



FutureZoo Contest for middle and high school students

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Newspaper in Education program**



A member of the American Association of Zoo Keepers anonymously posted the following thoughts on a discussion board under the topic of “the future of zoos.”

Sometimes I wonder where animals will be in the future. History has shown that humans have just spread and spread all over the place and have wiped out animals and their habitats wherever they go. So if this continues, what will happen to all the wildlife? Will they just be confined to zoos and the notion of them someday roaming free will be lost forever? Or will they be like raccoons or cats, and either domesticate themselves or live off of the trash of humans? Hopefully, this will never happen. But if human population continues to grow and grow uncontrollably, then what will happen to all the wild animals of grasslands, forests, and jungles?

Don't get me wrong, I love zoos, and all that they do for animals now. But a zoo isn't really freedom as much as it tries to imitate it for the animal. And the thought of losing even the possibility of the animals to return to the wild is very depressing to me.

Downloaded from <http://www.aazk.org/forum>

After reading the St. Petersburg Times series “Zoo Story,” you may also be wondering about what zoos will look like in the future. The Times Newspaper in Education program is sponsoring a contest that challenges middle and high school students to describe or design a zoo of the future. Students in grades 6-12 may submit a newspaper story (from the future), PowerPoint presentation, video or art project that presents their ideas in a creative way. Students can enter as individuals or as a group. Each entry should be carefully labeled with students' name, age, address, telephone number and school. If this is done as a classroom project, it should also include the name of the class teacher. Entries may be mailed to **FutureZoo Contest**, St. Petersburg Times Newspaper in Education Office, P.O. Box 150, St. Petersburg, FL 33731-9925. Entries must be received at the Times St. Petersburg location (490 First Ave. South) by 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008.

The winning projects will be featured on the Times Web site and linked to the main Zoo Story special report. Student prizes include \$25 first-place gift cards and finalist awards of “I’m in the know. I read the Times” backpacks, pencils and Subway sandwich coupons. For more information, contact Times Education Specialist Jill Wilson at 727-892-2200.