

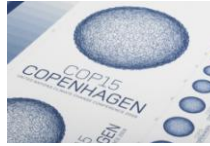
# The Green Team Gazette

Volume 2, Issue 4, page 1

December 2009: Copenhagen & Christmas, Here We Come

## Countdown to Copenhagen

Change is in the air. The bad news is that it's not the right kind of change....it's "climate change." The good news though is that world leaders from 170 countries are getting together for the **United Nation Climate Change Conference** in Copenhagen, Denmark. Why? To put their heads together to come up with a plan how we can improve it. From **December 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**, Denmark is going to be the hub of massive decision making to work toward the betterment of our planet's health. The goal of **COP15** [or, the **15<sup>th</sup> "Conference of Parties"**] is for world leaders to come to a consensus that will help to create a new environmental climate treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which will run out in 2012. The resulting "Copenhagen Protocol" will hopefully put several steps in order world-wide to diminish the current rate of acceleration of climate change.



To teach about global warming, the **Earthman Project** song called "The Climate Crisis Jam" is a perfect place to start (<http://www.climatecrisisjam.org/>). If you are more in the mood for a very technical, adult-oriented website about what's going on, go to the **UN Climate Change homepage** (<http://en.cop15.dk/>) or visit <http://copenhagenclimatecouncil.com/>. For a more kid-friendly site, go to the EPA's site on the subject: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/>.

## Fancy Footwork

An old phone advertisement rang out "Let your fingers to the walking." For Footprint Friends (<http://www.footprintfriends.com/>) the motto could be "Let your **toes** do the **talking!**" Likewise, "painting your toenails" just got a whole new meaning!! **Footprint Friends**, the British brainchild of Karen Ford (who got inspired after watching the movie *An Inconvenient Truth*), began as a way to bring environmental awareness to 10–18 year olds. Secondly, Karen Ford hoped to give kids a place to "take a stand" against climate change. On this website you will find online eco-games, a photo gallery of painted feet, school-aged winners of the United Kingdom's WOW! ("Wipe Out Waste") Awards, the Footprint Post-Ezine, teacher support, and more.



To side-step the carbon footprints we all leave behind, Footprint Friends is striving to reach a million footprints pics by the Copenhagen Conference. As their website states:

*"Footprint Friends is inviting all young people no matter what their age, to either **paint their feet** and/or write a poem within the theme of 'my dream for the future', and have it included in a 'book of dreams', which will presented to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December. In this way each 'foot' will be symbolically present for the conference."*

To learn more about how to upload your fancy footwork pictures to their website and to learn how to email them your poetry, check out <http://footprintfriends.com/mf tc>. Similarly, check out the Footprint Friends info-video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmnfKed1V8>. By painting your feet, not only will you make a colorful statement about climate change, but your young friends might learn a little something along the way!

### Books to Make a Million Matter More

By David Schwartz:

[If You Made Million](#) (1994)

[How Much Is a Million?](#) (1997)

[On Beyond a Million: An Amazing Math](#)

[Journey](#) (2001)

[Millions to Measure](#) (2006)

By Anna Milbourne:

[How Big Is A Million?](#) (2008)

### Idioms & Phrase About Feet

Put your best foot forward.  
Don't let the grass grow under your feet.  
Who will foot the bill?  
We need to put our foot down!  
Oops, he put his foot in his mouth!  
Now the shoe's on the other foot.  
He definitely on his toes!  
Don't get cold feet.  
That's a step in the right direction!  
One step at a time.  
Tiptoe through the tulips!  
Footloose and fancy free.  
Something's afoot!  
Take a walk on the wild side.  
It's time to get your feet wet.  
Step forward and take action!  
It's time to take a stand!

**"A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."**



~Lao Tzu

### The Green Team Gazette

is a publication co-sponsored by the founders of



CynerGreen, CGKidz, and Gibson Island Country School, a Green School in Pasadena, Maryland. Our mission is to educate and share ways to "go green"—both big and small—and be environmentally-proactive at home, in school, and beyond. It is written by Vicki Dabrowka, and edited by Danelle Hoffer. Additional contributors include: G.I.C.S. Science Teacher Tim Decker; G.I.C.S. Head of School Laura Kang; CGKidz creator, twelve-year old Riley Hoffer.

To learn more visit [www.cynergreen.com](http://www.cynergreen.com),

[www.cgkidz.com](http://www.cgkidz.com), and [www.gics.org](http://www.gics.org).



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# The Green Team Gazette

Volume 2, Issue 4, page 2

December 2009: Copenhagen & Christmas, Here We Come



## The Wonder & Wisdom of Wangari Maathai

Imagine a time and a place when your homeland was a beautiful tree-shaded country. Imagine leaving for several years to get your education, then coming back to find your homeland devoid of those lush trees, replaced by wilted & deteriorated plant life, with no shade for the harvest due to the blazing sun. Imagine wanting to do something about it...then imagine doing it! This is the life of 2004's Nobel Peace Prize winner, Wangari Maathai.

On June 5, 1977 on World Environment Day, after being in America for 6 years for schooling, Wangari gave birth to what was to become Kenya's **Green Belt Movement**. It all started with the planting of trees, one at a time, along with encouragement to the women of her village. These women began following Wangari's lead. This symbolic birth of one tree being set into the ground by one woman has become 30,000,000+ trees and many women over time. It brought pride & prosperity to the women of Kenya during a turbulent time of women's rights in Africa. What a classic example of how one small move can end up resulting in something huge, something that can make a powerful impact.

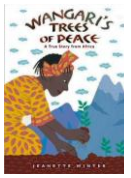
Inspired by Wangari Maathai, the United Nations Environment Programme currently has the **Billion Tree Campaign** underway, with the goal to plant 7 billion trees by year's end...coinciding with the **Copenhagen's Climate Change Conference**. Seven billion might seem like a random number, but it was specifically chosen since the world's population is rapidly nearing that number. In the mood to take part? Visit <http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/> to pledge a tree planting or to report a tree you've just planted. On that site you can view the Billion Tree Campaign Album, build geography skills with the "Greening the World" Map, investigate the multimedia resources & other online materials, and much more. Even though it's December, it's not the wrong season to pledge to do the right thing.

**"The earth was naked. For me the mission was to try to cover it with green. ~ Wangari Maathai**



## Pictures Are Worth A Thousand Words...or Trees

Share Wangari's story with your class by reading the book Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa (2008) by Jeanette Winter. Don't forget to make time to read aloud the Author's Note at the back of the book for some additional background information about how Wangari's simple actions became a remarkable, far-reaching movement. Extend the activity by having your youngsters illustrate pictures or write essays of something they can do to help stop global warming. Urge them to follow in Wangari's footsteps by choosing something seemingly small that could create monumental changes if everyone did the same.



Other great sites to learn more about Wangari Maathai and her vision of peace and environmentalism:

**The Green Belt Movement** (downloadable action guide filled with lots of teacher tips)  
[http://greenbeltmovement.org/downloads/takingroot\\_actionguide.pdf](http://greenbeltmovement.org/downloads/takingroot_actionguide.pdf)

**Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai** (the film)  
<http://takingrootfilm.com/take-action.htm>

**The Mottainai Campaign: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle + Respect**  
<http://www.mottainai.info/english/>

**Wangari Maathai Talks about the Mottainai Campaign**  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMw-fP\\_GRP8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMw-fP_GRP8)

**"That's one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind."**

**~ Neil Armstrong**



## Rethinking the Holidays



The timing is interesting. Copenhagen's Climate Conference is on the news, talking about how the world's mass-production has sped up our need (& use) of natural resources. The economy is also on the news with our past few shaky years of unemployment, sky-high credit card debt, and that word "recession" bouncing around. Then... cut from the news to the onslaught of commercials screaming of everything thing you **must have & can't live without** this holiday season! Night versus day, and a 180 degree difference! Environmentally-speaking, perhaps it's time to not only reduce, reuse, & recycle--but also rethink. Perhaps it's not the **quantity** of presents nor the cost, but the **quality** of the experience. Wangari Maathai & the women of Africa got their wealth from the simple act of planting trees and helping one another. What can you do to simplify your season? As a class, family, or community, brainstorm ways to celebrate your holiday that shift the focus away from the expensive event (that doesn't fit the expense account) or the excessive waste (that has already overstuffed our planet). That may be the true gift.