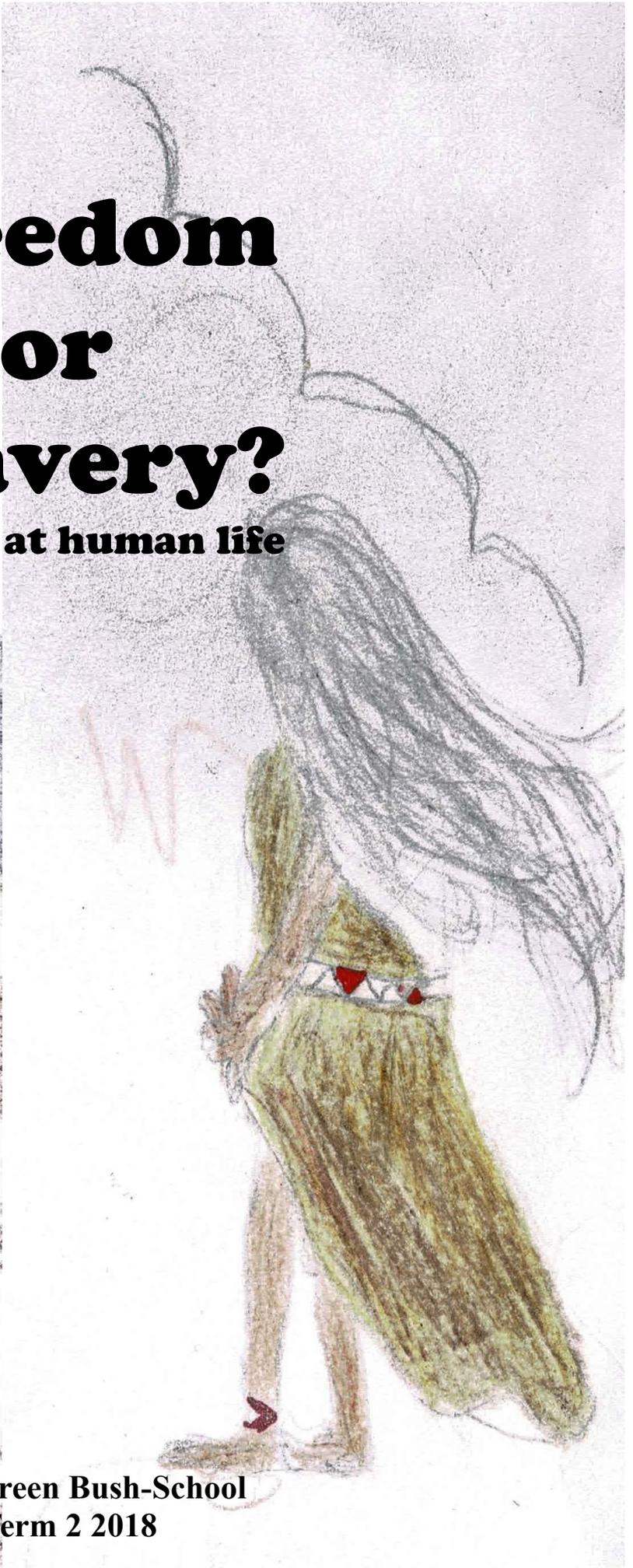
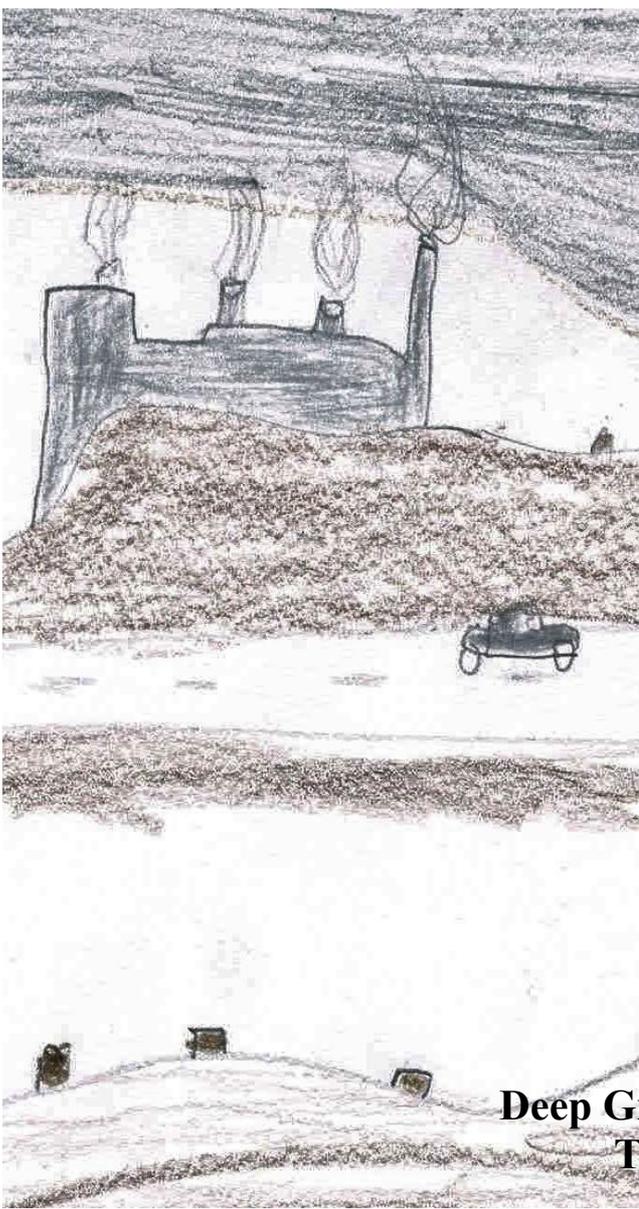


# Freedom or Slavery?

**A look at human life**



**Deep Green Bush-School  
Term 2 2018**

## Message from the Head Teacher

This newsletter is a good example of what happens when you give youth freedom and the chance to play and learn naturally – they become interested in what really matters. The subject of this newsletter was chosen by students. Without being stressed and burdened by useless work, our students are keen to use their minds for critical thinking on important subjects – in this case, the matter of slavery and freedom.

According to school textbooks, slavery ended back in 1833 with Britain's Slavery Abolition Act and in 1863 with Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, and with numerous other laws from other countries. In reality, slavery began with civilisation 6000 years ago and never ended. At last count, there are an estimated 46 million slaves around the world today. But this also is a mistake. As this newsletter will make clear, just about everyone living within a civilisation is a slave – including each and every one of us. Slaves to screens, slaves to consumerism, slaves to ego, slaves to fashion, slaves to money, slaves to religion, slaves to corporations, slaves to the tax collector – there are endless forms of slavery.

While we're conditioned to believe civilisation is an “improvement” on the past (which needed no improving), the fact is that most people living in any civilisation were (and still are) enslaved in various ways and either starving, on the edge of starvation, or malnourished, in addition to being in a perpetual state of war – against the planet and against each other. In Western Civilisation's great example of “democracy”, ancient Greece, most of the people were slaves. Civilisation has hardly been an improvement.

It's crucial for us to see clearly and stop pretending to our kids. The next step is to then ask, what will we do about it? History is full of slave rebellions, both successful and unsuccessful. Gaspar Yanga led a successful slave rebellion against the Spanish in what is today Mexico 500 years ago. Haiti led a successful slave rebellion to free itself from the brutal French colonisation. Early last century, millions of Spaniards established autonomous, collectively-run communities (until they were violently squashed by various European governments). More recently, the Zapatistas in southern Mexico led a successful rebellion to assert their autonomy. Today, a remarkable revolution is taking place in Rojava, in northern Syria, to assert their freedom and create a healthy, peaceful society.

These are all examples of people who value real freedom and know that they don't need any CEO, boss, banker, or politician telling them what to do – every community makes decisions together, to decide what is in the best interest of them all. It takes courage, it takes intelligence and it takes caring about children and the world we leave to them.

That's also what the DGBS is all about.

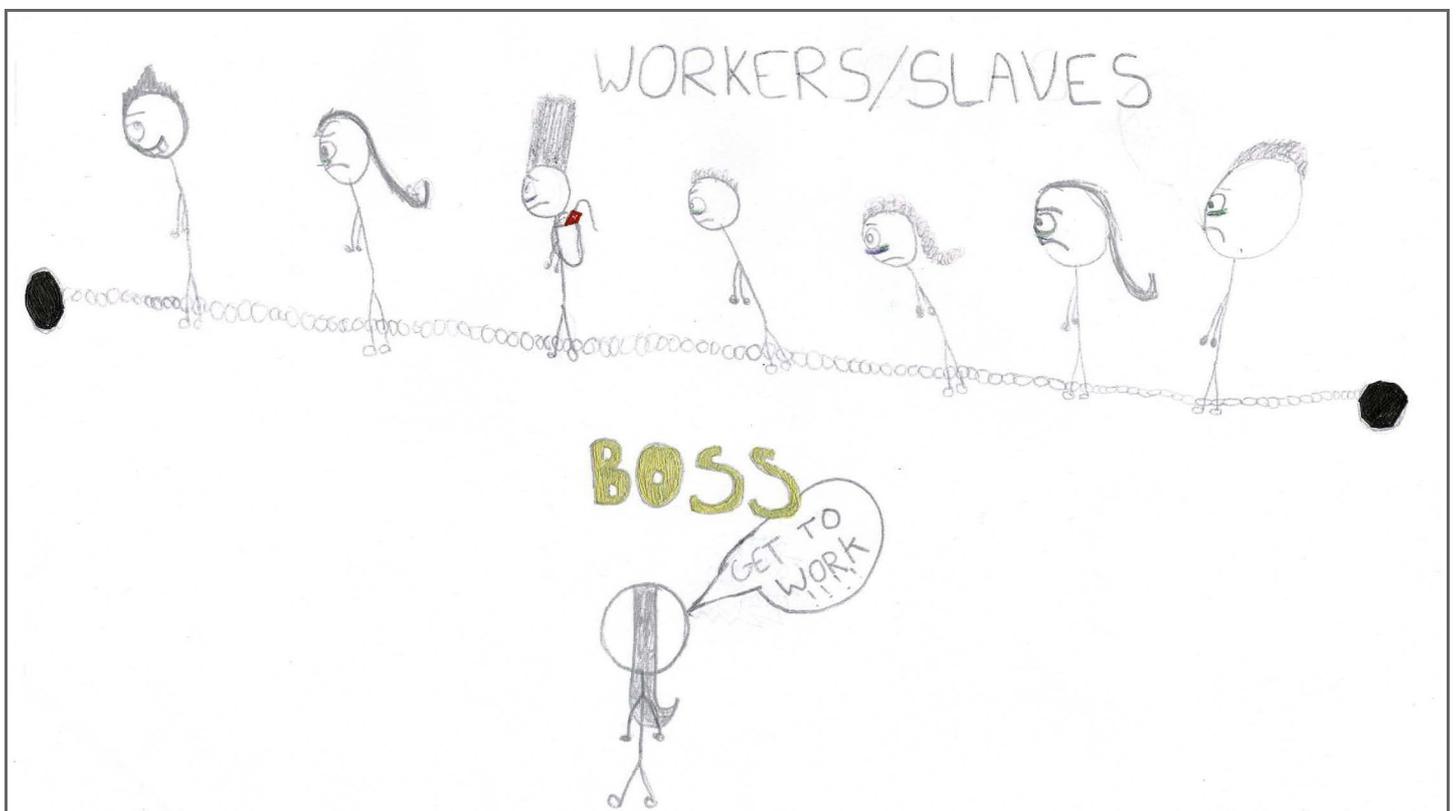


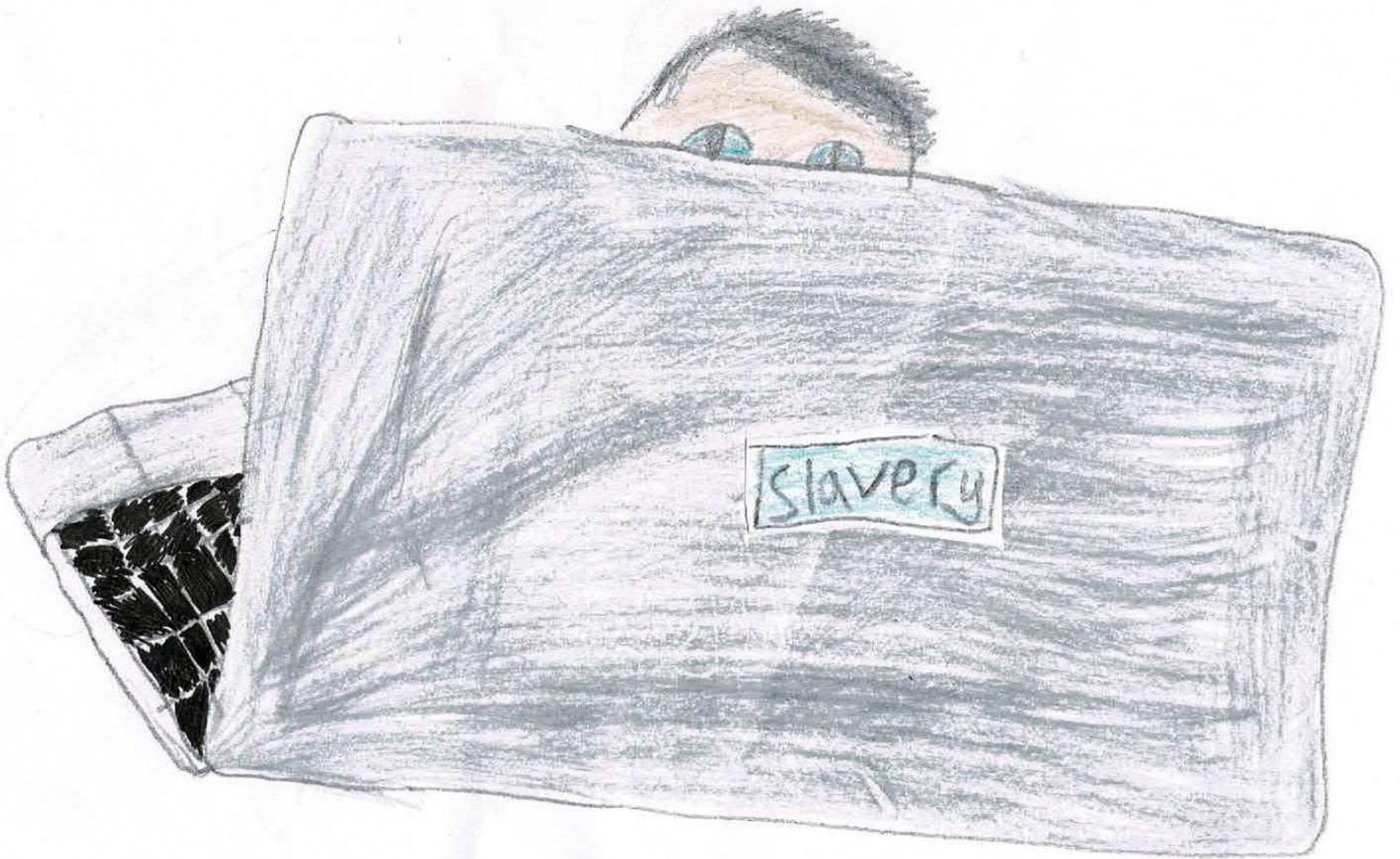
# Modern Slavery

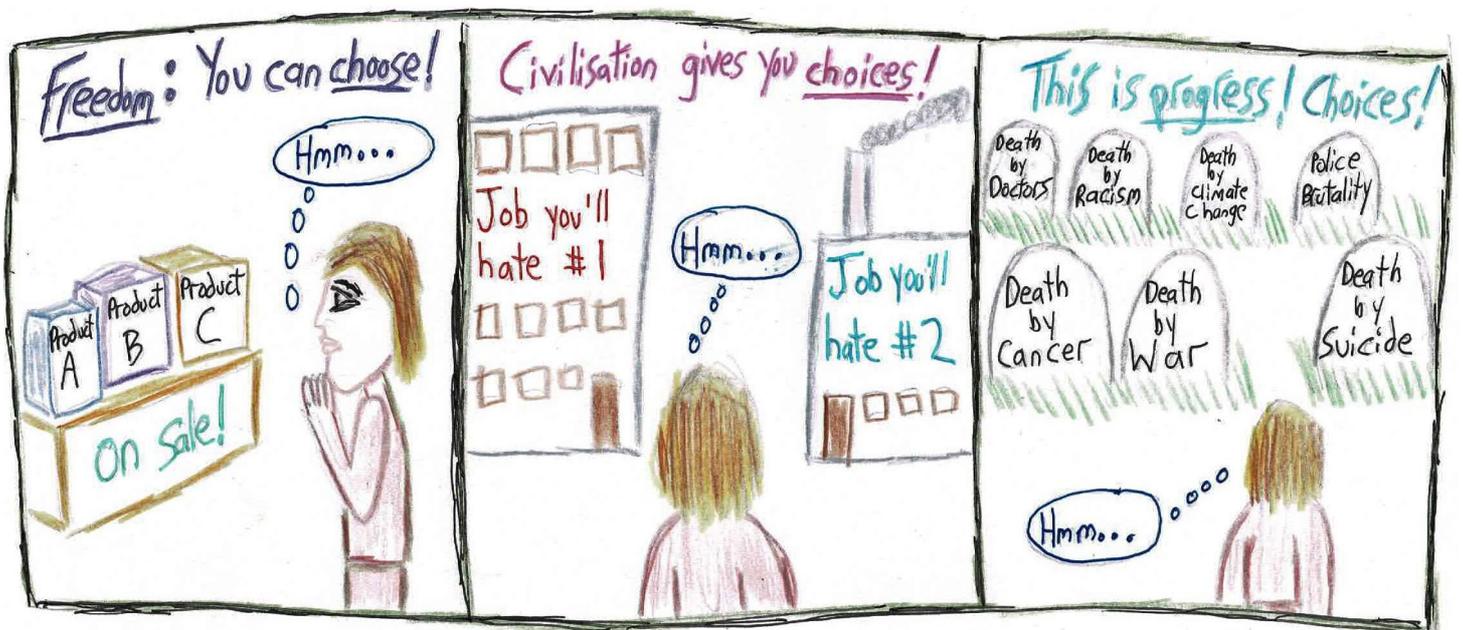
by Baillie

Kids think that when they grow up they will have the best life ever but they will be a slave because people are always slaves. To be honest, it's kind of hard not to be a slave but people have to work all night and all day for nothing. Because you don't own anything – the government can kick you out of your home and build a mine there. They control your every move. But we were not always slaves. We used to be hunters and gatherers. People work in factories, in offices doing computer work, inhaling toxic fumes and get cancer. In factories in the old days if they broke anything they would get killed by the slave masters, the ones who own the factories. We should not be slaves and we should stand up to the slave masters and live the way we want.

Animal slaves are also a problem. Zoos are a really big problem because kids go there and think that the animals don't have feelings and the zoos treat the animals really badly. Like putting them in small cages and feeding them processed and unhealthy food. People put animals in science labs and do experiments on the animals. They put them in cages that they can't even move in. There are factory farms with chickens and pigs. The animals want to have a good life but they can't. People put day old roosters in the grinder and make them into mince and when the hens stop laying eggs they kill them when they have their break at a year old. The factories are cramped and smell and animals die every day. Animals should be free.





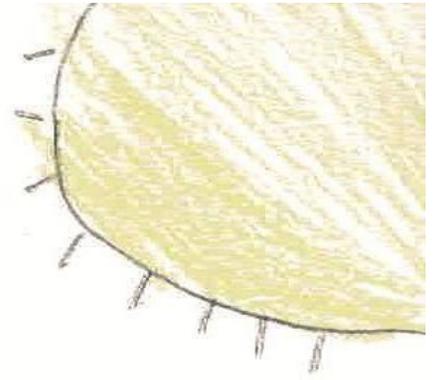


## How We Should Live

by Sage

People say that hunters and gatherers were dumb, violent and savage, but that's just because that's what the government want you to think so we think we're better and smarter now. Hunters and gatherers lived healthy and meaningful lives. Kids would play in the sun and tell jokes all day and there were no rules. The older ones would hunt and gather for on average 3 to 5 hours a day. There were no leaders to tell anyone what to do. There were usually elders whose opinion was respected and listened to. No one had to work in a job they hated for long hours just for a place to sleep and food to eat. They had all sorts of plants for healing and eating. People say that they only lived 25 to 30 years but they really lived from 68 to 78 years old. A lot of them died before 15 due to natural selection. It was better for the population having natural selection because the weak ones died and the strong ones lived.

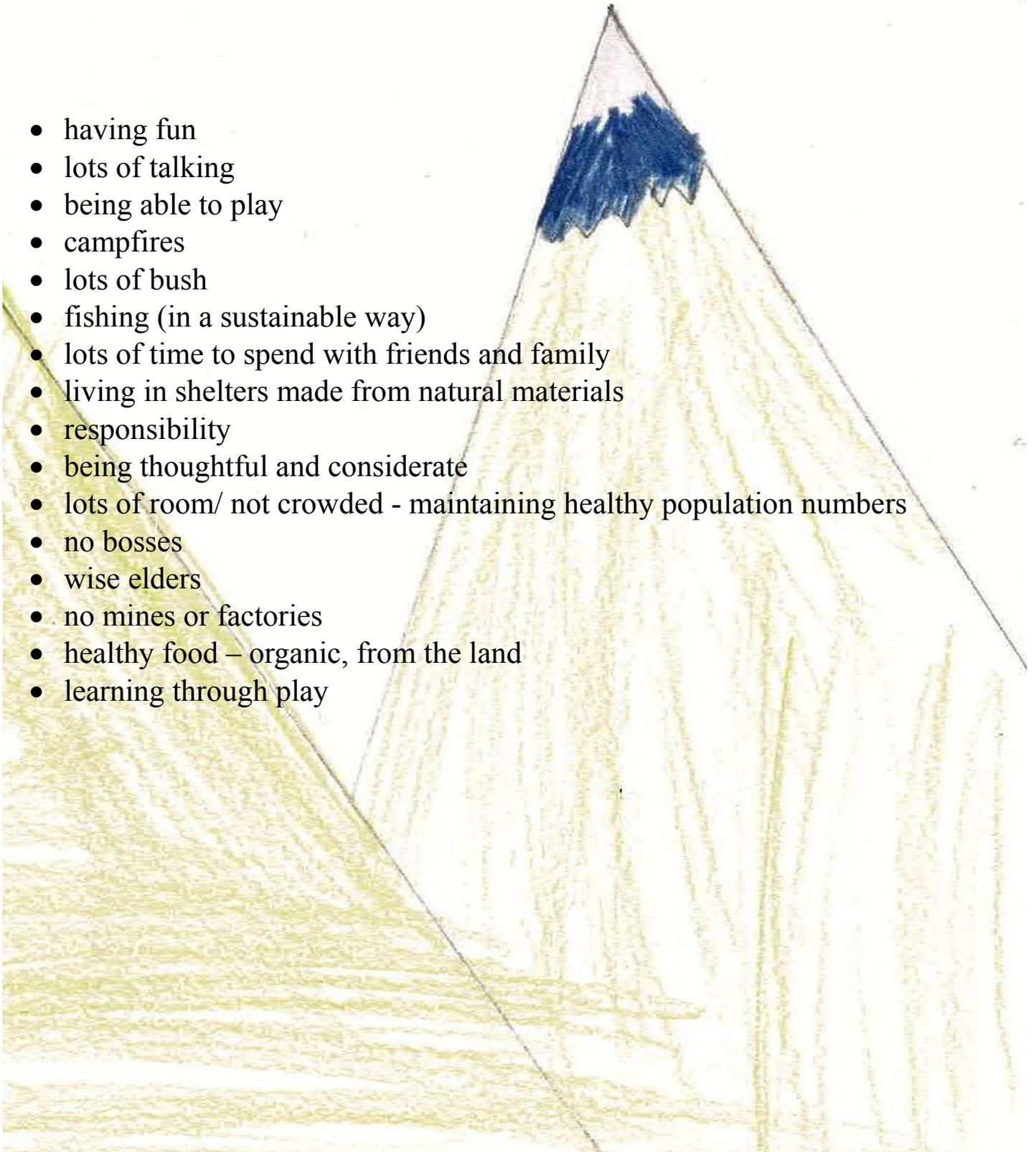
There was no money, slavery and farming until the civilised people started killing, torturing, enslaving and wiping out all the native tribes and bands. When the white people came to America they tortured, enslaved, burned and killed the Native Americans. Based on what I just described, who sounds more violent? People who live by killing anyone who gets in their way and destroying the Earth? Or people who have lived on the Earth for millions of years without doing any damage or harm? People think that we need a fancy car and lots of money to be free, but what we really need is for the corporations and politicians to be out of our lives and to live closer with nature.



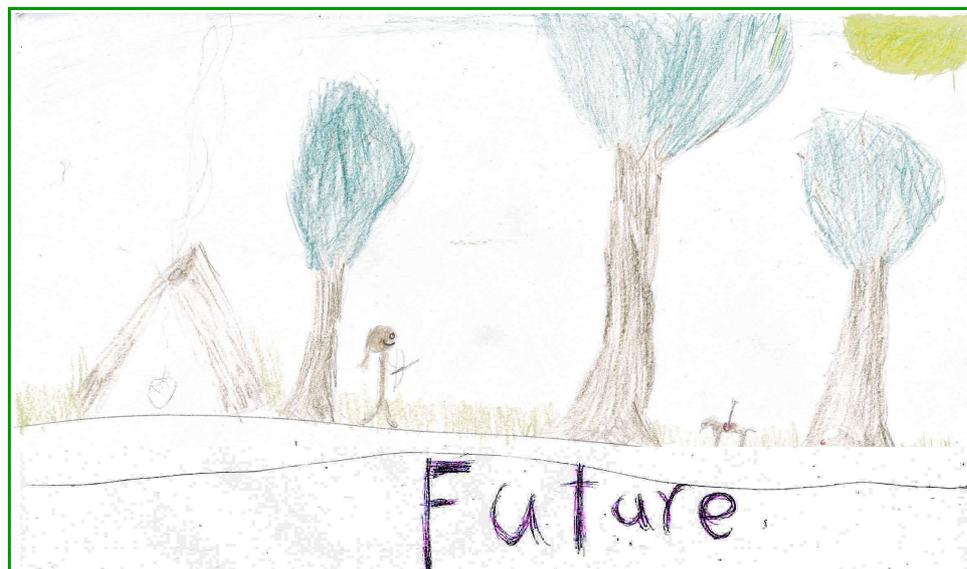
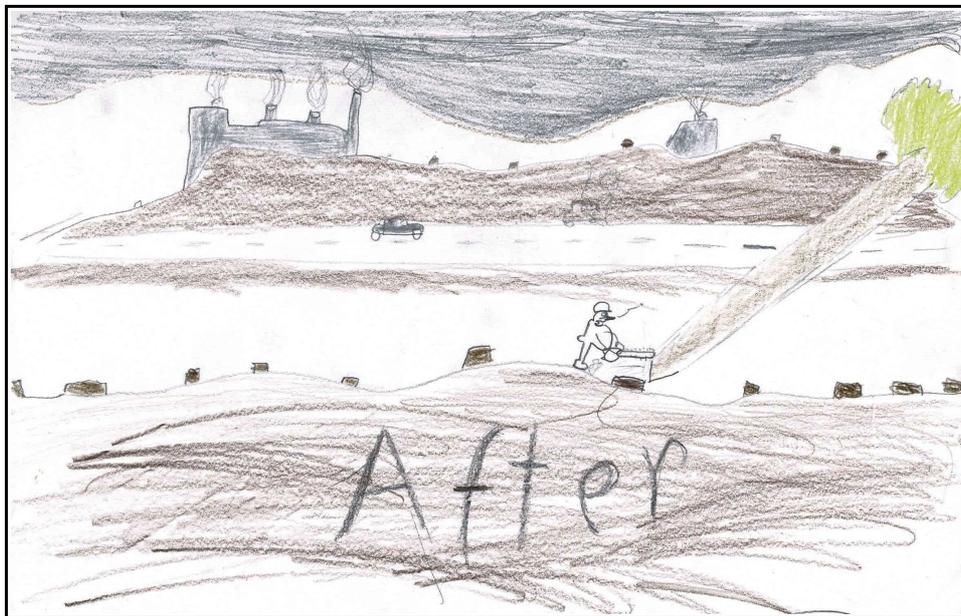
# What is freedom?

by students and staff

- having fun
- lots of talking
- being able to play
- campfires
- lots of bush
- fishing (in a sustainable way)
- lots of time to spend with friends and family
- living in shelters made from natural materials
- responsibility
- being thoughtful and considerate
- lots of room/ not crowded - maintaining healthy population numbers
- no bosses
- wise elders
- no mines or factories
- healthy food – organic, from the land
- learning through play



# Sage's Prediction



# The Slavery Cycle



# Just What You Need

by Nova

We work in offices or just a job we do not like or even a job we do – it's still the same thing. Slavery. You're probably saying, "But we are getting paid." Yes, but you are getting paid in a made up currency and if you don't have money it becomes harder and harder to get. People become homeless and cannot afford food or a roof over their heads. The people with the most money do not have to do anything and make money off of money. Banks make money off of money. They lend you money and you have to pay more and more money back to them. We should not have to work but we do.

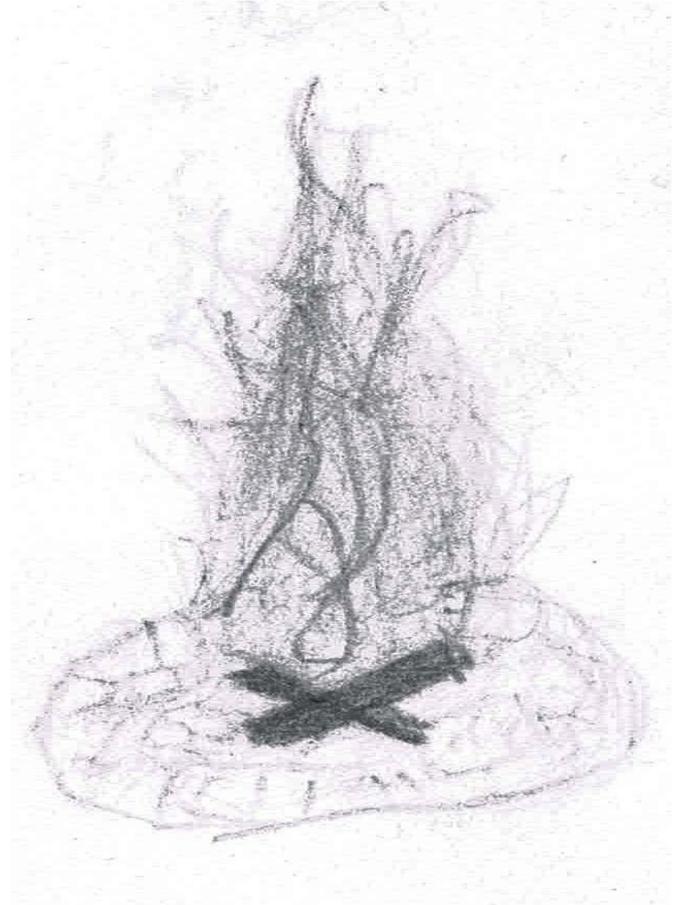
But when we were hunters and gatherers we all shared and worked together. There were no leaders but there were chiefs who did not force anyone to do anything. Their opinion was just respected. I am not saying you should not have money, just don't think you are free because you will never be free in this day and age. And it does not matter if you own land, it's still not yours because if you buy land or a home the government can take it away at any time. And that is why people squat. It's a bit extreme but it's when people find abandoned buildings and homes to temporarily live in. Sometimes even homes that are for sale. And with squatting is dumpster diving which is when people get foods from supermarket dumpsters or shop dumpsters. I'm not saying you should dumpster dive or squat. But you can just live on the minimum, just what you need. No video games or fancy cars. Just what you need.



# Fight Back!

By Heather

These days you're born into slavery. From the second you're born you're told the way you're going to live. For example, you're told to go to school, to go to college, to get a degree, to get a job, to make money, to make a family, to have children, and then the cycle starts again. But how do you get out of the cycle? First, don't believe what the government, corporations, political parties, councils and older generations tell you to do. Question everything because you don't know if what they say is true. For example, politicians, CEOs, and other money-makers only care about money. And to make money they have to make things that will make your life "easier" for you but all it does is make your health worse. So you have to go to the doctors to get a prescription to get drugs to "help you get better" but really it just benefits the companies to make more money (MMM) - that's their motto. And to make these things they have to destroy the Earth to get materials for their products. To get their materials they have to mine and oil drill. To start mining they have to cut down the trees (which produces a large amount of the Earth's oxygen) - to get to the land. Once they get to the land they then use toxic chemicals. And they burn fossil fuels. Oil drilling is even worse because they are cutting down the trees to get to the Earth to start drilling for oil which always leads to oil spills that affect the water and land.



Remember not to let corporations or the rich brainwash you into slavery (work). Don't rely on money to help you live - D.I.Y - Do It Yourself. If you want fruit and veggies then garden. Or work with others in a community garden - it's a lot easier than buying more each week when most of it doesn't get used. If you want meat or seafood then learn to Hunt and Fish. And the most important thing to remember is to organise and work with others to fight the system. Examples of what people can do together are: striking, blockades, school walkouts, civil disobedience (where people break laws that aren't good and shouldn't be enforced), or things like shutting down pipelines and factories. Don't wait for the government to do it - take it into your own hands. There is strength in working together rather than working alone.

# How to Free Ourselves: a start

by students and staff

## Personal action:

- reduce reliance on money (so you have time for more important things than 'jobs')
  - buy at op-shops/second-hand shops
  - hunt and fish
  - garden or use/set up community gardens
  - flatting, co-housing, shared housing
  - avoid wasting money on "wants":
    - brand-name clothes
    - video games, TVs, mobile phones, etc.
    - cars
    - jewelry
    - tourism and travel
- look after yourself:
  - avoid modern technology
  - get enough sleep
  - eat healthy
  - avoid drugs, alcohol and cigarettes
  - spend time outside in nature
  - get plenty of exercise



## Collective action: (what really counts)

- talk with other people
- educate each other
- work strike, general strike, rent strike
- sit-in
- blockade
- school walkout, student strike
- civil disobedience (see Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. for examples)
- mass non-cooperation (again, Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.)
- land occupation
- land re-distribution
- shutting down dangerous/polluting factories
- many other forms of direct action for the common good
- set up alternative structures:
  - community garden
  - tool sharing
  - set up a bush-school!





# the Deep Green Bush-School

*where the spirit of life still thrives*

