

Earth Day アースデー

The
April
2026
Issue



What is in
this issue:



Earth Day

&

Endangered
Animals



Earth Day is on **April 22nd** every year. It is all about helping the **environment**. The first Earth Day was in 1970 in America. Students all around the country organized **protests** against problems like **pollution** and **loss** of **wildlife**. In 1990, Earth Day became a **global** event, with 141 countries **participating**. Now, it is **supported** by the **United Nations** (国際連合). There are 193 countries in the **UN**, and they all **celebrate** Earth Day. Wow, so **green**!

There are lots of ways to help on Earth Day. Some people work as a group to clean up beaches or parks. Some people plant trees or make new **gardens**. Schools often have special **lessons** about the environment. Even small things can help. For example, if you always forget to use an **eco-bag**, a day like Earth Day can be a good **reminder** to put one in your handbag or schoolbag- so you'll always have it when you need it.

While it is good to have a special day for the Earth, we don't need to wait until then to do something! We can be **environmentally friendly** in our **daily** lives too. Maybe people would not think that watching anime or reading manga could help the environment. However, there is a famous series that helped teach about **endangered** animals and the power people have to help the world. Can you guess what it is?



It's *Tokyo Mew Mew* or 東京ミュウミュウ in Japanese! The story is about a main group of five **schoolgirls** who are given a little endangered animal **DNA**. So then, they must use their new powers to save the world and environment from **aliens** who want to take it.

The manga was written by Reiko Yoshida (吉田 玲子) and created and **illustrated** by Mia Ikumi (征海美亜). It was in the *shoujo* manga magazine *Nakayoshi* from 2000 to 2003. There was an anime around this time on TV too! It was called "Mew Mew Power" in English. In 2020, there was a short manga sequel. Then, in 2022 and 2023 there was a *reboot* anime called *Tokyo Mew Mew New* or 東京ミュウミュウ にゅ〜♡ in Japanese.



*Endangered Animals: Mew Mews

ぜつめつきぐしゅ

絶滅危惧種: ミュウミュウ



I really loved the original anime as a child back in the U.S.A. My sister even had copies of the manga in English! One part really made me think about saving the world, especially animals. I was so shocked and moved by a scene at an **endangered** animal **exhibit** at the beginning of both anime. The number of endangered animals has gone up from about 2,500 in the original anime to about 15,000 in the new anime?! In only 20 years?! We must do something to stop this and help the animals!

In fact, the 中3 at Keika do a short Save the Animals report and presentation in 英会話 class. We usually use a list of endangered animals from the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**. Do you know that group? In this Chronicle, please learn about the endangered animals that helped make the Mew Mews! Then maybe, make your own Mew Mew! Which endangered animal would you save, why, and how? (*There are different official words & levels for animals in trouble but for now we will just use 'endangered'.)



Iriomote Wildcat – Mew Ichigo

I would save the Iriomote Wildcat.

It is a small mountain cat, a little type of **leopard**.

This animal is special because it is only on the Iriomote Island in Okinawa, Japan!

It is in danger because humans are taking so much of the one little island where it lives.

We can help by giving money to local groups that study these cats and by NOT traveling to their island!

Blue Lorikeet – Mew Mint

I would save the Blue Lorikeet.

It is a small **parrot** from the Cook Islands and French Polynesia.

This animal is special because of its beautiful, tropical, deep blue color!

It is in danger because of new animals like cats, rats, and bugs brought to the islands.

We can help by researching **information** about how to respect **traditional** island lifestyles and nature.





Finless Porpoise – Mew Lettuce

I would save the Finless Porpoise.

It is a round, gray water animal that looks like a Beluga Whale.

This animal is special because it is so **graceful** in the waters around China, Japan, and South Korea.

It is in danger because of ocean **pollution** and dangerous fishing **equipment**.

We can help by cleaning up trash on beaches and recycling our own **garbage**.

Golden Lion Tamarin – Mew Pudding

I would save the Golden Lion Tamarin.

It is a small, dark yellow monkey from the **coastal forests** of Brazil.

This animal is special because of its unique color and soft hair.

It is in danger because big cities began taking the **precious** forest space.

We can help by protecting trees through saving paper and **donating** money at the zoo.



Gray Wolf – Mew Zakuro

I would keep helping the Gray Wolf.

It is a beautiful, wild wolf in **Eurasia** and **North America**.

This animal is special because it is so **intelligent!**

It was especially in danger in the U.S. due to **habitat loss** but after 40 years of support and more space in **Yellowstone National Park**, wolf numbers are better now.

We can help by checking the news, so the wolves keep getting the support they need.



Humboldt Penguin – Mew Ringo

I would save the Humboldt Penguin.

It is a South American penguin from Chile and Peru.

This animal is special because of its cute waddle walking.

It is in danger because it is very stressed by humans and changes to its home area.

We can help by only traveling to new places in a sustainable way, to respect the people and animals already there.



Amami Rabbit & Andean Mountain Cat –

Mew Berry

I would save the Amami Rabbit and Andean Mountain Cat.

The Amami rabbit is a small rabbit from around Okinawa, Japan. The Andean Mountain Cat is a little cat from the Andes mountains in South America.

These animals are special because they are both rare and important to their cultures.

They are in danger because of human development taking their safe homes.

We can help by being careful about the amount of space and natural resources we use every day!



Make Your Own Mew Mew

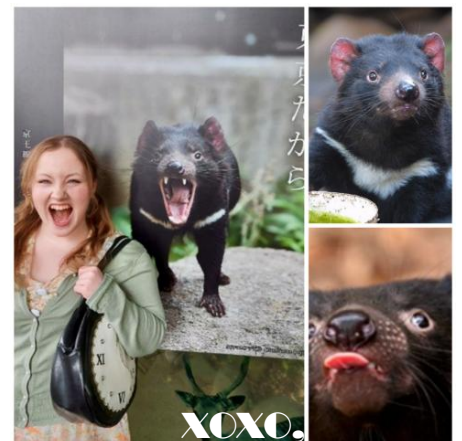
Sheila + Wombat



Sheila + Pygmy Hippo



Sheila + Tasmanian Devil



Mew Sheila