, ARE PROBABLY NOT AS BIG OR BAD AS THE CREATURES THAT ROAMED OHIO IN PREHISTORIC TIMES.

TAKE, FOR INSTANCE, THE CASTOROIDEES (CASTA-ROID-EES), ALSO KNOWN AS THE GIANT BEAVER. IT LOOKED A LOT LIKE TODAY’S CUTE LIL’ BEAVER THAT WE ALL KNOW AND LOVE – BUT AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, THE GIANT BEAVER, WAS MUCH, MUCH LARGER – IN FACT, IT COULD GROW AS LARGE AS 7 FEET TALL, AND WEIGH UP TO 276 POUNDS – ABOUT THE SIZE OF A BLACK BEAR – MAKING IT THE LARGEST RODENT IN NORTH AMERICA DURING THE ICE AGE.

WE KNOW ABOUT THIS ANIMAL BECAUSE ITS FOSSILS WERE FIRST DISCOVERED IN A SWAMP ABOUT 50 MILES WEST OF COLUMBUS. BY LOOKING CLOSELY AT THE FOSSILS, SCIENTISTS HAVE FIGURED OUT THAT THESE BEAVERS HAD MUCH LARGER TEETH – AND, SINCE THEY’RE SHAPED DIFFERENTLY, SOME SCIENTISTS SAY THAT THEY MAY NOT HAVE BUILT DAMS, LIKE TODAY’S BEAVERS. ANOTHER

THING SCIENTISTS DISCOVERED? GIANT BEAVERS DID NOT HAVE GIANT BRAINS – THEIR BRAINS WERE PROPORTIONALLY SMALLER THAN MODERN BEAVERS. SO GIANT BEAVERS WERE NOT ONLY BIG, THEY WERE BIG AND KIND OF DUMB.

THESE BIG, DUMB BEAVERS SHARED OHIO WITH SOME HAIRY ELEPHANTS – YOU’VE LIKELY HEARD OF WOOLY MAMMOTHS – AND WE’VE FOUND A FEW MAMMOTH FOSSILS, BUT EVEN MORE COMMON IN OHIO IS A VERY CLOSE RELATIVE: THE MASTODON. MASTODONS CALLED OHIO HOME 20 THOUSAND YEARS AGO – AND THEY’RE KNOWN FOR THEIR SHAGGY HAIRCUTS AND LONG TUSKS THAT COULD EXTEND TO OVER 16 FEET LONG. THEY WERE ALSO ON THE MENU – OF OHIO’S FIRST NATIVE TRIBES. AND ONE OF THESE GUYS COULD FEED A LOT OF PEOPLE!

MASTODON BONES HAVE BEEN FOUND ALL OVER THE STATE, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF COMPLETE SKELETONS, LIKE THE CONWAY MASTODON FOUND IN 1887 NOW ON DISPLAY AT THE OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION IN COLUMBUS AND THE JOHNSTON MASTODON FOUND IN 1926, DISPLAYED AT THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

BUT THESE ARE FAR FROM THE OLDEST FOSSILS THAT HAVE BEEN FOUND IN OHIO! IN FACT, WE’VE UNCOVERED ANIMAL FOSSILS THAT ARE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS OLD -- AND THERE’S SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT THESE OLD FOSSILS: THEY ARE ALL OF AQUATIC ANIMALS. THAT’S BECAUSE OHIO WAS ONCE COVERED IN A SHALLOW SEA. SOME OF THE OLDEST ARE THESE GUYS: TRILOBITES – THEY LIVED AT THE BOTTOM OF OHIO’S SEA AND HAD SEGMENTED BODIES AND EXOSKELETONS LIKE CRABS AND LOBSTERS. WE’VE FOUND SO MANY TRILOBITES HERE, THAT IT IS OHIO’S OFFICIAL STATE FOSSIL.

BUT MANY ANIMALS THAT SHARED OHIO’S SEA WERE NOT NEARLY AS FRIENDLY. I’M THINKING ABOUT THE DUNKLEOSTEUS. DOESN’T EXACTLY LOOK WARM AND CUDDLY, DOES HE? WELL, HE WASN’T! YOU’RE LOOKING AT LIKELY THE MEANEST, SCARIEST PREDATOR TO EVER SWIM IN THE OCEAN! THEIR HEADS WERE COVERED IN THICK BONY ARMOR – WHICH EXTENDED INTO SHARPENED FANGS IN THE FRONT OF THE MOUTH. THESE FANGS, COMBINED WITH AN AMAZINGLY POWERFUL JAW, MADE THEM THE MOST FEARED PREDATOR IN THE ANCIENT OCEAN – CAPABLE OF CHOMPING NEARLY EVERY OTHER SPECIES IN THEIR HABITAT.

IF YOU’RE GETTING FREAKED OUT – LET ME REMIND YOU: THE DUNKLEOSTEUS HAS BEEN GONE A LOOOONG TIME. THEY WENT EXTINCT ABOUT 360 MILLION YEARS AGO – AND LEFT NO TRUE DECEDENTS. SO LET’S ALL GO AHEAD AND BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF [SIGH].

AS YOU HEARD, THE PREHISTORIC ANIMALS THAT MARY DESCRIBED HAVE ALL DIED OUT – OR GONE EXTINCT.

WHEN WE THINK ABOUT EXTINCT ANIMALS WE TEND TO THINK OF ANIMALS LIKE THOSE: DINOSAURS AND OTHER PREHISTORIC CREATURES THAT DIED OFF THOUSANDS -- OR MAYBE MILLIONS -- OF YEARS AGO. BUT SOME EXTINCT ANIMALS HAVEN’T BEEN GONE ALL THAT LONG!

TAKE THE THYLACINE (THY-LA-SEEN), FOR INSTANCE. THIS CARNIVOROUS MARSUPIAL, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE TASMANIAN TIGER, ONCE ROAMED THE FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS OF AUSTRALIA, NEW GUINEA, AND TASMANIA. BUT HUMANS PUSHED THE SPECIES INTO EXTINCTION BY TAKING OVER ITS HABITAT AND, EVENTUALLY, HUNTING IT. THE LAST KNOWN TASMANIAN TIGER DIED IN CAPTIVITY IN 1936 – AND, SINCE THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT IT STILL EXISTED IN THE WILD, THE TASMANIAN TIGER WAS DECLARED EXTINCT IN 1986.

BUT THESE NOCTURNAL ANIMALS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SHY – AND RUMORS OF TASMANIAN TIGERS IN THE WILD HAVE PERSISTED. THERE HAVE BEEN RECORDED SIGHTINGS OTHER THE YEARS, AND NOW -- AFTER TWO CREDIBLE SIGHTINGS IN QUEENSLAND -- RESEARCHERS AT JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCED THEY WOULD LAUNCH A SURVEY TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY OF THE ANIMALS WERE ALIVE. THEY'RE SETTING UP CAMERA "TRAPS" IN THE HOPES OF GETTING FOOTAGE OF ONE.

THE ODDS THAT THIS SPECIES IS STILL ALIVE ARE VERY LOW, BUT WE'RE ALL ROOTING FOR THE TASMANIAN TIGER. BECAUSE ONCE A SPECIES IS EXTINCT -- IT'S GONE FOREVER.

BUT -- SOME SCIENTISTS ARE WORKING TO CHANGE THIS – THEY WANT TO GIVE EXTINCT ANIMALS A SECOND CHANCE! THEY CALL THIS WORK *DE-EXTINCTION*, BECAUSE THE PREFIX "DE" ADDED TO A WORD MEANS "TO REMOVE" – AND THESE SCIENTISTS ARE ATTEMPTING TO GET RID OF EXTINCTION!

THIS IS REAL SCIENCE, STRAIGHT OUT OF THE SCIENCE FICTION OF MOVIES LIKE JURASSIC PARK! LET'S HEAR MORE FROM SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT -- AND ST. SUSANNA'S FAVORITE -- MARGARET THOMPSON!

WHEN AN ANIMAL GOES EXTINCT IT MAY SEEM LIKE ALL HOPE IS LOST FOR ITS SPECIES. IT IS DEFINITELY A SAD DAY AND IT'S WHY WE REALLY NEED TO PAY ATTENTION TO ANIMALS ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST SO THEY DON'T END UP GONE AS WELL. BUT – AND IT'S A PRETTY BIG BUT – SCIENTISTS ARE TRYING TO BRING SOME OF THESE ANIMALS BACK TO LIFE. IT'S CALLED *DE-EXTINCTION*.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THE ANIMALS SCIENTISTS ARE TRYING TO REVIVE AND JUST HOW THEY ARE GOING ABOUT IT.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE PYRENEES MOUNTAINS LIVED A KIND OF TYPE OF GOAT CALLED THE *BUCARDO*, OR PYRENEAN IBEX. THE MALE *BUCARDO* HAD BIG HORNS THAT SWOOPED UP AND BACK WHILE THE FEMALES' WERE MORE DAINTY. THEY FED OF GRASSES AND PLANTS. IN THE SUMMER THEY LIVED ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAINS AND IN THE WINTER THEY MOVED LOWER TO AVOID THE SNOW.

THERE USED TO BE PLENTY OF *BUCARDOS* BUT HUNTING AND HABITAT LOSS LED TO LESS AND LESS OF THEM. THEN IN 2000 THE VERY LAST *BUCARDO*, A FEMALE NAMED CELIA WAS CRUSHED BY A FALLEN TREE. SCIENTISTS HAD BEEN WATCHING HER, BUT THEY WANTED HER TO SPEND HER LIFE IN THE WILD.

A YEAR BEFORE SHE DIED THEY TOOK SOME SAMPLES OF HER DNA. THEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO USE IT TO CLONE HER. CLONING IS A WAY OF MAKING A TWIN OF ANOTHER ANIMAL BY USING ITS DNA. THEY USED A DIFFERENT GOAT SPECIES AS THE MOTHER, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE ONE BABY BUCARDO THAT WAS BORN DID NOT SURVIVE.

CLONING IS ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED WAYS TO TRY TO BRING BACK EXTINCT SPECIES AND IT HAS BEEN DONE WITH ALREADY LIVING ONES – MOST FAMOUSLY WITH DOLLY THE SHEEP. SHE WAS THE FIRST CLONE OF HER KIND MADE FROM THE DNA OF ANOTHER SHEEP IN 1996.

SCIENTISTS ARE TRYING TO USE CLONING TO BRING BACK OTHER EXTINCT ANIMALS LIKE THE GASTRIC BROODING FROG – WHICH BASICALLY BURBS OUT ITS BABIES.

FOR SOME EXTINCT ANIMALS WHERE THE SCIENTISTS DON'T HAVE VERY GOOD DNA SOURCES, THEY ARE TRYING TO CHANGE THE DNA OF EXISTING ANIMALS TO MAKE THEM MORE LIKE THOSE THAT HAVE GONE EXTINCT.

THIS IS WHAT SCIENTISTS ARE TRYING TO DO WITH THE PASSENGER PIGEON. AT ONE TIME IN HISTORY THESE BIRDS WERE SO ABUNDANT IN AMERICA THAT HUNTERS USED TO TRAP THOUSANDS AT A TIME. THEY WERE A MAJOR SOURCE OF FOOD FOR THE NATION. BUT TOO MUCH HUNTING LED TO THEIR EXTINCTION. IN 1914 THE LAST LIVING PASSENGER PIGEON, MARTHA, DIED IN THE CINCINNATI ZOO.

SCIENTISTS THINK THAT MAYBE BY TAKING THE FRAGMENTS OF DNA THAT THEY HAVE FROM THESE PIGEONS AND MIXING IT WITH THOSE OF MODERN DAY BIRDS THAT THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRING BACK A BIRD VERY SIMILAR TO PASSENGER PIGEONS.

THIS IS THE SAME IDEA THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO DO WITH THE WOOLY MAMMOTH, ESSENTIALLY A BIG HAIRY ELEPHANT, AND THE DODO, A FUNNY LOOKING BIG BIRD THAT COULDN'T FLY -- OH AND THE TASMANIAN TIGER, AN UNUSUAL LOOKING ANIMAL THAT LIVED IN AUSTRALIA -- BUT THAT NO ONE EVER REALLY GOT TO STUDY BEFORE IT WAS KILLED OFF BY HUMANS.

IT'S NEAT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT OUR WORLD WOULD BE LIKE IF WE WERE ABLE TO BRING THESE ANIMALS BACK TO LIFE, BUT IN THE MEANTIME IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE. AFTER ALL YOU CAN'T COUNT YOUR EGGS BEFORE THEY HATCH, EVEN IF THEY ARE FROM A DODO OR PASSENGER PIGEON!

THANKS MARGARET. WHILE DE-EXTINCTION IS STILL VERY MUCH IN THE WORKS -- IN OUR POLL THIS WEEK -- WE WANT TO KNOW: IF YOU COULD BRING AN ANIMAL BACK FROM EXTINCTION, WHICH WOULD IT BE? YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM FOUR ANIMALS THAT WE JUST TOLD YOU ABOUT:

THE BIG, DUMB GIANT BEAVER, ALSO CALLED THE CASTOROIDES (CASTA-ROID-EES).

THE NIGHTMARISH DUNKLEOSTEUS – THOSE ARE FROM THE KNOW OHIO.

**AND THEN WE HAVE THE MORE RECENT EXTINCTIONS MARGARET JUST TOLD YOU ABOUT:
THE BIG-HORNED BUCARDO
AND THE ONCE-PLENTIFUL PASSENGER PIGEON**

YOU CAN VOTE FOR THE SPECIES YOU'D BRING BACK BY GOING TO OUR WEBSITE AND CLICKING THE POLL BUTTON. MAYBE THE DE-EXTINCTION SCIENTISTS WILL TAKE NOTE!

**AFTER YOU'VE VOTED; WRITE TO US – TELL US WHY YOU VOTED THE WAY YOU DID, LET US KNOW ABOUT ANOTHER EXTINCT SPECIES YOU'D LIKE TO SEE COME BACK, OR, TELL US WHY YOU THINK DE-EXTINCTION MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A GREAT IDEA IN THE FIRST PLACE!
WE CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS!**

AS YOU HEARD, THE BEST WAY TO AVOID EXTINCTION IS BY PROTECTING ALL THE SPECIES WE HAVE HERE ON EARTH! AND WE HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS ON THAT FRONT. TWO SPECIES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST.

GIANT PANDAS LUMBERED OFF THE LIST OVER THE SUMMER, THANKS IN PART TO EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND EXPAND THEIR NATIVE HABITATS AND A CRACKDOWN ON POACHING. GIANT PANDA POPULATIONS IN THE WILD HAVE RISEN STEADILY BY 17 PERCENT OVER THE PAST DECADE.

...AND EVEN MORE RECENTLY MANATEES SWAM – OR, MORE LIKE, CALMLY FLOATED – OFF THE LIST. KNOWN AS SEA COWS DUE TO THEIR DIET OF AQUATIC PLANTS, THEY ARE COMMON IN FLORIDA – AND WERE THREATENED BY HUMAN ACTIVITIES LIKE BOATING AND FISHING. BUT WITH RECENT PROTECTIONS AND MORE AWARENESS, MANATEES HAVE FLOURISHED – AND NOW HAVE A POPULATION OF AT LEAST 13,000.

WELL, ONE THING WE KNOW IS DEFINITELY NOT ENDANGERED – YOUR BRILLIANT THOUGHTS ABOUT LAST WEEK'S SHOW. LET'S TAKE A LOOK, FIRST, AT HOW YOU VOTED IN LAST WEEK'S EARTH-DAY THEMED POLL. WE ASKED: DO YOU RECYCLE? AND MOST OF YOU – 69% -- SAID YES! GREAT WORK!

JAMES FROM CHAGRIN FALLS INTERMEDIATE COMBINED LAST WEEK'S FOCUS ON EARTH DAY, WITH OUR CALL FOR POETRY THE WEEK BEFORE, WRITING:

*I LOVE THE OCEAN, THE LAKE, THE SEA,
THE WATER IS ALL COOL AND SMOOTH AS CAN BE,
BUT YET ONE THING CAN TOP IT ALL,
LAKE ERIE IS MY FAVORITE OF ALL!*

**KALEI FROM PRESTON ELEMENTARY SEEMS TO AGREE ABOUT LAKE ERIE – WHEN WE ASKED WHAT PART OF THE WORLD YOU WOULD ADOPT, SHE WROTE:
I WOULD ADOPT THE PARTS AROUND LAKE ERIE BECAUSE I WANT TO MAKE IT LOOK BETTER BY CLEANING THE RIVER. I WAS AT MY GRANDPARENT'S HOUSE IN**

ASHTABULA AND THE RIVER WAS POLLUTED! THAT MADE ME MAD!

AVA FROM NORTHFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WOULD ALSO CLEAN UP HER PIECE OF THE PLANET, TELLING US:

IF I COULD ADOPT A PIECE OF THE PLANET I WOULD ADOPT MIDWAY ISLAND. I WOULD ADOPT IT SO I COULD CLEAN UP ALL OF THE PLASTIC AND GARBAGE ON THE ISLAND. IF I DID ADOPT MIDWAY ISLAND, IT WOULD LOOK GOOD AGAIN. I WOULD SHARE THE ISLAND WITH MY FRIENDS, SO WE COULD CLEAN UP THE ISLAND REALLY QUICK.

MALLORY FROM PARKSIDE HAD AN OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD RESPONSE TO THE SAME QUESTION, WRITING:

IF I COULD PICK MY PIECE OF EARTH I WOULD HAVE TO PICK AUSTRALIA. I LOVE AUSTRALIA, MATE. BUT, IF I COULD CHOOSE FROM THE WHOLE SOLAR SYSTEM, I WOULD PICK MARS. MARS IS ALSO AWESOME. I WANT TO BE THE FIRST ONE EVER TO STEP FOOT ON MARS.

MEANWHILE, MISS SABA'S THIRD GRADE CLASS FROM WILSON HILL ELEMENTARY, CHOSE TO ADOPT SOMEWHERE A BIT CLOSER TO HOME:

IF WE COULD ADOPT ANY PIECE OF EARTH, WE AGREED THAT WE WOULD CHOOSE WILSON HILL ELEMENTARY. IT IS OUR SCHOOL AND WE LOVE IT SO MUCH! EVERYONE AT OUR SCHOOL IS NICE AND WE WANT TO OWN A PIECE OF EARTH WHERE EVERYONE IS KIND! FINALLY, WE KNOW THIS LOCATION AND ALL OF OUR FRIENDS ARE HERE!

THANKS MISS SABA'S CLASS! THANKS ALSO TO JAMES, KALEI, AVE, AND MALLORY. YOU ALL GAVE US – AND MOTHER EARTH -- A REASON TO SMILE THIS WEEK!

SOMEONE ELSE GIVING US A REASON TO SMILE: PERSEVERING STUDENT ESTHER ELONGA. ESTER RECEIVED A FOUR-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND HARVARD, ONE OF AMERICA'S TOP COLLEGES, BUT SHE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT TO GET THERE.

SHE IS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST STUDENTS. BUT FOR ESTHER ELONGA, THE ROAD TO HARVARD HAS NOT BEEN EASY. IT STARTED WHEN HER FAMILY HAD TO FLEE THEIR NATIVE CONGO.

Esther Elonga/Accepted to Harvard:

"Because of the wars and insecurity, my family had to move from the Congo to Uganda. So we lived in Uganda as refugees."

SHE IS NOW AN 18-YEAR-OLD SENIOR AT CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL.

NOT AN EASY FEAT, CONSIDERING ENGLISH ISN'T EVEN ESTHER'S FIRST LANGUAGE.

BUT IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR PEOPLE AT CONCORD HIGH TO NOTICE THAT ESTHER WAS NO ORDINARY STUDENT.

Anna-Marie Dipasquale/Concord High Social Worker:

"Her insights are just so incredible. She's well-read. So in addition to her AP courses and every advanced course, she reads a lot of books. She's always reading. She's always studying, so she'll have so much to offer when she goes in the classroom."

ESTHER PLANS TO MAJOR IN CHEMISTRY, AND HOPES TO EVENTUALLY BECOME AN ANESTHESIOLOGIST. AND WHILE THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT, MEMORIES OF THE PAST ARE STILL FRESH.

Esther Elonga/Accepted to Harvard:

"Most of the children that I left in Africa, most of them who are my friends, were people who were as

bright as anyone or who are as smart, but could never have the opportunity of going to school."

FOR NEVER GIVING UP NO MATTER WHERE HOME IS, ESTHER GETS OUR A PLUS!

WELL, I HEAR NEWS CAT'S GOT HER OWN A PLUS TO HAND OUT! LET'S CHECK IN WITH OUR SENIOR CUTENESS CORRESPONDENT NOW.

[NEWS CAT INTRO]

GET TO WORK, NEWS CAT! THE SEASON'S NOT OVER YET!

NEWS CAT KNOWS SHE ONLY HAS A FEW MORE CHANCES TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY WITH SOME ADORABLE ANIMAL STORIES, AND SHE WANTS TO GO OUT WITH A...GROWL!

SHE'S GOT A COOL ONE THIS WEEK: THE DEBUT OF ONE OF THE COLUMBUS ZOO'S NEWEST POLAR BEAR CUBS! TO SEE THIS FURRY SUPERSTAR STRUT HER STUFF CLICK THE PETTING ZOO BUTTON ON OUR WEBSITE.

THANKS NEWS CAT!

AND, AS ALWAYS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. AFTER YOU VOTE IN OUR POLL, WRITE TO US. SEND YOUR E-MAILS TO NEWSDEPTH AT IDEASTREAM.ORG - OR MAIL YOUR LETTERS TO 1375 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115.

YOUR LETTERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY AFTERNOON TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT SHOW. YOU CAN ALSO TWEET AT US @ NEWSDEPTH OHIO.

THANKS FOR WATCHING, I'M RICK JACKSON. WE'LL SEE BACK HERE NEXT WEEK!