

Palm Oil Challenge

Now that you have learned more about orangutans and their importance to the rainforest ecosystem, you are invited to participate in a challenge to **remove, replace, or use less of one item containing unsustainable palm oil**. This is a great way to help develop responsible habits and understand how clearing the rainforest to make room for palm oil plantations is harmful to the rainforest ecosystem. This challenge is not meant to promote or be negative towards any particular company or product, but to make you aware of how the products you buy at the store can have far-reaching impacts.

What is palm oil and why is this challenge important?

Palm oil is the most widely used vegetable oil on the planet and half of all packaged products contain it – from ice cream to instant noodles, to shampoo and lipstick. Palm oil is grown in the tropics and clearing for plantations has destroyed large areas of thriving rainforest. Many species like elephants, orangutans, rhinos, and tigers have lost their homes because of it.



This challenge is a simple, but impactful step that you can take to help end deforestation due to unsustainable palm oil! Some companies are working together as part of the **Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)** to use sustainable palm oil practices, meaning they are not clearing more forests over and over to create their product, but are being responsible about how they protect habitats.

How can you tell if an item has sustainable or unsustainable palm oil?

1. Download the **Cheyenne Mountain Zoo app**. This app allows you to scan the barcodes of items to discover where that company is in their sustainable practices.
2. Look on the packaging for the sustainable palm oil symbols like the ones below.



Share what you did with the Zoo! No matter how you choose to participate in this challenge we want to celebrate the impact you made. Email a description, picture, or video of what you did and we will add your story to our website to help inspire others!