

PATRICIA NEWMAN

Is your cereal killing orangutans? Find out with this palm oil audit

Meredith found out that palm oil growers had burned her Bornean camp to the ground. The forest she studies was gone, and with it the orangutans she studied. (p. 17)

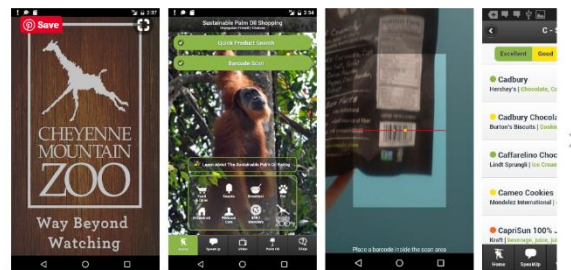
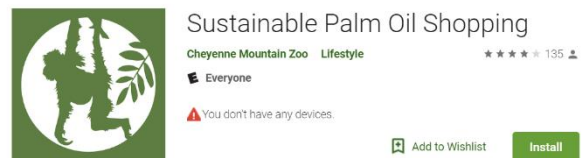
Objective: To understand which products contain palm oil, and whether they are orangutan-friendly. To consider our actions when making purchases.

Materials:

- ✓ Copy of *Zoo Scientists to the Rescue*
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Palm Oil Audit Worksheet (pg. 3 of this lesson)

Procedure:

- ✓ Read the “Treetop Teachers” chapter of *Zoo Scientists to the Rescue*. Discuss the following questions:
 - What were some of the joys Meredith faced as a field scientist? The challenges?
 - Would you do her job?
 - What are some of the dangers orangutans face?
 - What does habitat loss mean?
- ✓ Define the term ‘audit’ as being a study of the effects of a person’s actions, habits, and behaviors.
- ✓ Ask the student to list at least 10 snacks, personal care items, and cleaning products they use throughout the day on the Data Sheet on page 3 of this lesson. Ideas include packaged foods, fresh foods, shampoo, lotion, sunscreen, toothpaste, dish soap, etc.
- ✓ Download the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Palm Oil app onto student tablets.
- ✓ Ask students to use the app to look up the products on their Data Sheet.



- ✓ After students complete their Data Sheet, ask them to graph their results.
- ✓ Encourage the student to assess their data and consider ways they can be part of the solution to minimize orangutan habitat loss.
- ✓ Read “The Rest of the Story” chapter in *Zoo Scientists to the Rescue* for additional ideas.
- ✓ Survey students to see which ones resonate with them.

Product	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
Dawn		X	
Colgate	X		
Goldfish			X
Safeway ice cream			X
Snickers	X		
Cup Noodles		X	
Thin Mints			X
Froot Loops	X		
Honey Bunches of Oats			X
Alpo/lams	X		

Figure 1: Example Data Sheet

Are we orangutan-friendly?

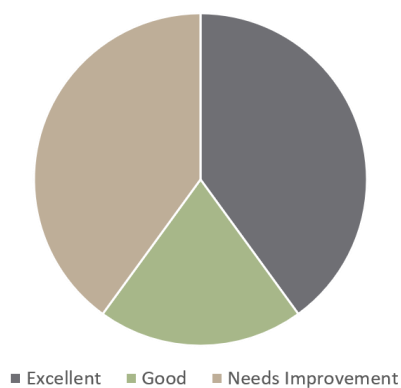


Figure 2: Example Graphs

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Palm Oil Audit: Data Sheet

Item	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement