

Dear AP Biology students,

We are very excited to meet you next year and look forward to helping you further become an amazing student and person. Until then, we want you to take this summer to enjoy yourself, find balance, read for pleasure, watch something funny, explore tide pools, you get the idea. On page two there is a list of fun activities you may want to try if you have not before. You will learn A LOT during AP Biology, so come refreshed, ready to work hard and have fun.

For those of you who checked out a textbook and WANT to look at it, please do so sparingly and for small chunks of time. Look at the figures but don't try to read and memorize the text. We use the [College Board framework](#) but do the sequence of units in our order of preference. We start with Unit 7: Evolution then move into Unit 8: Ecology. **The chemistry covered in this course, according to the College Board, is now considered prior knowledge. If you do look at the text, start with Chapter 1 to get an overview of what this course will cover generally. You may also want to refresh your basic chemistry knowledge in Chapters 2-5. This [link](#) will give you reading guides to the first 5 chapters of the Campbell 10th edition textbook we use in class.**

We actually recommend reading, "A Mind for Numbers," or "Make it Stick: The science of Successful Learning" this summer. These books will help you learn more about how our brains learn and discover study strategies that will make this class a better learning experience. AP Biology is not about memorization and recall, it is about critical thinking, problem solving, and science practice skills. The way you are used to studying does not typically work in this type of AP course. You may need to shift your thinking about how you prepare throughout the year. We will be sharing these strategies with you to help you find success early on, but getting a handle on them prior to coming to school will help prepare you more!

Remember, there is no specific summer assignment other than to come to us in August with an eagerness to work hard and learn. The following page has some fun activities you can do around San Diego or anywhere you spend your summer that will help you enjoy biology and nature without studying.

Have a fantastic summer,

Juli Cheskaty

"A good teacher will leave you educated. But a great teacher will leave you curious. Well, Barbara Oakley is a great teacher. Not only does she have a mind for numbers, she has a way with words, and she makes every one of them count."
—Mike Rosen, creator and host of Discovery Channel's *Dirty Jobs* and CEO of makeitWORKS

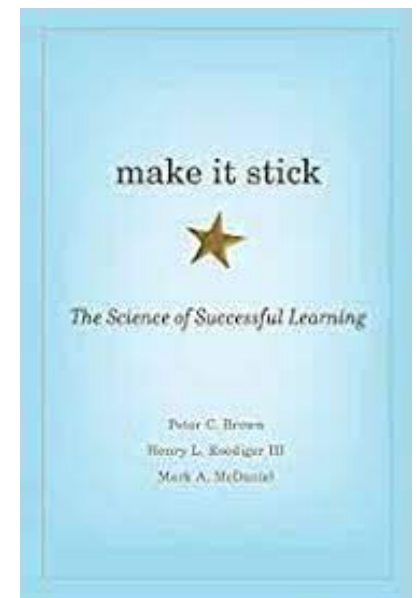
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HOW TO EXCEL AT
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(Even If You Flunked Algebra)

BARBARA OAKLEY, Ph.D.



AP Biology Summer Fun-

Extracurricular activity scavenger hunt. Complete the task listed, and provide the appropriate documentation (indicated in parentheses). **This is optional but if you do complete any of the tasks, I would love to see pics or hear about your experiences. If you do something in nature that is not on this list you may include it. I may add it next year. Enjoy life!**

1. Watch the news/Check the Google News Aggregator/Read a newspaper at least once a week.
(copy of article, or log of date/URL and a 1-sentence summary of a news item from each week)
2. Explore the tide pools (I recommend the ones at the end of Rosecrans in Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument but you have to pay a fee) research the role of three organisms in this ecosystem. (photo of organisms and a small description of their role)
3. Explore the metal sculptures of Anza-Borrego Desert and take pictures of you next to three of your favorite sculptures. (photos)
4. Grow a plant. (living plant brought to class on day 1)
5. Go on two different hikes around SD County. (photos AND maps)
6. Go see dinosaurs in the Natural History Museum. (photo AND stub)
7. Go to a water-based amusement park. (photo AND stub)
8. Go to a beach, wear sunscreen and look through the washed up kelp for critters like serpent stars. Look in the wet stuff, not the dry stinky stuff. (photos, discussion of creatures you found)
9. Snorkel. (description of your experience)
10. Sleep outside, under the stars. (photo)
11. Look for wild animals in nature. (photo of animal AND photo of you standing where the animal was, if the animal is a grizzly, mountain lion, or something else that could harm you, please keep your distance. I don't want any lawsuits.)
12. Play the board game with your family or chosen family. (photo)
13. Set up a geocaching tournament for you and your friends. (photo and map)
14. Identify three species of tree in your neighborhood. (leaves & genus/species of each)
15. Feed a snail some lettuce. (video)
16. Feed ducks or turtles on three separate occasions. Make sure the feed is safe for the animals.
Do your research. (photos)
17. See a movie in a theater. Make sure it's a good one. (stub)