



Information and Inspiration

The goal of #IfIWasWild is to connect the causes of human and wildlife survival through Music and Media Outreach. We aim to create a conversation with artists and the greater community through creative means including the #IfIWasWild Challenge. The final outcome of the campaign will be the Anthem and Music Video for #IfIWasWild releasing in October, 2021.

*“I don’t really separate the causes.
We’re all here existing on this land, and we’re all trying to thrive.”*

How Do We Relate?

Did you ever think about the similarities that we have to wildlife?

Did you ever think how connected we are?

Did you ever think about systematic oppression that we go through is similar to what wildlife goes through?

*“Roads and intersections, cut off animals in different directions,
now that’s the same as systematic oppression.” - D.Zign*

- A big threat to wildlife is urban development (just like gentrification and displacement is fragmenting Black communities).
- Humans and animals both share culture, morality, emotions, personality, and both use tools to survive.
- Some animals are found to follow certain religious practices.
- Elephants, chimps and magpies all have a grieving process that includes funeral-like rituals - [more info here](#)

“Did you know that animals, they need affection like us, did you know they have expressions like us.” - 3rd Rock Hip Hop

Check out these Music Examples for Inspiration:



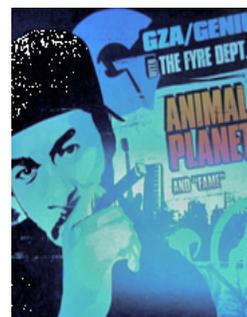
[D.Zign #IfIWasWild](#)



[First Be #IfIWasWild](#)



[Nashon #IfIWasWild](#)



[GZA “Animal Planet”](#)



[3rHH-“How Similar”](#)

Displacement: Freeways and Roads Kill Animals while Freeways and cut off the Lifelines of Black Communities

Learn more about urban displacement

[Brief History of How Racism Shaped Interstate Highways All Over U.S.](#) (Audio)

[The Highways that Displaced more than 500 Black Families in North Carolina](#) (Article)

[Urban Displacement Project](#)

The Story of P22 - The One that Beat the Odds

“P22 is what Tyrese represents to Watts. Tyrese is one of the ones that made it out. Now we’re trying to create ways for others to make it out and not just be lucky. Let’s build crossings for our youth so they don’t have to dodge the obstacles.” - Warren Dickson, 3rd Rock Hip Hop

What makes P-22 especially unique is that he somehow made his way into Griffith Park, the eastern flank of the Santa Monica Mountains. That meant he crossed two major Los Angeles freeways, the 405 and 101, a feat other lions have died trying to do. His safe passage into and life in the park is a testament to the wild spaces remaining in Los Angeles, but his story isn’t one of total success. Hemmed in by freeways and urban sprawl on all sides, it is difficult for lions to disperse and define their own territory and eventually mate. [Read More Here](#)

Other Facts about how Humans and Animals Relate:

- Humans and Animals both have similar social skills and make similar facial expressions
- Humans and Dolphins both talk while sleeping.
- Just like Humans, Whales also have regional accents.
- Gibbons are believed to have similar communication skills as those of humans.
- An Octopus has a similar level of house building skills to that of a human.
- Pigeons make gambles just like humans, making choices that leave them with less money in the long run for the elusive promise of a big payout.
- We all have some of the same organs

Lyrics from #IfIWasWild Examples

D.Zign (Watts, CA)

Featured Verse for #IfIWasWild:

Do you look at birds feathers to decide if it deserves better
is my skin color, what they use to measure me?
if i was bird i would fly just to find peace
sometimes i watch them just to find me
roads and intersection cut off animals in different directions
that's the same as systematic oppression
Is a racoon really a thief or is that how we look at it?
Or are they really tryin' to survive cause they don't have it, how they had it?
I know that I've been judged due to a misunderstanding
but all we got is love, we all gotta live on this planet
we don't appreciate a caterpillar until it turns into a butterfly and shows its colors

that should reminds us not to judge a book by a cover
or by the current circumstances of someone
if I was a bee I'd be buzzing, and if I was a plant
I would hope that I could be a rose, so I could give you all a Dozen
most of the bugs and insects I see around me
travel with their relatives like we do with our families
coyotes howling but it reminds me, of us crying
cause we want you to love us like you love mountain lions
we feel for the Lions but we want your alliance
and some empathy cause one day we may need your guidance
and we may need your voice, we don't need your silence
we're just like each other, the animals are like us

First Be (Hercules, CA)

Example for #IfIWasWild:

Just like birds make different noises
We all have different voices
Crows get a bad rap because they're black and boisterous
Pigeons are amongst the smartest
But stereotyped because they are always in the hood loitering
While the police, acting like a gang of geese
And inflame the streets with their brand of angry release
The big birds glide above without a care
Reminds me of the private jets of billionaires
Birds build the most extravagant nests
While we drive the baddest whips to attract the opposite sex
We all aging but trying not to get washed
Like crabs on the beach who stay by the rocks
Different struggles but somehow relate
We're all like ants carrying 5000 times our body weight
But most species stick together
And so could we
Flying in the victory formation so free

Nashon Da Bomb (New Bedford, MA)

Example for #IfIWasWild:

(Let it grow wild!)
We're a planet of animals
So we gotta share it all
(Let it grow wild!)
Doesn't matter the difference
It's what we've been gifted
(Let it grow wild!)
Can't you feel the analogy
Down to your anatomy
(Let it grow wild!)
Let your wild side out
Spread the love all around.

Let's flip the script

And switch the the prints
From hands to paws
To understand the cause
Between the beasts
From trees
To streets
And their nature
That's put in danger
Stop this erasure!
Just imagine
A rabbit sitting in a burrow
His habitat's looking narrow
When humans are out to terra form
And poor ol' Peter
Who ain't got change for the meter
They're kickin' him to his seat and
Their mall is getting completed.
What do we need another highway for?
Who's asking for a superstore?
We're not superior
Same story
In a different format
But we're speaking for that
Like we're the Lorax.

(But one day)
We'll reach harmony
And learn to live in peace
(And we'll change)
Now we rise to stop it
Wild side unblocked, yeah!