

## Green Hollywood stars



Shailene Woodley co-founded All It Takes, a nonprofit organization that helps schools and communities become safer through social-emotional learning. She also says that 97% of her clothes are from second-hand stores. Whenever she can, she gathers her water from fresh springs. In 2018, Ms. Woodley received the Children Mending Hearts' Hero for Change award.



Natalie Portman has been a vegetarian for 20 years and has created a line of "vegan" shoes. She also worked to save gorillas in Rwanda. The actress supports Global Green USA, an organization which fights global climate change through initiatives for green affordable housing. She is even eco-friendly when it comes to her jewellery: her engagement and wedding rings are made of conflict-free diamonds and recycled platinum.



Matt Damon co-founded the H2O Africa Foundation to raise awareness of how important clean water is in Africa. He also started Water.org, a non-profit organization whose goal is to help people around the world get access to clean and safe water. His film *Promised Land* criticized natural gas production and fracking, and he hosted an environmental series, *Journey to Planet Earth*. He also participated in a green documentary, *Not Reality TV*. All of this has brought him the Environmental Media Award.



Mark Ruffalo takes part in an organization called Hollywood United for a Healthy California, which raises awareness of our environment. He also started a campaign in upstate New York to stop hydrofracking, which is a controversial method of natural gas extraction. Among other things, he starred in the ecological documentary *In This Climate*. For his work he has received the Environmental Leadership and the Global Wildlife Conservation rewards. The latter recognized his efforts to save the turtles.



Leonardo di Caprio has been ecologically aware for decades. His foundation promotes “innovative projects that protect vulnerable wildlife from extinction while restoring balance to threatened ecosystems and communities.” He has raised nearly \$80 million for various environmental causes, and has donated \$20 million of his own money to battle climate change. Because of his commitment, he was named the UN Messenger of Peace on Climate Change. The actor even used his Oscar acceptance speech in 2016 to speak against pollution. He works with many green organizations, such as the World Wildlife Fund, The Natural Resources Defense Council, The International Fund for Animal Welfare and Global Green USA. He has produced two films on global warming – the 11th Hour and Before the Flood.



Cate Blanchett and her husband were leading advocates in Greening the Wharf project. It helped the Wharf Theater in Sydney to switch to solar panels, which are now its main source of power. She is also the face of Australia’s Who on Earth Cares program and constantly works to reduce her own carbon footprint. She helped launch one of the largest rainwater harvesting systems in the world, and uses a rainwater collection system in her home.

### Questions:

- 1) Have you seen any films with the actors mentioned?
- 2) In your opinion, which of these celebrities does the most important work?
- 3) If you could, who would you most like to meet? Why?
- 4) Do you know of any other celebrities devoted to environmentalism? Which ones? What are their areas of interest?
- 5) If you were a celebrity, which cause would you help with?

**Extra-credit Assignment:** Find and watch one of the documentaries mentioned in the text. Write a review.