

TIME for KIDS



GONE BANANAS?

Find out why the popular fruit is in danger.

BANANAS AT RISK

Bananas are an important fruit. Millions of people depend on them for food and money. But bananas are in trouble. They are being attacked by a disease called Tropical Race 4 (TR4).

TR4 is a fungus. It lives in the soil. When TR4 strikes, a banana plant turns yellow, dries up, and dies.

TR4 is showing up on banana farms around the world. It is killing banana plants in Asia, Africa, Australia, South America, and the Middle East. “[TR4] can easily spread,” Fazil Dusunceli told *TIME for Kids*. He works for the Food and Agriculture Organization. “It is very problematic.”

An Uncertain Future

People are coming together to save the tropical fruit. Some scientists are even working to create new banana plants in a lab. These plants would not be harmed by TR4.

But not everyone is worried. Andrew Biles works for Chiquita. That is one of the biggest banana companies in the world. “I think there’s a great future for bananas,” he says.

—By Rebecca Katzman



DUSTY PHELGETTI/GETTY IMAGES



COURTESY QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

A banana plant is infected by Tropical Race 4. When this happens, the plant turns yellow, wilts, and dies.



COURTESY CHIQUITA

A farmer in Costa Rica tends to bunches of healthy bananas.

> FOR THE RECORD

9 MILES

That's how high steam, ash, and pebbles shot into the air on January 12, after the **TAAL VOLCANO** erupted in the Philippines. Taal is the Philippines' second-most-active volcano. It spewed ash as far as capital city Manila, 45 miles away.

44,000 YEARS

That's the age of the **OLDEST CAVE ART** that shows a story. Archaeologists announced the find in December. The cave art is on an island in Indonesia. It shows humanlike figures. They are hunting animals.

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That's the number of **ELEPHANTS** that escaped from a circus in Russia on January 23.

> UNITED STATES

READY, SET, COUNT!

By Shay Maunz

The U.S. Census happens every 10 years. It's an official count of people living in the country. The first one was in 1790. Now it's time for the 2020 U.S. Census. For much of the country, it starts in March.

But Alaska is special. The 2020 census started there on January 21. That's when workers began counting residents of Toksook Bay. The census has started in Alaska ever since it became a state in 1959. Workers go door to door. It's easier for them to get around in January, when the ground is frozen. "Our goal is to count everyone once, only once, and to count them in the right place," says Steven Dillingham. He leads the U.S. Census Bureau.

Census workers in Toksook Bay, Alaska, check their maps on January 20.

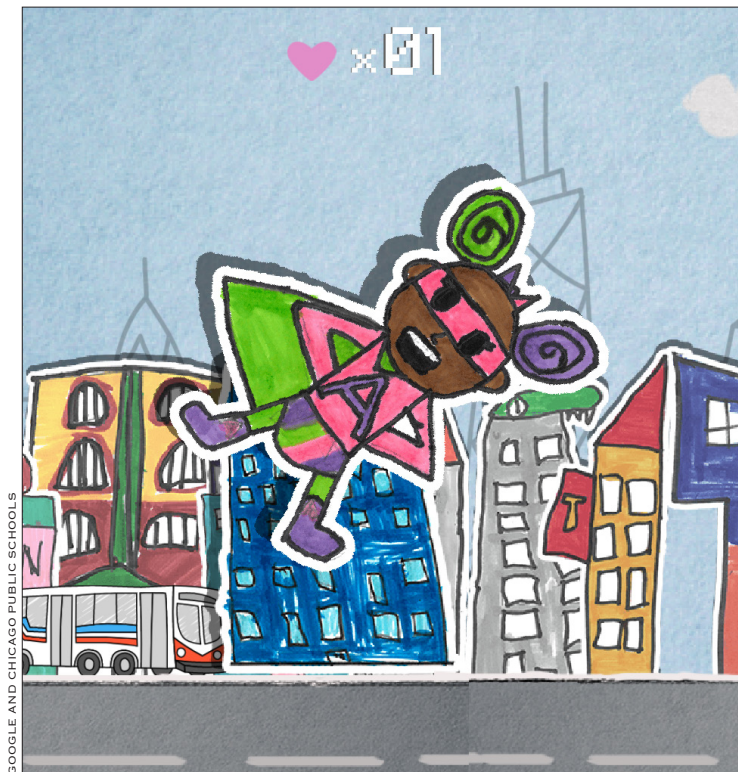
GREGORY BULL—AP



CODING HEROES

Students in Chicago Public Schools have created their own superheroes. These characters come to life in a new computer game called SuperMe. To make the game, students first had to learn how to code. Then they used coding to animate the characters. Chance the Rapper used SuperMe as the music video for “I Love You So Much,” his song with DJ Khaled.

Ian Fethiere, 11, was one of the kid coders. He’s having fun with his new skills. “I like making games where you can jump over objects,” he told *TIME for Kids*.

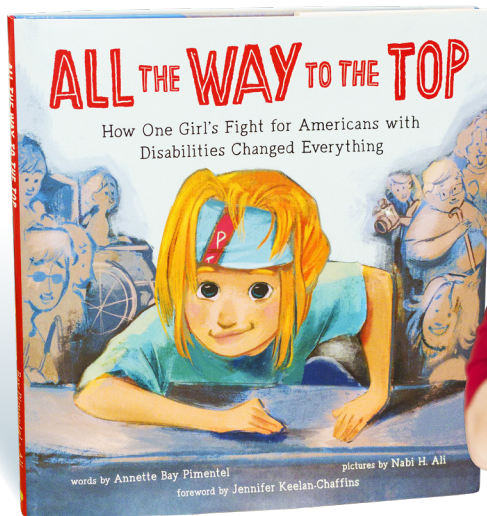


GOOGLE AND CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FIGHTING FOR CHANGE

As a child, Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins set aside her wheelchair and climbed the steps of the United States Capitol on her knees. Her actions sent a message: Pass the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Lawmakers listened. Today, the ADA makes public spaces accessible to people with disabilities. *All the Way to the Top* is her story.

“Jennifer had the power to inspire and to change the world,” author **ANNETTE BAY PIMENTEL** (pictured) told *TFK*. Kids today do too.



FROM LEFT: STEPHEN BLUE FOR TIME FOR KIDS; KATE JENNINGS PHOTOGRAPHY

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