

## MoPOP Minecraft Activity

Within Minecraft, you can build whatever kind of home, community, or even planet you want to inhabit. You live in the world you make. This is an easy connection to make in the game, which helps people to see that this is true in our less-blocky reality as well. The rare and beautiful biomes in the game, for example, create an appreciation of our natural world.

Minecraft taps into this, engaging the community to positively contribute to the planet and the creatures living on it, including people. Minecrafters have helped restore coral reefs, preserve panda habitats, and provide clean water to those in need.

Meanwhile, schools, museums, and other cultural institutions use Minecraft to further appreciation for the arts, history, and science, as well as build awareness and understanding of the lives and concerns of different communities around the globe.

### **Here are some examples of environmental change inspired by Minecraft:**

- **Protecting Pandas: Placing digital bamboo to support the World Wildlife Fund:** In its Village & Pillage update, Minecraft added pandas and bamboo forests for them to live in! Mojang challenged Minecraft players to place ten million bamboo blocks in-game, resulting in a donation to the World Wildlife Fund of \$100,000. Across the world, thousands of panda pals got the blocks placed in just three days.
- **Coral Crafters: The Minecraft community helps restore a fragile ecosystem:** To highlight the importance of coral reefs in the real world, Mojang sponsored the placement of six Biorock structures off the coast of Mexico. Biorock is a material that promotes coral growth up to five times faster than normal. The structures are shaped like characters and items from Minecraft. Meanwhile, Minecraft players were challenged to place ten million coral blocks in-game, which they accomplished in only a few days. In response, Mojang donated \$100,000 to The Nature Conservancy.
- **Weekend for Water: Playing Minecraft for clean water worldwide:** In early 2019, well-known Minecraft streamers live-streamed their gameplay as part of the Weekend for Water. The event raised funds for charity: water, whose mission is to bring clean water to every person on the planet. Minecraft players could also download a special game map, with the promise from Mojang that after 100,000 downloads, they would donate even more to the cause. In all, the Minecraft community raised over \$107,000.

**Now ask your students:** What is an issue that you care deeply about? How could you use Minecraft to raise awareness and gather support?