

# 1<sup>st</sup> Middle School of Zefyri - Walk Program

## 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class (14-15 year old students)

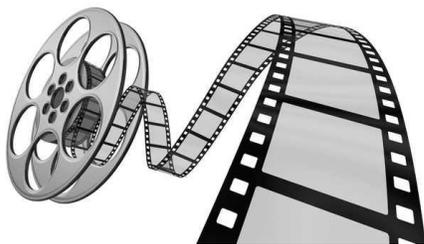
School year 2019-2020



As part of our **Walk** program, we decided to develop two actions:

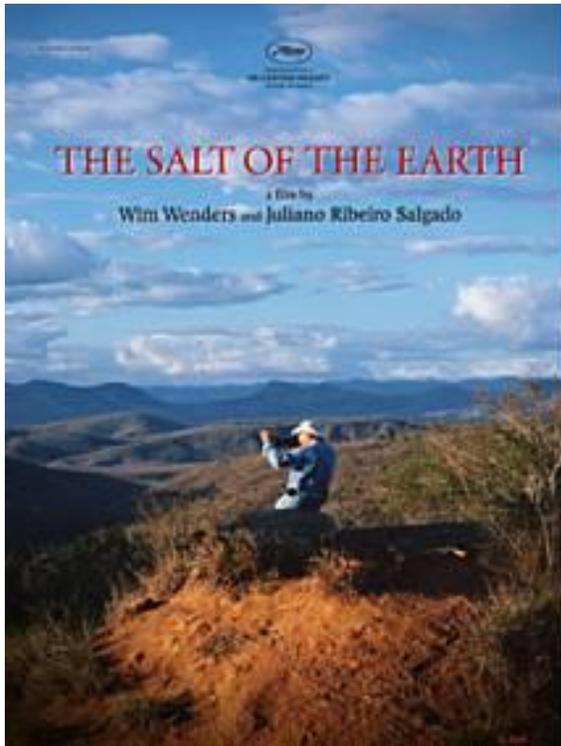
- 1) To compile a list of films on the subject of the environment that would be a repository for those who are interested, like us, to approach this vital issue through the eyes of filmmakers.
- 2) To select and watch one of them in order to approach the basic pillars of

sustainable development through a creative way.



The corona virus pandemic found us in the middle of the development of our program, however, fortunately, we had managed to compile our catalog, select and view our film, do research on it, and record our first conclusions. All that was left was to organize a screening and present it to the participants of the other schools. Unfortunately, with theaters closed, this part of the action

becomes impossible. However, we believe that our actions can have a benefit for private screenings in our home where we have been restricted due to the corona virus.



## The Salt of the Earth

Juliano Ribeiro Salgado, Wim Wenders

The film we chose is Salt of the Earth, directed by Wim Wenders and Ribeiro Salgado. This is a documentary about the work of photographer Sebastiao Salgado, which goes far beyond the presentation of a great artist as it transforms into an ecological and deeply political work.

<https://www.google.com/search?source=univ&tbm=isch&q=sebastiao+salgado+photos&safe=strict&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjy44X2o6vpAhXTwMQBHXvRCacQsAR6BAgKEAE&biw=1280&bih=913>)

With a gentle voice and humility, with a deep sense of everything he has immortalized, the 70-year-old Salgado travels to the most hidden corners of the earth like a modern Odysseus, capturing with his lens the tragedy, decimation, war, mass migration, and all the crimes the dominant countries of the world have committed against the third world. From the drought in Nigeria and the famine in Ethiopia to the relentless genocide in Rwanda and the horrific environmental destruction by the burning of oil wells in Kuwait, the endless caravans of hungry and war-ridden refugees, Salgado photographs with unparalleled sensitivity all those things that usually cause people to close or avert their eyes, as if they will exorcise the evil from our planet. "How many times have I despaired of human nature? How many times have I left my camera on the floor and grabbed my head with both hands, crying and sobbing? You don't want to know ... ", he tells us with unspeakable pain.

His black and white photographs, works of art, are a shocking historical record of humanity and the planet in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. But that is not all. Disappointed by the images of disaster and death, Sebastiao Salgado is making a dynamic turn as an artist in capturing areas of the earth that are still untouched by the chaos of reckless growth. Entitled Genesis, he dedicates his most recent work to nature, as it is nature that allows him not to lose his faith in humanity.



As a human being, one of the most wonderful ecological endeavors begins: the reforestation of a very large part of the Atlantic Forest of Brazil. Since 1994, he and his wife, Lelia, have been returning to their ancestral lands on a 1,750-acre farm in Minas Gerais. The Atlantic Forest, the

second most biodiverse after the Amazon, contained every species of tree found in the entire United States coast within a single acre. Salgado says that on this farm where he grew up he learned to see the light, in the afternoons during the rainy season where the lightning struck one after the other and the sunbeams were constantly playing with the landscape. Salgado's father had gradually deforested the area, selling the cut trees as timber and planting African grass to feed his cattle. The landscape had changed dramatically on barren land. In the 1980s, the devastation of Brazilian forests was so severe that it was a reference to global decay.

"In order to build growth in Brazil, we have destroyed a lot of our forests," says Sebastiao Salgado. "The same thing happened in the United States, India, and everywhere on the planet. Lelia had a wonderful idea, a crazy idea. She said to me: Why don't we restore the tropical forest that existed earlier? You say you were born in paradise. Let's rebuild paradise!" Thus, Sebastiao and Lelia have been planting 2.5 million trees since 1994 for two years, and in 1998 they founded the Terra Institute [http://www.institutoterra.org/eng/conteudosLinks.php?id=22&tl=QWJvdXQgdXM=&sb=NQ==#.Xrj\\_m0Qzbc](http://www.institutoterra.org/eng/conteudosLinks.php?id=22&tl=QWJvdXQgdXM=&sb=NQ==#.Xrj_m0Qzbc) with the sole purpose of reforesting and protecting the environment through education. "We started planting and in the first year we lost a lot of trees, less in the second year and, slowly, this dead earth began to regenerate. We planted hundreds of thousands of trees, only native, local species to create an ecosystem the same as the one that was destroyed. And life came back in a wonderful way. It was necessary for us to turn our land into a national park. We transformed her. We gave the earth back to nature. And it became a national park. We created the Terra Institute and built a great environmental project. "The "plan" of Sebastiao and Lelia was expanding and so it has reached the point today to have restored a large part of the original forest. Biodiversity has returned to the area and wildlife has recovered as the food chain recovers. It is also worth mentioning that the most important wild mammal in the area, the jaguar, which had moved elsewhere due to the loss of its natural habitat, has returned, which indicates that it has been revived thanks to human initiative. Today, the Terra Institute is a refuge even for endangered species from the Brazilian fauna and is the largest employer in the region, providing jobs for many people while preventing reckless rural flight. "It's a crazy plan, huge and magnificent."

Wim Wenders with his documentary "The Salt of the Earth" presented us within an hour and 50 minutes a great artist and deeply mature man, condensed thoughts and feelings

through images and speech, made us understand and feel the very important meaning of the chain of connection and interaction. Yes, our planet can be saved, as long as we all help in that direction!

## Our planet through the cinematic lens

The list of movies we've made is certainly not all-encompassing, we've just tried to include fiction movies in particular, but documentaries as well, after researching the imdb database <https://www.imdb.com/>. We favored the chronological presentation, since it also allows timeless approaches to the environmental issue, excluding a number of important ones containing subjective criteria. We did not include suitability criteria in our selection, knowing that some films are unsuitable for middle school children, but not for high school children. Therefore, it is up to those who will consult the catalog to take it into account and check the suitability of each film for their audience. We did not rule out any kind of film, assessing that each different approach to the subject is of interest. For example, in the Alfred Hitchcock film, *The Birds*, we see nature itself attacking man without reason, perhaps on the exact same terms as he has. Nuclear annihilation is the subject of many films and even comedies, such as *Dr Strangelove* by Stanley Kubrick. Science fiction could not be absent, as it is in a way the projection of our world and our fears in the future. The identity of the films contains in order: the Greek title, the original, the director, year of production and country or countries of production. We always hope such a list proves useful, a list which can be supplemented with movies we inadvertently missed, but also with new productions.

**Happy viewing!**



**When Worlds Collide**, Rudolph Maté, 1951, USA

**Them!**, Gordon Douglas, 1954, USA

**Day the World Ended**, Roger Corman, 1955, USA

**Moby Dick**, John Huston, 1956, USA

**On the Beach**, Stanley Kramer, 1959, USA

**Hiroshima mon amour**, Alain Resnais, 1959, France, Japan

**The World, The Flesh and the Devil**, Randal MacDougall, 1959, USA

**Panic in Year Zero**, Ray Milland, 1962, USA

**The Birds**, Alfred Hitchcock, 1963, USA

**Fail Safe**, Sidney Lumet, 1964, USA

**Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb**, Stanley Kubrick, 1964, H.B., USA

**Seven Days in May**, John Frankenheimer, 1964, USA

**Silent Running**, Douglas Trumbull, 1972, USA

**Soylent Green**, Richard Fleischer, 1973, USA

**Dersu Uzala**, Akira Kurosawa, 1975, Japan, USSR

**The China Syndrome**, James Bridges (1979), USA

**Koyaanisqatsi**, Godfrey Reggio, 1982, USA

**The Day After**, Nicholas Meyer, 1983, USA

**Testament**, Lynne Littman, 1983, USA

**Silkwood**, Mike Nichols, 1983, USA

**The Emerald Forest**, John Boorman, 1985, UK

**When the Wind Blows**, Jimmy T. Murakami, 1986, UK

**The Sacrifice** (Offret), Andrei Tarkovski, 1986, Sweden, France, UK

**Dead Man's Letters** (Pisma myortvogo cheloveka), Konstantin Lopushanskiy, 1986, USSR

**The Bear** (L'ours), Jean-Jacques Annaud, 1988, France

**Gorillas in the Mist**, Michael Apted, 1988, USA

**The Abyss**, James Cameron, 1989, USA

**Black Rain** (Kuroi ame), Shōhei Imamura, 1989, Japan

**Fat Man and Little Boy**, Roland Joffé, 1989, USA

**Dreams** (Yume), Akira Kurosawa, 1990, Japan, USA

**Rhapsody in August** (Hachi-gatsu no rapusodî), Akira Kurosawa, 1991, Japan

**The Hunt for Red October**, John McTiernan, 1990, USA

**Outbreak**, Wolfgang Petersen, 1995, USA

**Crimson Tide**, Tony Scott, 1995, USA

**Safe**, Todd Haynes, 1995, H.B., USA

**Fly Away Home**, Carroll Ballard, 1996, USA

**Forest Warrior**, Aaron Norris, 1996, USA

**Microcosmos** (Microcosmos: Le peuple de l'herbe), Claude Nuridsany, Marie Pérennou, 1996, France, Switzerland, Italy

**The Peacemaker**, Mimi Leder, 1997, USA

**The Postman**, Kevin Costner, 1997, USA

**Grey Owl**, Richard Attenborough, 1999, UK, Canada

**Winged Migration** (Le peuple migrateur), Jacques Perrin, Jacques Cluzaud, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Italy

**The Sum of All Fears**, Phil Alden Robinson, 2002, USA

**The Day After Tomorrow**, Roland Emmerich, 2004, USA

**Darwin's Nightmare**, Hubert Sauper, 2004, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium  
**March of the Penguins** (La Marche de l'empereur), Luc Jacquet, 2005, France  
**Planet Earth**, David Attenborough, 2006, UK (documentary series)  
**Manufactured Landscapes**, Jennifer Baichwal, 2006, Canada  
**An Inconvenient Truth**, Davis Guggenheim, 2006, USA  
**The Fox and the Child** (Le Renard et l'Enfant), Luc Jacquet, 2007, France  
**The 11th Hour**, Leila Conners, Nadia Conners, 2007, USA  
**Take Shelter**, Jeff Nichols, 2011, USA  
**The Dark Knight Rises**, Christopher Nolan, 2012, USA, UK  
**The Salt of the Earth**, Juliano Ribeiro Salgado, Wim Wenders, 2014, France, Brasil, Italy  
**Embrace of the serpent** (El abrazo de la serpiente), Ciro Guerra, 2015, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina  
**Anthropocene: The Human Epoch**, Jennifer Baichwal, Edward Burtynsky, 2018, Canada  
**Our Planet**, David Attenborough, 2019, USA, UK (documentary series)  
**Dark Waters**, Todd Haynes, 2019 USA