



Earth's Little Caretakers



Written by AnhThu Nguyen
Illustrated by Hanh Nguyen





Hi! My name is Kori, and this is my brother Louis. Although we are still little kids (I'm 5 years old, and my brother is only 3 years old), we do our best to be caretakers of the earth. We can show you simple ways how to be a caretaker of the earth, too.



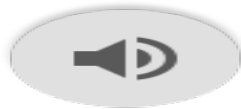
What is a Caretaker of the Earth?



A caretaker of the earth is someone who does something to help protect the earth from being harmed (such as picking up trash or not littering). Caretakers do things that can prevent landfills on the earth. We help take care of the Earth by following The Three **Rs**: **reducing**, **reusing**, and **recycling**.



In my family, we help **reduce** waste by growing our own food. We grow vegetables, herbs, and fruits.

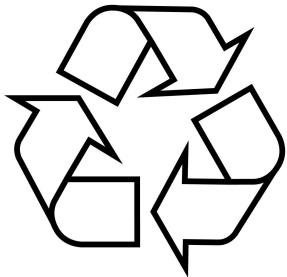




My family also reduces food waste by using the part of the food that we don't eat to make **compost** for the plants to help them grow. Plants are living things like us, so they also need **nutrients** that come from the **compost** to grow and be healthy.



Another way to reduce waste is by not using plastic water bottles and **reuse** our own bottles. Make sure to wash the bottles as often as you can to prevent bacteria from building up!



Whenever you see this symbol on something, it means that you could **recycle** it. When you recycle, old materials are turned back into something new. This also prevents things from piling up in landfills. What are some of the things that you could recycle?

Glossary

compost decayed organic material used as a plant fertilizer

landfill a place to dispose of waste material by burying it and covering it over with soil, especially as a method of filling in or extending usable land

nutrient a substance that provides nourishment essential for growth

reduce to make smaller or less

reuse to use again

recycle to turn (waste) into a material that can be used again



About the Author

Hi!

My Name is AnhThu Nguyen. There's no simple way to say my name in English, because Vietnamese is a tonal language, and my name has sounds that are not in English (such as **u'** sound).

I am a teacher in Boston Public Schools. I am also a BPS alumna; I attended BPS schools since Kindergarten and graduated from Boston Latin Academy.



Adrienne Wilson

Caretaker of Our Earth



Adrienne Wilson

Protectora de Nuestra Tierra

Adrienne Wilson is a caretaker of our earth. She dedicates her time to growing food, and teaching others how to do so.



Adrienne es una protectora de nuestra Tierra. Le dedica su tiempo a cultivar comida y a enseñarles a otros cómo hacerlo.





Adrienne became a caretaker of our earth while in college. During this time she learned about the issues in the environment, and wanted to know how she could help.



Adrienne se convirtió en una protectora de la Tierra cuando estudiaba en la Universidad. Durante ese tiempo, aprendió sobre los problemas del medio ambiente y quiso saber cómo ayudar.

Finally, she learned that if you grow your own food it is less harmful for the environment. So, she decided she would take care of the earth by building gardens!



Finalmente, aprendió que cultivar su propia comida es menos dañino para el medio ambiente. ¡Así que decidió cuidar a la Tierra construyendo huertos!



Adrienne works for a company called Green City Growers. They focus on building gardens. Green City Growers even works with students like you to create beautiful gardens.



Adrienne trabaja para una compañía llamada Green City Growers. Se enfoca en construir huertos. Green City Growers también trabaja con estudiantes como ustedes para crear huertos y bellos jardines.



Adrienne's advice for kindergarteners who would like to protect our earth is:

Get in touch with nature. Spend as much time as you can outdoors, and grow to love our earth!



Este es el consejo de Adrienne para los estudiantes de kinder que quieren proteger:

¡Mantete en contacto con la naturaleza! ¡Pasa todo el tiempo que puedas al aire libre y aprende a amar a nuestra Tierra!



About Adrienne



Adrienne grew up in Acton, MA but currently lives in Jamaica Plain. She has two siblings. For fun, Adrienne reads, dances and does outdoor activities. She enjoys traveling, cooking, and meeting new people!

Sobre Adrienne



Adrienne se crió en Acton, MA pero hoy vive en Jamaica Plain. Tiene dos hermanos. Sus hobbies son la lectura, la danza y actividades al aire libre. También disfruta viajar, cocinar y conocer nuevos amigos.

About the author:

Jaclyn Roberts is a student at Lesley University. She studies English, and Elementary Education. Jaclyn loves the outdoors, and takes care of our earth by recycling. She would love to learn how to garden!

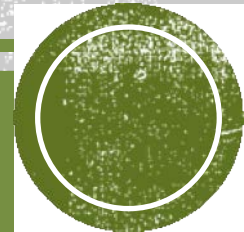
Sobre la autora:

Jaclyn Roberts es una estudiante de la Universidad Lesley. Estudia Ingles y Educación Primaria. Jaclyn disfruta mucho las actividades al aire libre y cuida nuestra Tierra reciclando. ¡Le gustaría mucho aprender a cultivar!



ANDY BROOKS

Caretaker of Our Earth



By: Yesenia Pineda

Andy Brooks is a caretaker of our Earth. He works with his community to collect and compost food scraps that people throw away in their homes and businesses. There was so much work to be done that he started a company called Bootstrap Compost that helps do this work for people in his community.



As a kid, Andy grew up in Phoenix, Arizona where he would skateboard, play outside and play video games. Living in this environment, Andy felt like a protector of animals. He had respect for all living things.



In 1993 he moved to Boston to attend college and study sociology. He soon found his roots in Jamaica Plain where he now lives.



In order to become a caretaker Andy had to search for a more meaningful career. At the time he had no idea what he could do until he learned about organic pickup services. He thought about how this kind of service would be a huge help to Boston.



From this idea, Bootstrap Compost was born!

Andy is the president and founder of Bootstrap Compost. Andy and his team travel to local households and businesses picking up their unwanted food scraps.





The food scraps are decomposed and recycled to be used as fertilizer and natural soil amendment, mostly used in farming. Thanks to his work, that soil can be used to grow crops in the Boston area. It also helps get rid of harmful gases that can go into the air that we breathe.



Farm animals can even enjoy the organics!

ANDY'S ADVICE TO KINDERGARTENERS:



Make it fun!

Just as caring for a pet should be fun, so should caring for the Earth. For example, if it rains one day, challenge yourself to capture as much rain as possible using buckets. This water can then be used on another day to water your flower bed.

Every little bit counts.

GLOSSARY

- ❖ Soil amendment: a material that can help soil become better for plant growth. For example, fertilizer.
- ❖ Compost : A mixture of broken down living plants, like dead leaves and food scraps.
- ❖ Decompose: to break down
- ❖ Environment: the area in that surrounds animals and humans in the natural world, including the air, the water, and the soil.
- ❖ Fertilizer: a substance added to soil or water to increase growth.
- ❖ Organics: living plants or animals
- ❖ Sociology: the study and grouping of people in the world.

About the Author

Hello! My name is Yesenia Pineda. I have been going to school in Revere, MA ever since I was a kid. I am now a student at Lesley University in Cambridge, where I am studying to work with children. I have had a great time creating this book and learning how people in our community take care of our Earth. I hope you enjoy reading this book and are excited to become a caretaker of the Earth too!



Thank You!

- ❖ Page 1: Photograph by Bootstrap Compost co-founder, Igor Kharitonenkov
- ❖ Page 2: Photograph is property of Bootstrap Compost, Inc.
- ❖ Page 3:
 - ❖ Photograph (left) of Jamaica Plain Neighborhood by C. K. Hartman
 - ❖ Photograph (right) of bison by arizonaanimals.org
- ❖ Page 4: Photographs by Igor Kharitonenkov
- ❖ Page 5: Photographs by Igor Kharitonenkov
- ❖ Page 6:
 - ❖ Photograph (right) by Karen Krolak of tomatoes grown by Patrick Krolak
 - ❖ Photograph (left) by Karen Krolak and Jason Ries of Patrick Krolak's tomato now growing in Missouri that started from seeds.
 - ❖ In Memory of Patrick Krolak
 - ❖ Photograph (middle) of farm animals by Igor Kharitonenkov
- ❖ Page 7: Photographs by Igor Kharitonenkov
- ❖ Page 10: Drawing by Amanda F.



Los pequeños protectores de la tierra



Escrito por AnhThu Nguyen
Fotografías de Hanh Nguyen





¡Hola! Me llamo Kori y este es Louis, mi hermano. Nosotros tratamos de ser protectores de la tierra aunque todavía seamos pequeños (yo tengo 5 años y mi hermano tiene sólo 3).

Te podemos mostrar algunas formas sencillas para que tú también puedas ser un protector de la tierra.



¿Qué es un protector de la tierra?



Un protector de la tierra es alguien que hace algo (como recoger basura o no botar basura) para ayudar a que nuestro planeta, La Tierra, no sea dañado. Los protectores y protectoras hacen cosas para prevenir los basurales en la tierra.

Ayudamos a proteger la tierra siguiendo Las Tres **R**: al **reducir**, **reusar** y **reciclar**.



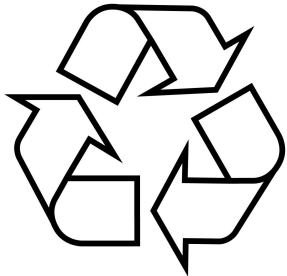
En mi familia ayudamos a **reducir** el desperdicio de recursos al cultivar nuestros propios alimentos. Nosotros cultivamos vegetales, hierbas y frutas.



Mi familia también **reduce** el desperdicio al crear **compost** con las partes de los alimentos que no consumimos. Ese **compost** ayuda a las plantas a crecer mejor. Las plantas son seres vivos como nosotros, por lo que también necesitan los **nutrientes** que provienen del **compost** para crecer y estar saludables.



Otra forma de reducir el desperdicio de recursos es el no usar botellas de agua de plástico y en cambio utilizar unas que sean **reusables**. ¡Asegúrate de lavar los botellas reutilizables con tanta frecuencia como puedas para evitar que se acumule bacteria!



Si ves este símbolo en algo significa que lo puedes **reciclar**. Cuando reciclas, los materiales viejos se vuelven a convertir en algo nuevo. Esto también evita que las cosas se acumulen en los basurales. ¿Cuáles son algunas de las cosas que podrías **reciclar**?

Glosario

compost material orgánico en descomposición utilizado como fertilizante para plantas

basural un lugar para eliminar el material de desecho enterrándolo y cubriéndolo con tierra, especialmente como método para rellenar o extender la tierra utilizable

nutrientes una sustancia que proporciona el alimento esencial para el crecimiento

reducir hacer algo más pequeño, hacer menos de algo

reutilizar usar nuevamente

reciclar convertir residuos en un material que se pueda volver a utilizar

Sobre la autora

¡Hola!

Me llamo AnhThu Nguyen. No existe una forma sencilla de decir mi nombre en Español o en Inglés porque el Vietnamita es un lenguaje tonal y mi nombre tiene sonidos que no existen en esos lenguajes (por ejemplo el sonido **Ư**).

Soy maestra en una de las escuelas de Boston Public Schools y también una ex- alumna. Yo concurrí a las escuelas de BPS desde Kinder hasta que me gradué de la escuela secundaria Boston Latin Academy.




Cristal
Martinez



Caretaker

of our

Earth

A child's drawing on a white sheet of paper. At the top, a yellow sun with radiating lines is drawn against a blue sky filled with horizontal scribbles. Below the sky, the name 'Cristal Martinez' is printed in a black, sans-serif font. Underneath the name, the title 'Caretaker of Our Earth' is printed in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font. The bottom of the drawing features a green grassy field with several flowers: a red flower on the left, a blue flower with an orange center, a blue flower with a red center, and a yellow flower on the right. The drawing is held in place by a purple and green fastener on the left edge.

Cristal Martinez

Caretaker of Our Earth

Cristal Martinez is a caretaker of our earth. She works hard to turn vacant lots into community gardens where people can grow food.



Cristal grew up in Mattapan and Dorchester. She went to school at the Mattahunt, the Marshall, Martin Luther King Middle School and O'Brient High School.





Cristal learned that not everyone has the chance to have a garden at their house or apartment. She learned that for some people, it is hard to find fresh fruits and vegetables. She saw that in some neighborhoods there were vacant lots that didn't look very nice.



Cristal and some friends got together in a group called REEP (Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project). They envisioned creating a community garden. They researched how to turn a vacant lot into a garden. They planned how to work with neighbors and the city to make a garden.



On a warm spring day Cristal and her friends executed their plan. They brought wheel barrels, drills, saws, wood, nails, shovels and dirt to the vacant lot. With the neighbors they cleaned up the lot, built beds, and planted seedlings. They started early in the morning and by the afternoon they turned a vacant lot into a garden, just like in *City Green*.



Cristal's advice to kindergartens who would like to protect the earth is:

Suggestions:

-if interested in making a garden, contact REEP

-work with friends, family, neighbors (the power of the group)



About the Author

Kate Gorman is a graduate student at Lesley University. She likes to garden and is happy to know that there are so many community gardens in Boston.



Glossary of kindergartner friendly definitions:

Caretaker: person who helps living things and places

Vacant: empty, unused

Community: Group of people who know and care for each other

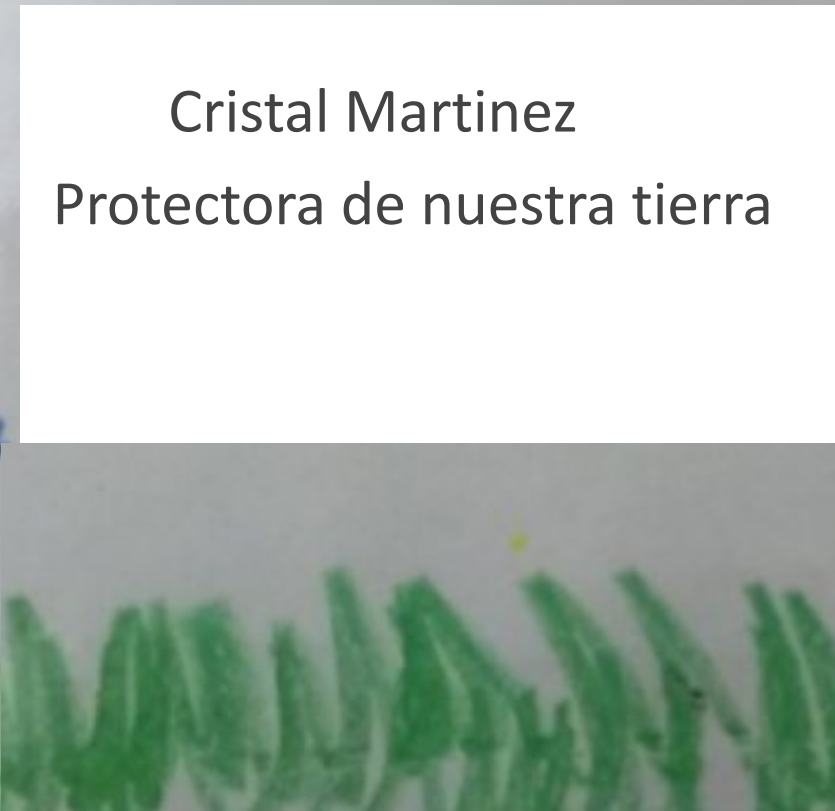


Cristal Martinez: Protectora de nuestra tierra

Focus on K2 Unidad 4- Semana 8



Cristal Martinez
Protectora de nuestra tierra





Cristal Martinez es una protectora de nuestra tierra. Ella trabaja mucho para convertir los terrenos abandonados en jardines y huertas en los cuales la gente puede cultivar su propia comida.





Cristal creció en Mattapan y Dorchester. Fue a las escuelas Mattahunt, Marshall, Martin Luther King Middle School y O'Bryant High School.





Cristal aprendió que no todos tienen la oportunidad de tener un jardín en su casa u apartamento. Aprendió que a algunas personas se les hace difícil encontrar frutas y vegetales. También vió que había terrenos abandonados que no lucían muy bien en algunos vecindarios.





Cristal y algunos de sus amigos crearon un grupo que se llama REEP (Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project o El Proyecto de Fortalecimiento Ambiental de Roxbury). Ellos veían la posibilidad de crear jardines (o huertas) comunitarias. Investigaron cómo transformar un lote abandonado en un jardín. Planearon cómo trabajar junto a los vecinos y a la ciudad para crear un jardín.





<https://ace-ej.org/reep>



Cristal y sus amigos pusieron en marcha su plan un día cálido de primavera. Llevaron carretillas, serruchos, madera, clavos, palas y tierra al terreno abandonado. Lo limpiaron con la ayuda de los vecinos, hicieron maceteros y plantaron plántulas. Comenzaron temprano por la mañana y a la tarde ya habían convertido el terreno abandonado en un jardín, como el de la historia de City Green.





Sugerencias de Cristal para los niños de Kinder a los que les gustaría proteger la tierra:

- Si te interesa crear un jardín contacta a REEP (Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project o El Proyecto de Fortalecimiento Ambiental de Roxbury)
- Trabaja con tus amigos, familia y vecinos (el poder de un grupo)





¡Mira el video de Cristal Martinez hablando sobre como ella es una Protectora de la Tierra!



Video en Inglés

Sobre la autora de este libro:

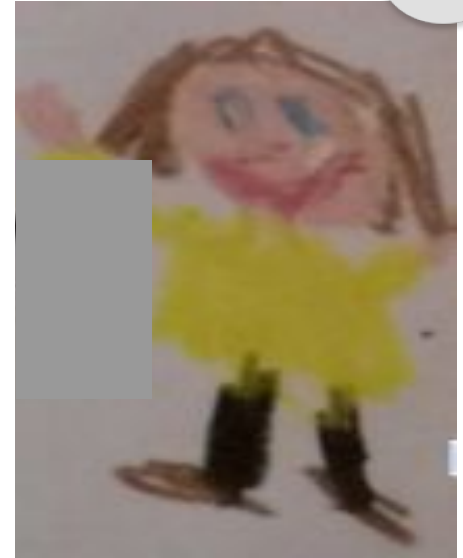
Kate Gorman es una estudiante de Lesley University. Le gusta la jardinería y se alegra de saber que hay muchos jardines comunitarios en Boston.

Glosario:

Protector/a: persona que ayuda a los seres vivos y a los lugares en la comunidad

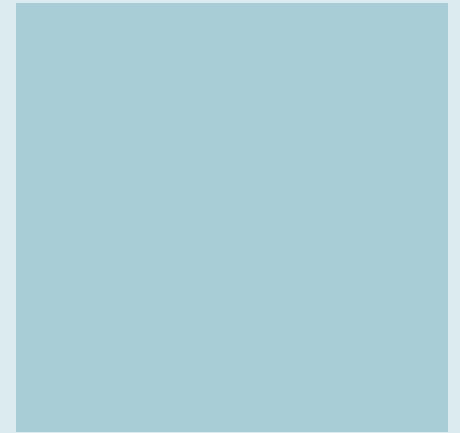
Abandonado: espacio vacante, terreno baldío, que nadie usa

Comunidad: grupo de personas que se conocen y se ayudan unos a otros.



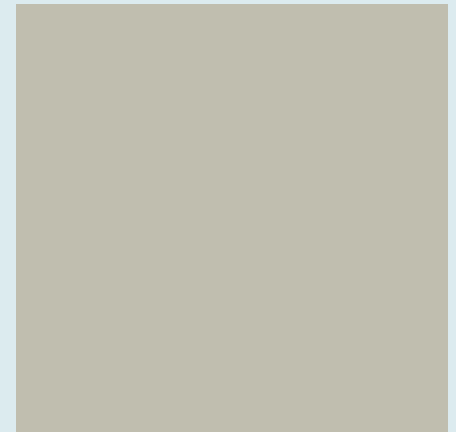


Caretakers of Our Earth

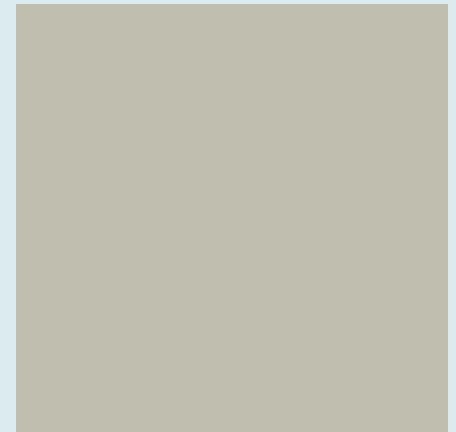


Estefany Benitez:
From El Salvador to Boston

By Regina Bell



+ Estefany Benitez was born in San Miguel, El Salvador. Her family moved to Boston, Massachusetts where she went to Boston Public Schools. At a young age, Estefany learned that it is very important to take care of and protect our **precious** earth. She works to teach young children how valuable it is to be a caretaker of the earth.



- + Estefany loves to learn about the earth. Growing up, she was very interested in animals and learning about all the different **species** that live on the earth. She also enjoyed learning about plants, mostly flowers. As a child, she spent a lot of time playing outdoors with her cousin and little brother.



Downtown Boston



San Miguel Hills

- + Estefany remembers her two homes being very different. Boston is a big city with a lot of skyscrapers, houses, and paved streets. Boston has four seasons. It is cold in the winter and hot in the summer. El Salvador is not the same. There are not very many skyscrapers or paved streets. Instead there are a lot of hills, volcanoes and trees, and it stays hot all year long.



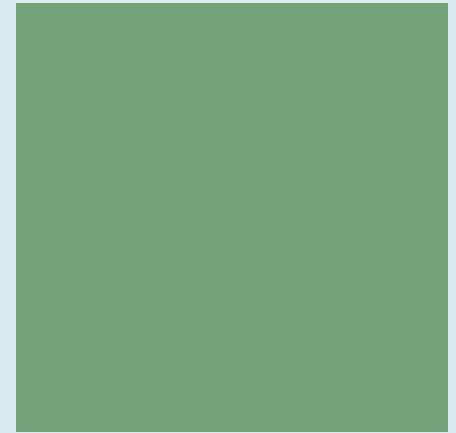
Boston, Massachusetts



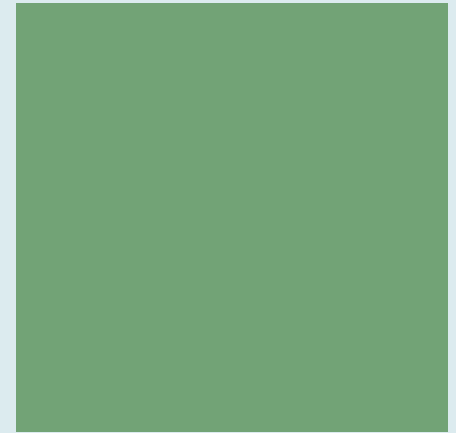
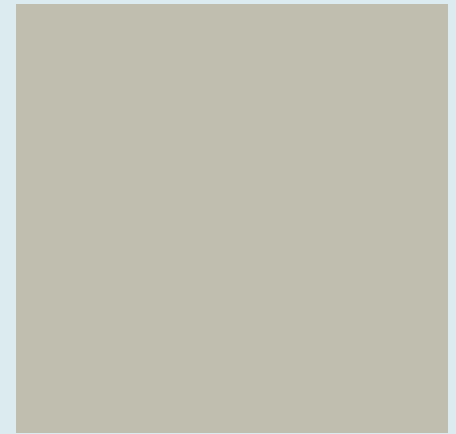
San Miguel, El Salvador



- + Estefany traveled back to San Miguel every year to visit her family. Each year that Estefany went back, she began to notice that a lot of buildings and roads were being built in the place of forests, hills, and trees. Her home in San Miguel began to look more and more like her home in Boston.



+ Seeing the changes in San Miguel over the years made Estefany begin to worry about our earth. She now knew that we must protect our planet. By being protective of the earth, future **generations** can also enjoy it and learn from all that it has to offer. This is how Estefany came to be a caretaker of our earth.



- + Estefany got her first job in Boston working in the Allandale Woods. She learned how to **identify** species of plants that are bad for the environment. She and her crew would remove the bad plants so that the good plants could grow and survive.



- + Now Estefany works with children in the Boston area to teach them how they can be caretakers of the earth with her. She shows children how to make sure trees in the Boston forests are healthy by getting rid of bad plants just like she learned how to do at her first job.



- + Estefany's advice to kindergarteners who would like to protect the earth would be to compost and recycle. By recycling, we can keep trash out of the plants' and animals' environments. Composting uses our leftover food to make rich **nutrients** that help plants to grow and be healthy.



+ Glossary

- **Species:** Different types of plants and animals that are grouped by their similar features.
- **Generations:** All of the people born and living at about the same time. (great-grandparents, grandparents, parents, etc.)
- **Identify:** To name or determine who or what something or someone is.
- **Nutrients:** Something that gives nutrition needed for something to grow and stay alive.
- **Precious:** Something that is worth a lot and that shouldn't be wasted or treated carelessly.

+ Pictures retrieved from:

- Cover:

<http://studentsforliberty.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/search-engine-optimization-boston1.jpg>

http://excellentworlds.com/data_images/countries/el-salvador/el-salvador-08.jpg

- Book:

http://www.bostonparkplaza.com/sites/default/files/styles/masthead_gallery/public/Boston-Downtown.jpg

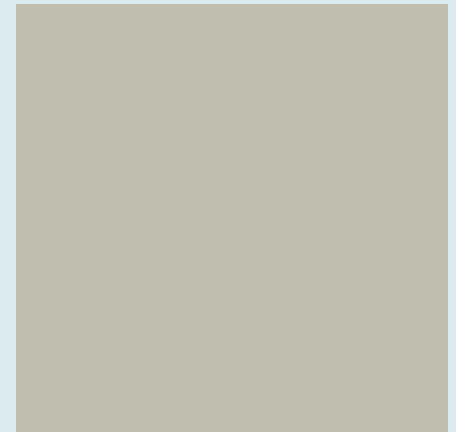
<http://endtimeheadlines.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/el.jpg>

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/92/San_Miguel_El_Salvador.png

http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/world_map2.htm

<http://jamaicaplaingazette.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/cleanup.jpg>

http://sprecycling.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/reuse_reduce_recycle1.jpg



+ About the Author

Regina is a senior at Lesley University studying Early Childhood Education. When she is not teaching preschoolers, she spends her time with friends and family, enjoying the outdoors, and playing with animals. She can't wait to have a classroom of her own and teach young children how to be caretakers of the earth!



Grandpa, Savant, and Amani

Caretakers of the Earth

Text and photos by Stephanie Crawford



This is Grandpa.

He is a caretaker of the earth. He is kind to animals, insects, and plants. He loves to grow flowers, fruits, and vegetables.





Grandpa teaches his grandsons to take care of the earth with him.





This is Savant.

Savant goes to a middle school in Boston. He likes to plant vegetables and make meals with them. He has been learning how to care for the earth since he was 2 years old.





This is Amani.

Amani is 2 years old.

He likes to play with the dirt, and he is learning how to grow and care for plants.





Grandpa teaches Savant and Amani how to compost and use the worms to help the plants grow big and strong.





Family Time

When the family is caring for their plants, it makes them happy because they get to spend time together.





This is Ebony the Dog.

She is happy when she gets to spend time in the sun with the family.

Sometimes she gets to eat the vegetables, too.



About the Author

Stephanie Crawford is a Kindergarten teacher in Boston Public Schools who loves finding new ways to care for the earth. When she was a little girl, she also learned how to care for the earth from Grandpa. Now she grows fruits and vegetables in her own garden to eat at home. She also helps farmers sell fruits and vegetables to the community so that everyone can eat healthy food. She loves playing outside, going on walks, and enjoying the sun with her family.

Stephanie also likes taking pictures. She took the pictures in this book.

