

# ICP

## FAMILY GUIDE

### **Welcome to the International Center of Photography!**

All the photographs in this exhibition were made by Sebastião Salgado, known for his documentation of social issues. This project, *Genesis*, took him eight years and over thirty trips to remote regions of the world. Salgado's goal was to capture places on the planet that have so far escaped the imprint of the modern world, in particular, the consequences of climate change. Lélia Wanick Salgado, the photographer's wife and the curator of this exhibition, writes of the project:

***"It is a visual tribute to a fragile planet that we all have a duty to protect."***

**FIND** the above photograph of the iceberg. **IMAGINE** you are there: what would you see, hear, feel, smell, and even taste?

Trying to capture the sea and icebergs of Antarctica with his camera, Salgado said: "I don't know if I can do this. It's too big ... I ask myself if it's possible to represent it by pictures."



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**DISCUSS:** Do you think something so massive can be represented by a photograph? Would you prefer to represent it with words or pictures? **EXPLAIN.**

***"Forty-six percent of the planet is not destroyed. I must show this, take pictures that show it's necessary to preserve these places. Show how wide they are, how big they are."***

**DECIDE** whether you think Salgado has achieved his goals. Does a photograph like this one make you feel that it's "necessary to preserve these places"? Why or why not? In the box above, **LIST** things in nature that you think are worth preserving.

Sebastião Salgado, *The Antarctic Peninsula*, 2005. © Sebastiao Salgado/Amazonas images—Contact Press Images.

**FIND** the photograph below.



Salgado has described himself as a storyteller. What story do you think Salgado is trying to tell? WALK around the gallery and see if you can find another image of an animal. Do you know of other endangered species not shown here? LIST them in the box to the right."

**DISCUSS:** What are different ways that we can help save these animals?

Sebastião Salgado, *Kafue National Park, Zambia*, 2010. © Sebastião Salgado/ Amazonas images—Contact Press Images.

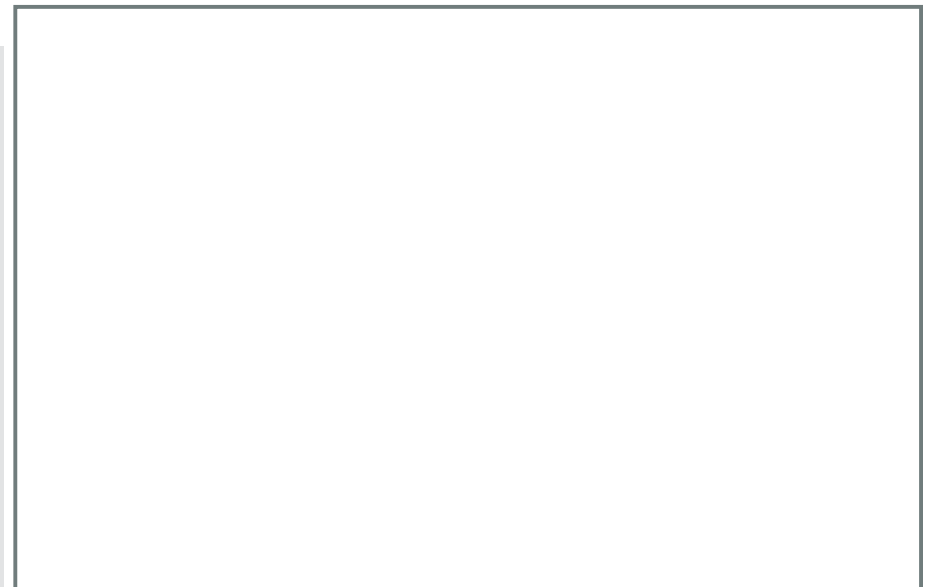
**FIND** the image of the Nenets on the Yamal Peninsula.

This photograph shows a group of nomadic people who live in northern Siberia. The Nenets herd reindeer, sometimes traveling many miles. However, if the weather is too difficult for travel, they may spend several days in the same place. During these times, they struggle to stay warm, and keep busy by repairing their sleds and making clothing from reindeer hides.

THINK of this photograph as the first frame, or the beginning, of a storyboard. What happens next? FILL in the blank boxes with words and/or pictures to tell the middle and end of the story.

*"We must act now to preserve unspoiled land and seascapes and protect the natural sanctuaries of ancient peoples and animals."*

Sebastião Salgado, *Inside the Arctic Circle, Yamal Peninsula, Siberia, Russia*, 2011. © Sebastião Salgado/ Amazonas images—Contact Press Images.





Salgado has said: "In *Genesis*, my camera allowed nature to speak to me. And it was my privilege to listen."

**CONSIDER:** Based on looking at these photographs, what do you think nature said to him?

Salgado is best known for his large-scale, long-term projects on overarching topics.

**DISCUSS:** Do you think you could commit to one photographic project for eight years, as he did with *Genesis*? Which topics would you want to focus on?

Before *Genesis*, Salgado produced two major bodies of work, documenting manual laborers around the world in *Workers* and mass migration driven by famine, natural disaster, war, and other hardships in *Migrations*. Both projects depicted significant human struggle. **COMPARE** *Genesis* to these projects. In some ways, all of his projects are "a call to arms," as the Salgados have described *Genesis*.

If Salgado were to pursue another project, what do you think it should be? In the boxes to the right, WRITE the title of your suggested project and a brief description.



**TITLE:**

**DESCRIPTION:**

Sebastião Salgado, *South Sandwich Islands*, 2009. © Sebastião Salgado/Amazonas images—Contact Press Images.

**Find other images that inspire you and enjoy exploring the rest of the exhibition!**



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