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Title: Grooming the next generation of environmental leaders
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Environmental challenges cannot be solved in a single generation and require a constant stream of eco-champions.

Hence, a new educational initiative aims to groom Singapore's next crop of environmental leaders, by developing a life-long passion in youths.

The Nature Explorer' Programme is a collaboration between the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research of the National University of Singapore, and ExxonMobil.

Students selected for the programme will be given opportunities to attend workshops and field trips to gain greater awareness of Singapore's biodiversity.

Director of the Musuem, Professor Peter Ng, said it was important to engage youths in protecting the environment.

"We hope that some of these students will actually become environmental leaders, either in their schools, or in their universities and so on. One of the things we always hope is that if people are exposed to field work, to natural heritage, education, very very young, their interest will gradually grow, and hopefully when they come to an age when they can actually organise and be a leader, they already become so well exposed, so familiar with these things, they can actually take it to the next step."

Guest-of-Honour, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, who's also the Minister for Environment and Water Resources, said the programme also had the potential to be expanded further.

"Over time, I also want these kids to see this of value to themselves, to their further education. So if we can develop this into a portfolio of interest, this could be something that they can submit for their admission to the university."

The programme, which targets students from Primary Four to first-year of Junior College, is expected to reach out to 300 participants a year.

The best 30 students will be selected for a four-day study camp at Pulau Tioman.