



GET ACTIVE FOR WILDLIFE!



Freya Johns

GET ready for The Wildlife Trusts' annual Big Wild Walk from 21 October to 3 November!

The fundraising challenge involves participants of all ages walking 30km over two weeks.

Whether it's one big hike or broken up into a few journeys, the

challenge aims to raise funds to protect wildlife across the UK.

The Wildlife Trusts' mission is to protect 30% of the country's land and sea by 2030.

Rob Stoneman, from the Trust, says: "We want to plant forests where they once were, reintroduce

animals like beavers back to the countryside, and rewild our seas. Take a walk on the wild side and help us revive UK wildlife this autumn!"

Find out more and sign up at wildlifetrusts.org/bigwildwalk.

WWF's Prescription for Nature



THE WWF's new Prescription for Nature campaign aims to boost mental health by encouraging people to spend time outdoors.

The charity says that just 20 minutes a day in nature can improve wellbeing.

Research shows that nine out of ten British people feel better mentally when they're in nature.

However, one-third of people only experience nature

once a week or less.

The WWF has created an online tool to help people find easy ways to connect with nature, whether that's in a park, garden, or even indoors with houseplants.

Tanya Steele, the boss of WWF, said: "The evidence is clear – getting a daily dose of nature can reduce anxiety and improve our mood. Quite simply, when we restore nature, nature restores us."

Amazing ants using ancient agriculture

A STUDY published in the journal *Science* says that ant agriculture started an incredible 66 million years ago.

After an asteroid hit the Earth, the dinosaurs were wiped out and dust filled the atmosphere. This dust blocked out the sun, meaning around half of Earth's plant species didn't survive. Fungi consumed these dead plants, bringing them in close contact with ants.

The report says that ants used this fungi for food, but it took them millions of years to develop their agriculture further.

Researchers led by insect expert Ted Schultz found that these same systems are still used by the likes of leafcutter ants today.

"Ants have been practising agriculture and fungus farming for much longer than humans have existed," said Schultz.



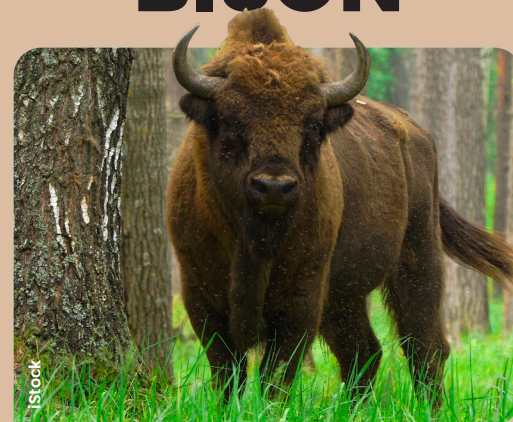
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ANEESHWAR Kunchala is a nine-year-old wildlife campaigner and officially the world's youngest newspaper columnist! He shot to fame as a finalist on *Britain's Got Talent*. Now, he's presenting the documentary *Save Our Wildlife* from Sky Kids and Sky Zero. You can watch it at first.news/climatecrisis.

Aneeshwar's Animal of the Week is the...

EUROPEAN BISON



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HABITAT:

European countries including Germany, Poland, Belarus and Lithuania.

FUN FACTS:

- Bison can run surprisingly fast for their huge body size – about 40mph (64km/h).
- Unlike other horned and antlered animals, both male and female bison have short horns.

SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

They are the heaviest land mammals in Europe, and have very few natural predators.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

The International Union for Conservation of Nature says the species is near threatened.



We're asking you to send in photos of your own drawings or paintings of wildlife to add to an online gallery. Ask a parent, guardian or teacher to send in your photos by emailing them to yournews@firstnews.co.uk.