

Welcome to Planet Earth Mini Episode

Producer: <<In the booth>> Okay, Mindy..Guy Raz...Welcome to Planet Earth, take one. You ready?

Mindy: Ready!

Guy Raz: Let's do it!

Producer: Okay, Reggie...

Reggie: Coo

Producer: Cue music. Annnnd action!

<<Scene opens to light harp music and nature sounds>>

Mindy: Looking to settle down and make a home somewhere in the Milky Way Galaxy? Well then look no further than planet Earth. The universe's premier destination for comfort, adventure, and bonkerballs natural beauty.

Guy Raz: Nestled in the heart of the Goldilock's Zone, our four and a half billion year old planet is never too hot and never too cold... In fact, it was designed with a special invisible blanket of heat-trapping gasses to always keep our temperatures just right.

Mindy: For *you* that is. Just ask any of the 8 billion people who currently live here.

Gramma G-Force: Well, I give this place one star. And that star is called the sun. And I wish somebody would go up there and turn it off! Cause it's too hot.

Producer: Okay cut!

Guy Raz: Gah!

Mindy: Ugh, Gramma G-Force, we're trying to help people see why the earth is such a great place to live! We can't tell them that it's too hot! They'll never want to live here!

Gramma G-Force: But it is too hot! And it's getting too hotter!

Mindy: gramma-

Guy Raz: You know, Gramma G-Force does have a point Mindy...

Mindy: What?

Guy Raz: Well our planet *is* getting hotter!

Gramma G-Force: Told ya.

Guy Raz: But it's not because of the sun.

Gramma G-Force: Baloney.

Guy Raz: Well in part, it's because of us!

Mindy: What?!

Gramma G-Force: Oh snap.

Guy Raz: Well yeah, I mean while our planet was designed with this perfect, invisible blanket of heat-trapping gasses to trap just the right amount of heat to keep it from getting too hot or too cold, we humans who live here, are actually helping to make that blanket thicker!

Gramma G-Force: Not me! I'm just over here mindin' my own beeswax.

Mindy: Wait a minute, Guy Raz...how in the world are we making the invisible blanket thicker?!

Gramma G-Force: Yeah, I don't even know how to make a blanket!

Guy Raz: Well that blanket around the earth gets thicker because of more carbon pollution.

Gramma G-Force: Well where we gettin' all that carbon pollution from anyway? The carbon pollution store?

Guy Raz: Huh?

Mindy: I got this, Guy Raz. See, carbon pollution comes from all sorts of things like cars, factories, and power plants burning things like gas, and coal, and oil—sending pollution into the atmosphere.

Guy Raz: That's right. How we make electricity, how we get around, make things, heat and cool our homes, even how we grow our food and use our land! These are all ways that we humans, all 8.2 billion of us, are changing this invisible blanket and making it thicker!

Mindy: And making it hotter.

Gramma G-Force: Well, I still don't like that sun.

Producer: Uh, can we stick to the script please? We need to get this advertisement for planet Earth recorded.

Mindy: Oh sorry. Where were we again?

Producer: Bottom of page 4. Starting with, "all the amenities and perks that earth as a home planet has to offer."

Mindy: Oh yeah, yeah yeah. I got it.

Producer: Reggie...cue the music.

Reggie: coo coo

<<harp music starts up again>>

Mindy: Looking for relaxation? Well planet Earth has you covered with miles of pristine beaches, rolling green meadows, lush forests, and fresh open waters. All to be enjoyed at no additional charge. But don't take our word for it.

Thomas Fingerling: Yeah! take mine! And my word says, "Hope you like water!"

Mindy: What?

Thomas Fingerling: Back when I was your age water stayed where it belonged! In the oceans and rivers! Now it's all over the place! Flooding my basement and stormin' all the time while I'm tryin' ta have pickleball practice!

Producer: Okay! Uh let's just, uh....

Gramma G-Force: Yeah! The wet is gettin' wetter!

Guy Raz: Oh boy.

Thomas Fingerling: Yeah! And the dry is getting dryer!

Mindy: Uh...

Gramma G-Force: And the hot is gettin' hotter!

Thomas Fingerling: And the smells are getting...

Producer: Okaaaaay cut!!

Thomas Fingerling: Rude.

Guy Raz: We hear you Thomas Fingerling!

Mindy: We do?

Guy Raz: We do! And you're not entirely wrong!

Thomas Fingerling: Whoa, I'm not?

Mindy/Producer/Gramma G-Force: He's not??

Guy Raz: Well, the truth is because of all the carbon pollution that all of us are adding to our atmosphere

Mindy: Causing that invisible heat trapping blanket to get thicker and our planet to get hotter

Guy Raz: We're experiencing wets getting wetter, dry getting drier, and like you said, hot getting hotter.

Mindy: That's true, we are experiencing more bonkerballs storms and floods and even wildfires.

Gramma G-Force: It's so dry out there I can't even drink outta my gutters or do my tuesday fireworks show off the roof of my house or else i'll burn down the whole neighborhood and start a wildfire!

Mindy / Guy Raz: What?!

Thomas Fingerling: It's true. I had to stop her.

Producer: Uh...Mindy, Guy? Can we get back to recording the advertisement for planet Earth please?

Mindy: Oh, oh, sorry, sorry, sure! UH where were we?

Producer: Let's start with you Guy, at the bottom of page five, "there's something for everyone on planet earth."

Guy Raz: Oh, okay, got it, got it.

Producer: Reggie, cue music.

Reggie: coo

<<music resumes>>

Producer: And action.

Guy Raz: Here on planet earth, there's something for everyone. Whether you prefer quiet stargazing, or the sounds of wildlife on any of our all inclusive fitness trails, planet Earth is here to take care of you.

Mindy: Actually...<<music stops>>

Producer: Ugh. Cut!

Reggie: Coo, coo, coo

Producer: What's the problem now?

Guy Raz: Yeah, Mindy, what's going on?

Mindy: I'm sorry. It's just that, while I agree that planet Earth has all of these wonderful and special things about it. And while I do agree that it's designed to take care of *us*. Don't we have a responsibility to take care of it too?

Guy Raz/Producer/Thomas Fingerling: <<gasp>>

Gamma G-Force: No.

Guy Raz: No no, Mindy has a point here! Planet Earth is not only the best home for all living things including us but it's also the only home we've got.

Mindy: And in order for our planet to take care of us, we've got to take care of our planet.

Gramma G-Force: Well how we supposed to do that, Mindy!?

Thomas Fingerling: Yeah!

Mindy: Well, there are all sorts of things we can do to stop polluting our atmosphere, starting in our own homes!

Thomas Fingerling: Oh, like what?

Guy Raz: Well for starters, we can reuse things instead of buying them new.

Mindy: Oh yeah! Some teens in Oregon organized a fashion show using clothing made entirely from recycled materials!

Guy Raz: We can also work to reduce how much food we waste, or maybe even start composting food scraps at home or at school.

Mindy: Oh, yes, I read about this group of elementary school students in California who started a composting program to cut down on food waste in their cafeteria!

Gramma G-Force: Well I'll do that in my high school where i go to school.

Guy Raz: Huh?

Gramma G-Force: I'm a teenager.

Guy Raz: <<skeptical and confused>> Okay?

Mindy: We can also try to limit the amount of electricity we use by turning off lights and electronics, and saving water by taking shorter showers, and walking or using public transportation instead of taking cars everywhere.

Gramma G-Force: Excuse me.

Mindy: Yes, Gramma G-Force?

Gramma G-Force: I have a question. I already do all of that. I'm perfect.

Thomas Fingerling: G-force, I just watched you throw a whole ham out your car window!

Guy Raz: What?!

Mindy: Well, first of all, that is not a question, and second of all, it's impossible to be perfect! But we've all gotta do our part and start somewhere! Even the smallest actions can add up to big things when we're trying our best.

Guy Raz: And speaking of best, perhaps the most important thing we can do is to use our voices!

fingerling/g-force: <<yelling>> Okey doke. Ahhhhhhhh!! Here's my voice. I am yelling, I am yelling.

Guy Raz: No, no, no, not like that.

Mindy: What Guy Raz means, is that we can use our voices to ask questions! Like, where did these new clothes come from anyway? And how were they made? How did they get here?

Guy Raz: Or where does our water come from?

g-force: The hose.

Guy Raz: But before it gets to your hose!

g-force: Oh snap. I just thought it just lived in the hose.

Guy Raz: Or maybe talk to the grownups in charge about adding solar panes to your school or changing to electric school buses! It might not be something that can happen right away, but getting the conversation going is a great first step.

Mindy: And we can use our voices to *share* what we learn with others! friends, family, teachers, and even our elected officials! Our individual actions matter, but working together matters even more. And together we can make the changes that we need for a brighter future!

Everyone but Mindy: <<claps and hooting>>

Producer: Uh, so, can we get back to recording this advertisement for planet Earth or...

Guy Raz: you got it! Let's take it from the top.

Mindy: Just know that we may make a few changes along the way.

Producer: Whatever you say! Reggie, cue the music.

Mindy: But uh Reg, let's make it a little more upbeat this time.

Reggie: coo

Producer: And action.

Mindy: Looking for the perfect place to call home? Well good news, you're already here!

Guy Raz: Welcome to Planet Earth...or as we call it, Planet Wow! The coolest, bluest, most bonkerballs, life-friendly planet in the galaxy!

Mindy: With fresh air, sparkling waters, and just the right amount of gravity, Planet Wow has everything you need to feel right at home.

Guy Raz: And that's not all! Planet Wow also has tons of animals, trees, oceans, and all kinds of wildlife working to keep our home planet running smoothly.

Mindy: BUT, in order to keep it that way, our home planet needs our help too.

Guy Raz: Part of living here and enjoying all of the amazing things that planet wow has to offer, means that we all need to do our part to help keep it happy, healthy, and safe for all who live here with us!

Mindy: By saving energy, keeping our air and water clean, and using our voices to encourage others to do the same, we can help the earth to take care of us too!

Guy Raz: And by pitching in, we'll all get to enjoy the amazing perks that earth has to offer!

Mindy: Because when it comes to the best planets to call home, Earth is the number one. And.... it's the only one we've got!

Guy Raz: So welcome home, to Planet Wow, where the world is our own.

Producer: And cut, that's a wrap!

Everyone: <<clapping>> Hooray!