

Pen pals on same page
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It's not every day an 88-year-old has something in common with a tween.

But, Sir David Attenborough is far from your average octogenarian and, at age 11, Darcy Smoother is particularly inquisitive.

The acclaimed naturalist and the youngster from Montrose share a love of animals.

Keen to learn more, the grade five student wrote Sir David a letter.

"My favourite animal is a dolphin, but I am asking you a question about monkeys," she wrote.

"How many different types of monkeys are there in the world, and what percentage of those are now or are becoming extinct?"

To her excitement, the famous Brit penned a response.

He pointed to a list describing 212 different monkey species, 109 of which are now thought to be in danger of extinction.

"The reason so many are becoming so rare is, in most cases, because the particular forest in which they live is being cut down," Sir David said.

Darcy, who simply thought "it would be good to know" these things, said she loves watching Sir David's shows because they are "always interesting and full of fun and educational facts".

Describing him as "really cool", she said she likes "how he's connected to animals and how he talks about them."

Already thinking about her next letter to the broadcaster, Darcy said she now wants to know what can be done to help save the primates.

Start collecting your David Attenborough Essential Collection DVDs with the Herald Sun from next Saturday. There are 14 DVDs over 14 days to complete the collection. Details: heraldsun.com.au/attenborough