

New DVD's April 2008

Planet Earth

Episode 1: From Pole to Pole

The lives of animals and plants are dominated by the sun and fresh water which trigger seasonal journeys. The latest technology and aerial photography enable the Planet Earth team to track some of the greatest mass migrations.

In the Arctic spring, a mother polar bear and cubs emerge from their winter den. They have just two weeks to cross the frozen sea before it melts and they become stranded. Share the most intimate and complete picture of polar bear life ever filmed. Further south, time-lapse cameras capture the annual transformation created by the Okavango floods.

Episode 2: Mountains

Tour the mightiest mountain ranges, starting with the birth of a mountain at one of the lowest places on Earth and ending at the summit of Everest.

One of Earth's rarest phenomena is a lava lake that has been erupting for over 100 years. The same forces built the Simian Mountains where troops of gelada baboons live, nearly a thousand strong. In the Rockies, grizzlies build winter dens inside avalanche-prone slopes. The programme also brings us astounding images of a snow leopard hunting on the Pakistan peaks, a world first.

Episode 3: Freshwater

Fresh water defines the distribution of life on land. Follow the descent of rivers from their mountain sources to the sea. Watch spectacular waterfalls, fly inside the Grand Canyon and explore the wildlife in the world's deepest lake.

Planet Earth captures unique and dramatic moments of animal behaviour: a showdown between smooth-coated otters and mugger crocodiles; deep-diving long tailed macaques; massive flocks of snow geese on the wing and a piranha frenzy in the perilous waters of the world's largest wetland

Episode 4: Caves

The Cave of Swallows in Mexico is a 400m vertical shaft, deep enough to engulf the Empire State Building. The Lechuguilla cave system in the USA is 193km long with astonishing crystal formations.

Caves are remarkable habitats with equally bizarre wildlife. Cave angel fish cling to the walls behind waterfalls with microscopic hooks on their fins. Cave swiftlets navigate by echo-location and build nests out of saliva. The Texas cave salamander has neither eyes nor pigment. Planet Earth gets unique access to a hidden world of stalactites, stalagmites, snotites and troglodytes.

Episode 5: Deserts

Around 30% of the land's surface is desert, the most varied of our ecosystems despite the lack of rain. Saharan sandstorms reach nearly a mile high and desert rivers run for a single day.

In the Gobi Desert, rare Bactrian camels get moisture from the snow. In the Atacama, guanacos survive by licking dew off cactus spines. The brief blooming of Death Valley triggers a plague of locusts 65km wide and 160km long. A unique aerial voyage over the Namibian desert reveals elephants on a long trek for food and desert lions searching for wandering oryx.

Episode 6: Ice Worlds

The Arctic and Antarctic experience the most extreme seasons on Earth. Time-lapse cameras watch a colony of emperor penguins, transforming them into a single organism. The film reveals new science about the dynamics of emperor penguin behaviour.

In the north, unique aerial images show a polar bear swimming more than 100km. Diving for up to two minutes at a time. The exhausted polar bear later attacks a herd of walrus in a true clash of the Titans.

Episode 7: Great Plains

After filming for three years, Planet Earth finally captures the shy Mongolian gazelle. Only a handful of people have witnessed its annual migration. Don't miss the bizarre-looking Tibetan fox, captured on film for the first time.

Over six weeks the team follow a pride of 30 lions as they attempt to hunt elephants. Using the latest night vision equipment, the crew film the chaotic battles that ensue at close quarters.

Episode 8: Jungles

Jungles cover roughly three per cent of our planet yet contain 50 per cent of the world's species. High-definition cameras enable unprecedented views of animals living on the dark jungle floor.

In the Ngogo forest the largest chimpanzee group in the world defends its territory from neighbouring groups. Other jungle specialists include parasitic fungi which infiltrate an insect host, feed on it, and then burst out of its body.

Episode 9: Shallow Seas

A humpback whale mother and calf embark on an epic journey from tropical coral paradises to storm ravaged polar seas.

Newly discovered coral reefs in Indonesia reveal head-butting pygmy seahorses, flashing 'electric' clams and bands of sea kraits, 30-strong, which hunt in packs. Elsewhere plagues of sea urchins fell forests of giant kelp. Huge bull fur seals attack king penguins, who despite their weight disadvantage, put up a spirited defence.

Episode 10: Seasonal Forests

The Taiga forest, on the edge of the Arctic, is a silent world of stunted conifers. The trees may be small but filming from the air reveals its true scale. A third of all trees on Earth grow here and during the short summer they produce enough oxygen to change the atmosphere.

In California General Sherman, a giant sequoia, is the largest living thing on the planet, ten times the size of a blue whale. The oldest organisms alive are bristlecone pines. At more than 4,000 years old they pre-date the pyramids. But the baobab forests of Madagascar are perhaps the strangest of all.

Episode 11: Ocean Deep

Life goes to extraordinary lengths to survive this immense realm. A 30 tonne whale shark gorges on a school of fish and the unique overhead heli-gimbal camera reveals common dolphins rocketing at more than 30km an hour.

Descending into the abyss, deep sea octopus fly with wings and vampire squid use bioluminescence to create an extraordinary colour display. The first ever time-lapse footage taken from 2,000m down captures eels, crabs and giant isopods eating a carcass, completely consuming it within three hours.

Planet Earth – The Future

Three programmes look at the environmental problems facing our planet. Is future development sustainable, and can people and wildlife co-exist?

Just for Kicks 81 min

Just For Kicks” is the first documentary film featuring an overview of the sneaker phenomena through interviews of world-renown collectors, Hip-Hop pioneers, industry players, rap stars, journalists, brand marketers and other sneaker addicts.

In the film, shot in New York, Paris, London, Portland and Los Angeles, insider personalities such as Bobbito Garcia, Rock Steady Crew’s Doze Green, Grandmaster Caz & JDL (Cold Crush Brothers), Rev. Run, DMC & Russell Simmons, Scoop Jackson, Futura 2000, Fab 5 Freddy, Bonz Malone, Wu-Tang Clan’s Raekwon, Damon Dash and more share their passion and their perspectives on how and why sneakers have evolved into one of the key elements of style of the MTV generation.

Far from a formal history of the sneaker industry, the story offers a fun and colorful insiders' view of this phenomenon, narrowing down on the last 30 years during which Hip Hop became the dominant youth culture worldwide, a fact widely viewed as one of the key elements in the uprising of sneaker culture.

Analyzing this global phenomenon, the film is the first of its kind to present the underlying drivers and players that fueled the global sneakers revolution.... and its \$26 Billion global market.

The film reveals the untold stories behind the successes of the world's biggest brands, in the voice of those who made it happen, delivering the back story by delving into the music, urban culture, sponsorship deals, most hyped up re-issues, marketing politics, and corporate takeovers.

The story is supported by original footage as well as exclusive testimonies, never-seen before archive material, legendary performances, classic film clips and cult photography, ad-campaigns, music videos and album covers.

Vivid visuals blend with some of the hottest hip-hop tracks and music, film, graphic design and photography come together plunging the viewer into this overlooked part of today's global pop culture.

CBC News in Review March 2008

1. The Manley Report on Afghanistan 13:59 min

In late January, a government-appointed commission headed by former **Liberal cabinet** minister John **Manley** released a report on **Canada's** mission in Afghanistan. The report recommended that Canadian troops should keep fighting in that country, but only if certain conditions are met. This *News in Review* story looks at the **Manley Report** and the political storm it ignited

2. Restarting the Chalk River Reactor 13:34 min

In December a shutdown at **Ontario's** Chalk River nuclear reactor led to a worldwide shortage of medical isotopes. Despite safety issues, the government, with the **support of** the other parties, ordered the reactor restarted. This story **examines** the controversial decision and the political **fallout that** followed.

3. The Campaign for the White House 16:27 min

In February, the race to choose the next president of the United States heated up. **The two** main parties, the Democrats and the Republicans, held a series of primaries **and caucuses** to determine which candidate should represent them. This story looks at both **party's** candidates and **at the** issues shaping their campaigns.

4. Cyber Thieves and Identity Theft 13:40 min

Identity theft is a growing problem for Internet users. Criminals can use a number of ways to gain access **to** confidential information like credit card numbers. **This story** shows you how these **cyber** thieves operate and why it's so hard to catch them. They also look at some practical steps Internet users can take **to protect** their identities from being stolen.

Christopher Columbus: Explorer of the New World 50 min

He was determined to find a western route to Asia, but wound up discovering the New World. But despite his accomplishments, he died a broken, largely forgotten man.

Christopher Columbus wanted to find a new route to Asia, but became the first European to set foot on the New World. Evidence now proves that the Vikings were there long before him, but even in his own time later explorers usurped his glory! BIOGRAPHY® uses period accounts, rare art and artifacts and interviews with world-renowned historians to tell Columbus's often-reinterpreted story. See how he convinced Ferdinand and Isabella to fund his journey and how he never gave up believing that he had reached Asia. Discover how his fortunes and reputation sank so quickly that by the time of his fourth voyage Spanish officials would not let him anchor in their waters.

From the dream that led him across the horizon to the fortunes that deserted him and the ongoing controversy over his true place in history, this is the dramatic story of Christopher Columbus

Kite Runner 127 min

In a divided country on the verge of war, two childhood friends, Amir and Hassan, are about to be torn apart forever. It's a glorious afternoon in Kabul and the skies are bursting with the exhilarating joy of a kite-fighting tournament. But in the aftermath of the day's victory, one boy's fearful act of betrayal will mark their lives forever and set in motion an epic quest for redemption. Now, after 20 years of living in America, Amir returns to a perilous Afghanistan under the Taliban's iron-fisted rule to face the secrets that still haunt him and take one last daring chance to set things right.

Biofuels 22 min

This program investigates the mode of production of a range of biofuels, from biogas, ethanol and butanol to vegetable oils and biodiesel. Students will gain a thorough understanding of the topic as we look at their uses as well as the advantages and disadvantages of the various fuels.

Into the Wild 148 min

Stars: Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gay Harden, William Hurt, Catherine Keener, Vince Vaughn, Hal Holbrook.
Screenplay and directed by Sean Penn.

Based on a true story. After graduating from **Emory** University in 1992, top student and athlete Christopher **McCandless** abandoned his possessions, gave his entire \$24,000 savings account to charity and hitchhiked to Alaska to live in the wilderness. Along the way, Christopher encounters a series of characters who shape his life.