

people

Text by Lesley Ormal-Grenon



LEONARDO DiCAPRIO

The star who wants to save the planet

He is a famous Hollywood actor, but that's not all. Leonardo is also an environmental activist determined to fight* climate change ...

An actor with a mission

In 1997, Leonardo played Jack in the disaster film *Titanic*. It was a huge* success and Leonardo became* one of Hollywood's top stars. So his fans were surprised when he turned his attention to another disaster – climate change – and created an environmental organization, The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation. "Climate change is real," he says. "It is the most urgent threat* facing our entire* species."



Together, we can make a difference!

PASSPORT

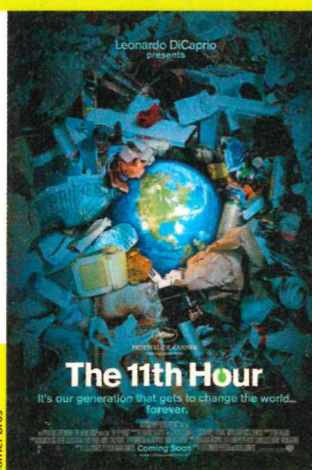
Name: Leonardo Wilhelm DiCaprio
Date of birth: 11 November 1974
Age: 43
Place of birth: Los Angeles, California
Diet: vegetarian/vegan
First big film: *Romeo & Juliet* (1996)

Saving the world's animals

Leonardo's foundation raises* money for many big projects, from saving tigers in Asia and elephants in Africa to sharks* in California, wolves* in Mexico and the world's coral* reefs. He has donated at least* 30 million dollars to the climate-related projects he believes in, and organized charity* auctions to raise more money. Leonardo also donates something that has no price*: his fame*!

Environmental documentaries

Back in 2004, Leonardo DiCaprio founded his own film production company. It has produced some of his most successful films, including *The Wolf of Wall Street*, but also environmental documentaries. In 2007, Leo co-produced, co-wrote* and narrated* *The 11th Hour*, a documentary about global* warming. In 2016, the actor travelled* around the world to make another documentary about climate change, *Before the Flood**.



A charity* auction linked to the film *The 11th Hour* raised* nearly \$40 million for Leonardo's foundation!



Leonardo during filming of the documentary *Before the Flood*.



"Climate change is real, it is happening* right* now."

Spreading* the word

Leonardo knows that it's vital to spread* the climate change message. When he won* an Oscar in 2016 for *The Revenant*, he improvised a speech* on climate change at the ceremony in Los Angeles. It was watched on TV by people around the world, but also tweeted more than 440,000 times per minute (a record for an Oscar speech). This was very effective*. People respect Leonardo and listen to him because he's a famous Hollywood star!



Climate change is a serious problem!



Obsessed with climate change

DiCaprio believes everyone* can do something to help the planet. He is a vegetarian and supported the 2014 documentary, *Cowspiracy*, which inspired many people to stop eating meat. He also tries to be "carbon neutral": he calculates the amount* of CO2 he produces and plants trees to compensate. Convincing important people to change things is another strategy: Leonardo met Donald Trump to discuss climate change. He participated in demonstrations* to protest against* the American President's environmental policies*.

HELP!

- against:** contre
- amount:** quantité
- became (p) become (inf):** devenir
- charity auction:** vente de bienfaisance aux enchères
- co-wrote (p) co-write (inf):** co-écrire
- coral reef:** récif corallien
- demonstration:** manifestation
- effective:** efficace
- entire species (our):** toute notre espèce
- everyone:** tout le monde
- fame:** célébrité
- fight:** lutter contre
- flood:** inondation
- global warming:** réchauffement climatique
- happen:** se passer
- huge:** énorme
- least (at):** au moins
- narrate:** faire la voix off
- policy:** politique
- price:** prix
- raise (money):** collecter des fonds
- right now:** en ce moment même
- shark:** requin
- speech:** discours
- spread:** diffuser
- threat:** menace
- travel around:** voyager autour
- wolves (pl.) wolf (sing.):** loup
- won (p) win (inf):** gagner