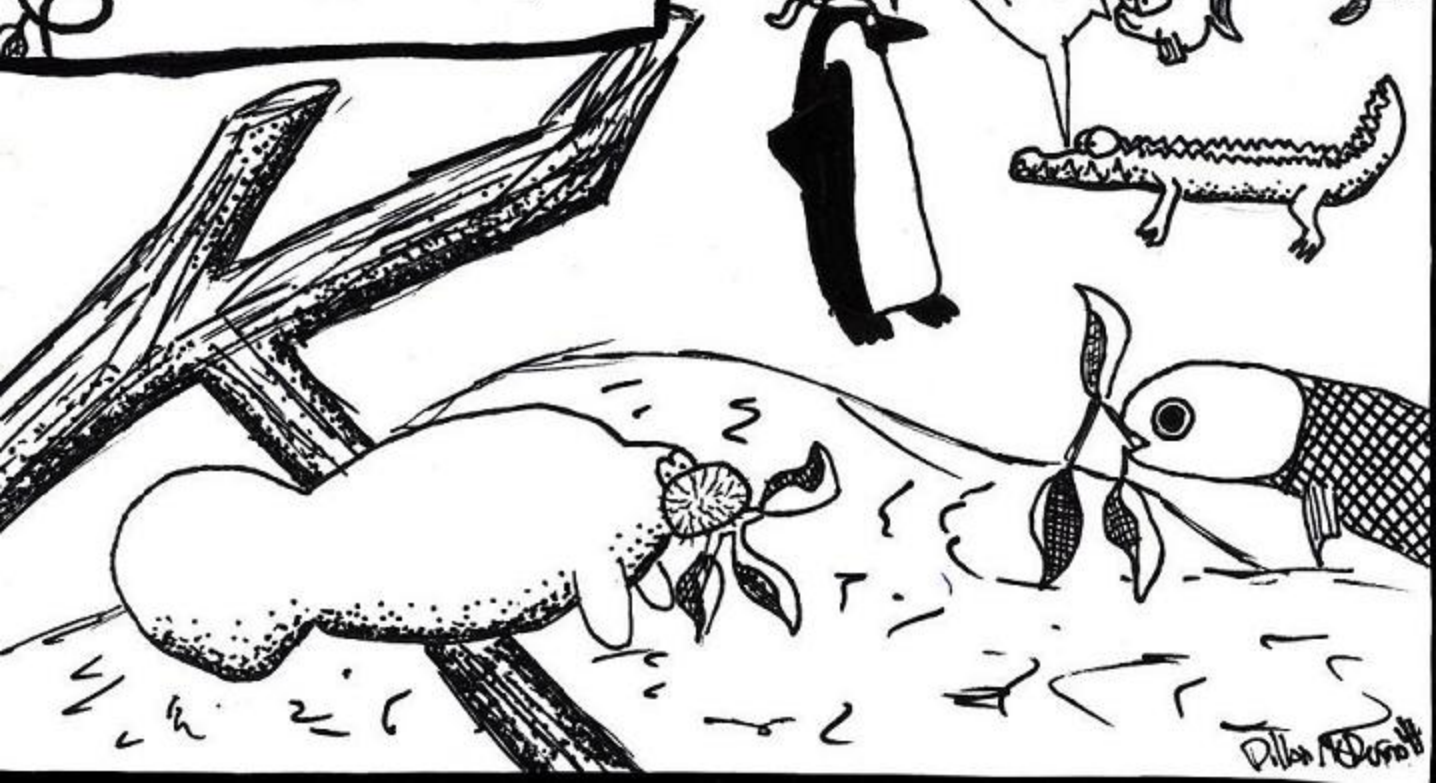
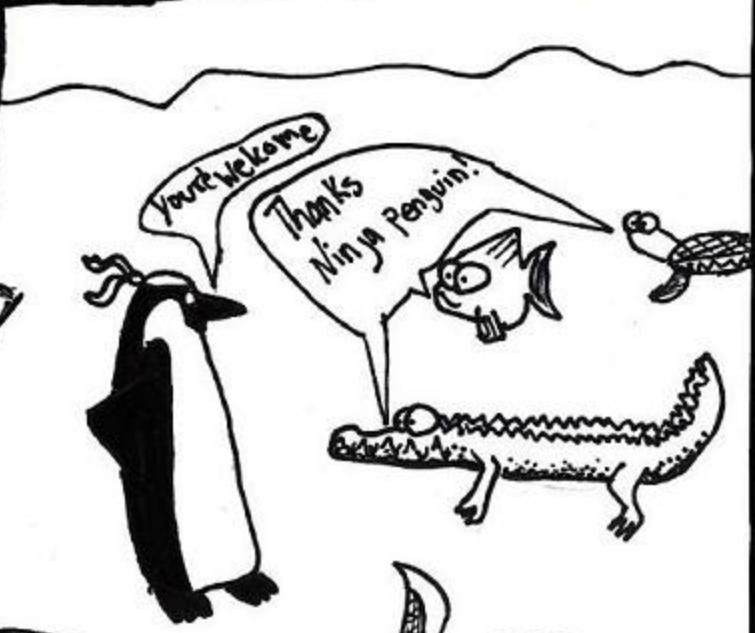
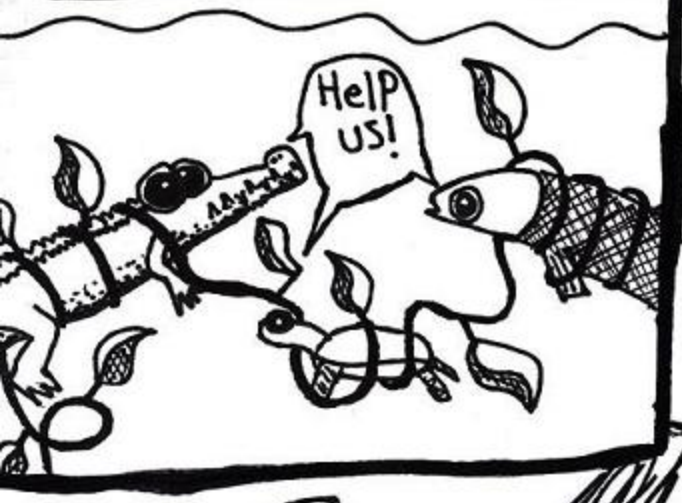




Extra Credit

Climate Change Cartoon: Case Study- Ecosystems at Risk

In the past 50 years, humans have altered the earth's ecosystems more than any other time in our history. For this reason, I chose the "Ecosystems at Risk" lesson because of the great impact in living organisms and their habitats. An ecosystem should be preserved (a log, pond, field, forest or the Earth's biosphere) because they provide the conditions that sustain life through the provision of a diverse range of ecosystem services. The main reason for this damage is economic development of societies, destroying species and damaging the place where they live. I decided to choose a setting of a forest that has been intervened by humans through deforestation, to show how rapidly trees and other components of ecosystems are disappearing. Last I decided to color my cartoon in white and black shades, and in green the trees for emphasis to show how I feel about damages caused by humans taking away the "color" to our ecosystems. In conclusion, ecosystems are vital and for this reason citizens should consider the disadvantages (more than the advantages) when destroying ecosystems.



Super Ninja Penguin vs. Water Hyacinth

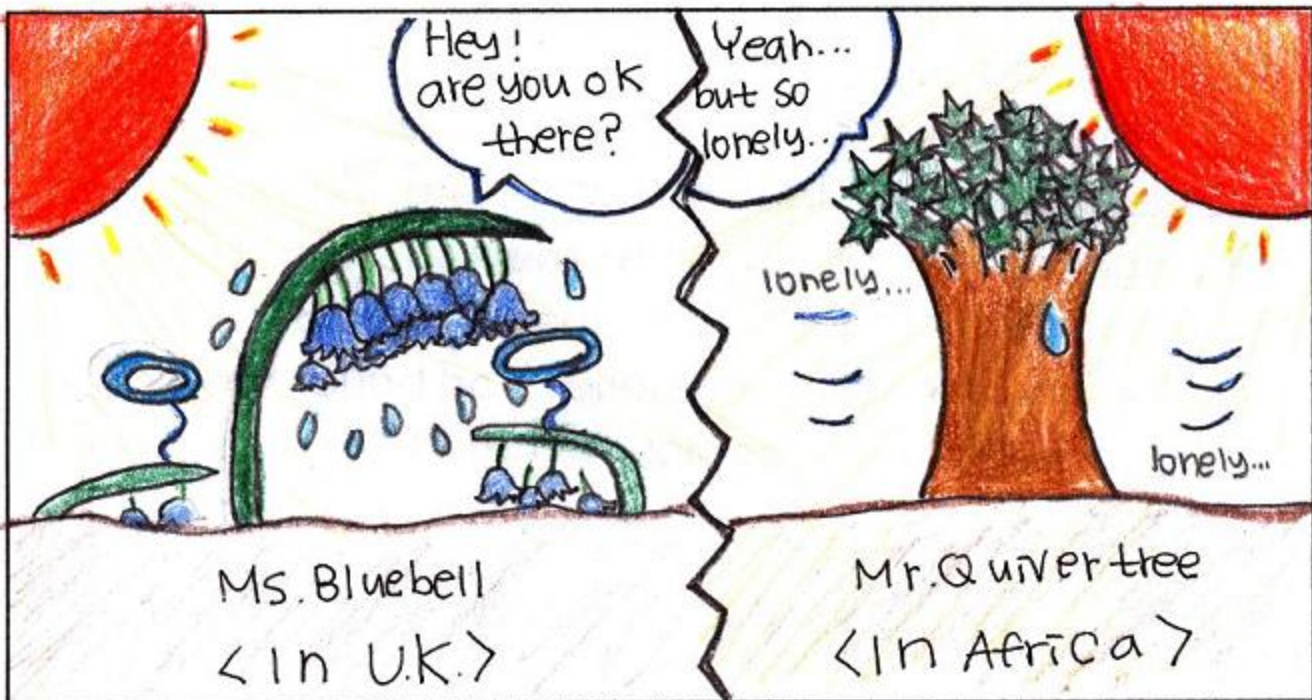
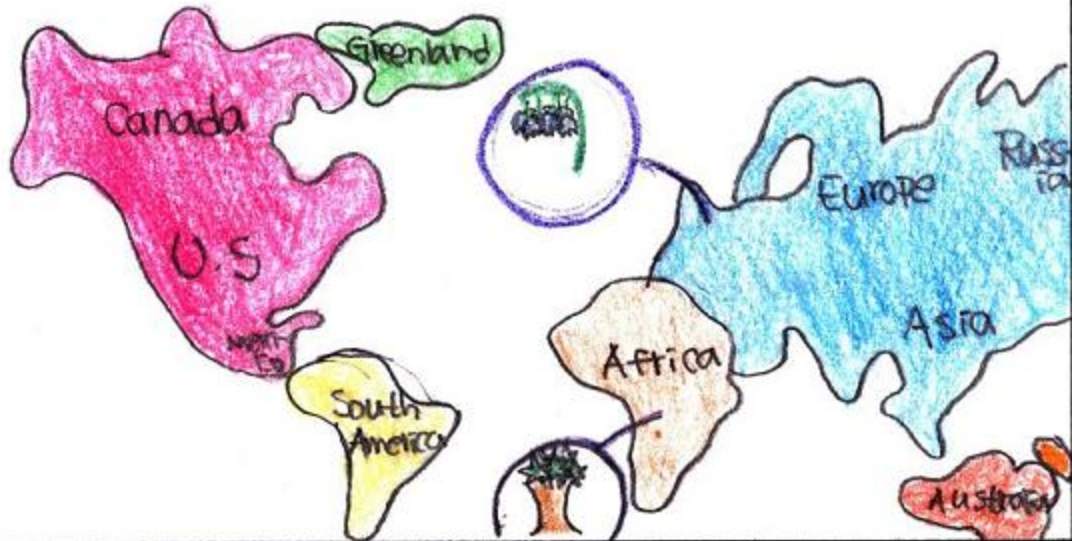
My superhero comic is about Super ninja penguin. He is going to battle the water hyacinth which is taking over Florida's waterways. This water plant has taken over because of people having exotic fish tanks. These people dump their exotic plants & animals into our canals, and then they reproduce and multiply. It is also hard to get rid of them because if you cut them, then they just turn into even more plants. This overgrowth stops wildlife from swimming and the animals soon die. So now we will get to the good part. Our hero, Super Ninja Penguin will help get rid of this problem. Let's start at the beginning. Super Ninja Penguin was born and lives in the zoo. He dug a tunnel providing an escape to his secret missions, like this one. And there are two animals that can help him. MS. Manatee and MR. Chinese grass carp. These two animals eat the water hyacinth with no problem. And that is how we can resolve this problem. My comic helps people understand the problem because it is funny and it describes the problem and solution. And it also makes people aware of the effects of this so we can do something about it to make a difference on our one and only earth. Comics help people understand this topic easier because they would rather read a comic than a lousy newspaper article. Since kids are the future, they would also enjoy reading a comic instead of writing.

Mr. Earth is getting hotter and hotter as the time passes by...

It's too hot!



And plants are getting hot, too that some are endangered.



Dear Editor,

Hello! My name is Hee-young Kim, from E.B. T. How are you today? I created an environmental cartoon named "Effect of climate change on plants", and it's trying to tell people that climate change affect plants, not only humans or animals. Climate change affected the temperature of the Earth which is extremely important to growth of plants. Because temperature somehow got warmer, plants are unable to change distribution fast enough and they are left behind. Also, plant genetic composition may change in response to the selection pressure of climate change. In the cartoon, I put Bluebell and Quiver tree for example of the plants that are endangered because of climate change. Bluebells has blue and fragrant bell-shaped flowers, and they're widespread in U.K. They are globally threatened right now, and they are facing threats even in U.K. Bluebells are one of the spring flowers. It prepares leaves and flowers in underground bulbs in summer and autumn, and it starts growing already at winter or early spring by using those resources. But because of climate change, the springs became warmer and Bluebells loses their early start advantage. Quiver tree grows in Africa. It has a stocky trunk topped by a tangle of forked branches, and Bushmen, in the past, have used its hollow branches to make quivers for their arrows. Quiver tree survives better where the climate is cool, but the thing is climate is getting hotter and hotter, and so does the desert, although it's already hot enough. So the Quiver tree is at risk. When reading this cartoon, readers might not know-or definitely not know-all those information, but they will notice that climate change affect plants. Also, they will at least know that Bluebell and Quiver tree are the plants that are endangered. Maybe plant-lovers would try to prevent more of climate change after they read this cartoon! As I was researching about the climate change to create my cartoon, I found how serious the climate change is. Did you like my cartoon? I pretty much enjoyed creating the cartoon. Well, thank you for reading my cartoon, and have a nice day!

Sincerely,
Hee-young Kim

Deep in the heart of the Cuban Cloud Forest,



the temperature steadily increases.



A few degrees later...



December 8, 2008

Dear editor of The Miami Herald,

I have depicted an environmental cartoon that displays the Cuban Cloud forests that are endanger of extinction due to climate change. In the first cell, plants and animals endemic to the area are partying in their normal climate with maracas and bongos, two Cuban symbols. In the next cell, the temperature is increasing and the environment is suffering because there aren't as many clouds to provide moisture. In the third cell, the tree carries a suitcase to represent that the ecosystem can't take the dry heat at a high altitude any longer. The thermometer has exploded and is oozing out mercury poison. In the last cell, there is a sign that says 'land is for sale' because nothing survived and the land is barren.

My cartoon educates others about the horrible situation in the Cloud Forests, an environment that many people do not know about. I wanted to inform your readers about how ecosystems are being lost because of global warming. The Botanic Gardens Conservation International report states that at least 70 plant species of the Cloud Forest are endangered and 10% of the world's trees are threatened. Something must be done and I hope my cartoon sends an informative message.

Thank you,

Jessica Posada

Jessica Posada, 8th

Shenandoah Middle

Museums Magnet



Ryan van der Eijk

March 23, 2009

Science

The Coffee Crises

There are two main reasons why I choose to do this drawing for this contest. The first reason is because well, first off I love coffee - I won't be able to actually wake up without a cup. So, I think that it would be a great shame if the coffee here would be wiped out. The second reason is mainly for the people growing it and how it will affect them. The people of Uganda will suffer economically because harvesting these coffee beans could be a main source of income for them. Take that away and you suddenly find people looking for new jobs. In conclusion I hope that this cartoon will be able to make some sort of impact on these agencies that make decision that affect our planets and hopefully will take action to prevent a problem from happening.