



Archaeology
What killed
Egypt's King Tut?



Science He
brings bugs to
classrooms.



My Cool Job
Meet a Disney
artist.

TIME FOR KIDS

Andrew Weibrecht, Lindsey Vonn,
Bode Miller and Julia Mancuso
helped the U.S. capture
a record number of
Alpine medals.



GLORY DAYS

The world's top athletes shine at the Winter Olympics.

Learning to Love Insects

The Insect Discovery Lab, in San Francisco, California, puts insects into kids' hands to encourage them to protect endangered habitats.

Third graders from César Chávez Elementary in San Francisco are bugging out. A girl squeals as a hissing cockroach scurries across her hand. A boy's eyes widen at the sight of a fat, black beetle. Soon, however, the kids' fears turn into shouts of "Cool!" and "Awesome!"

The Insect Discovery Lab brings the bugs to about 800 classrooms in the San Francisco area each year. The hope is that these close encounters of the creepy-crawly kind will foster in kids a love of nature.

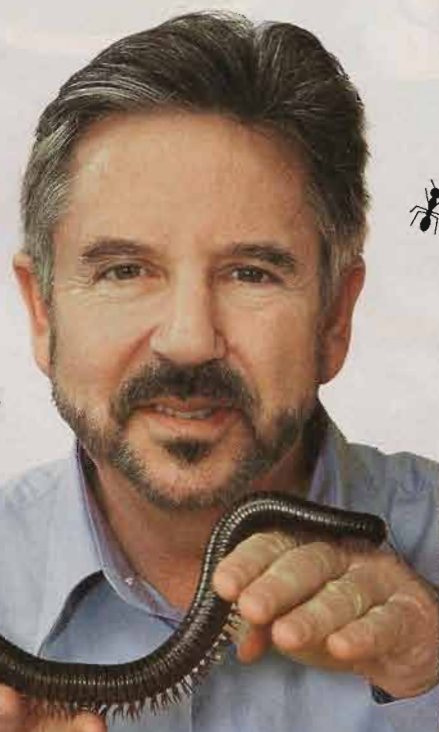
"Kids are born naturalists," says Norman Gershenz, the lab's director. "They get excited not only

about the insects, but about their habitats and the need to save them."

Love Bugs? Save the Rain Forest!

More than half of the world's animal species live in the rain forest. About 90% of those animals are insects. The rain forest, says Gershenz, is being cut down at a rate of 74,000 acres per day.

What can kids do to save the insects' habitat? Through the lab's adopt-an-acre program, 25 cents pays for the protection of 90 square feet of rain forest. Students at the Homestead School in Glen Spey, New York, built and sold birdhouses. They raised



Norman Gershenz of the Insect Discovery Lab shows off a nine-inch-long millipede with 240 legs.

\$5,000. Kids at Reed Elementary, in Tiburon, California, raised \$1,500 by selling handmade rain forest magnets. "Every penny raised goes to conserve habitat," Gershenz told TFK.

The lab is working to protect 11 million acres of rain forest in Central and South America. So far, the nonprofit group has saved more than 130,000 acres.

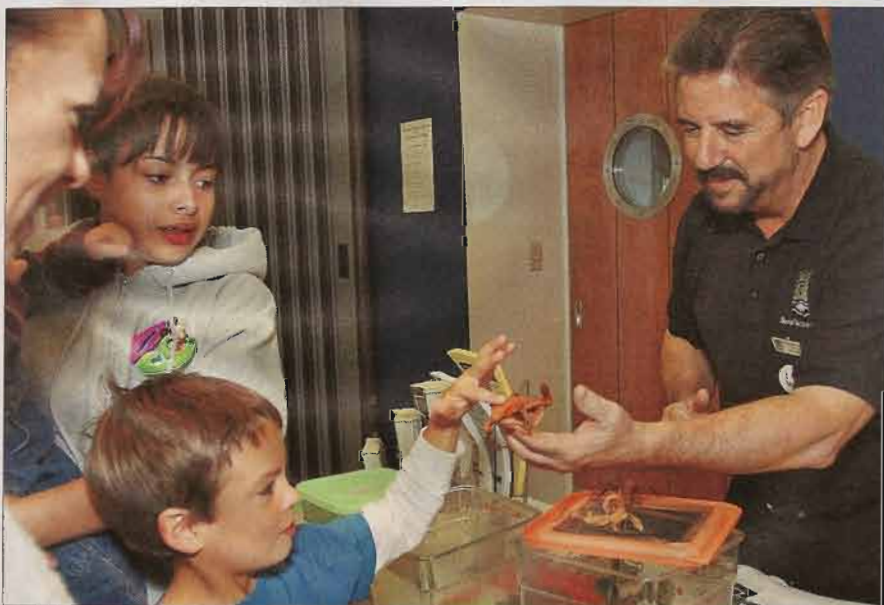
"That's a lot of beetles and butterflies," says Gershenz. "And at the end of the day, there is a place on Earth that kids can think about and say, 'I saved it.'" —By Brenda Iasevoli

Think Is bringing insects into classrooms a good way to inspire a love of nature in kids? Explain.

Power Words

conserve verb: to avoid wasteful or destructive use of; to preserve

foster verb: to help the growth or development of; to encourage



Would you touch this bug? A boy comes face to face with an Australian walking stick at an Insect Discovery Lab event in San Francisco, California.