

OUR PLANET- CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

A WEEK'S MENU OF K-12 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCES

Curated by [Santa Cruz County Office of Education](#) in partnership with [The Bird School Project](#), [Coastal Watershed Council](#), [Elkhorn Slough Reserve](#), [Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#), [Save Our Shores](#), [Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History](#), [Seymour Marine Discovery Center](#), [Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History](#), [Watsonville Wetlands Watch](#), [Life Lab](#) and [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#)

Activities for younger grades emphasize the wonder of our planet and encourage exploration and connection--the foundation for future stewardship! Upper grade activities emphasize protecting the environment and taking action.

LIVESTREAM PROGRAMS:

Monday 5/25 LIVE @ 1PM [Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History: Exploring the Monterey Bay Canyon](#)

Discover how upwelling provides food for the animals that call the bay home. Join here <https://zoom.us/j/697172563>

May 25-31 CA State Parks - Santa Cruz District Livestream programs [Schedule here.](#)

May 4-June 8 Monterey Bay Salmon & Trout Education Program Virtual Field Trips. [Schedule here.](#)

ONLINE CLIMATE EDUCATION RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS FROM Santa Cruz Climate Action Network [HERE](#)

GRADE TK-2nd	Coastal Watershed Council: Saving Water, Saving Fish 30 minutes of activities Build a model to explore how human uses of water can harm steelhead trout. Virtual Activity Guide Or PDF Guide (English) PDF Guide (Spanish)	Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History: What's in a Naturalist's Backpack? Who - or what - is a naturalist? What do they carry out into the field? Includes many resources focused on nature journaling and connecting to nature, including the Art of Nature at home , and the museum's Cultivating Awareness guide .	Life Lab's Sheet Shake Backpacket Activity Use a sheet to explore just how much life can live in a backyard bush or shrub. <i>Also for older students!</i> Demonstration Video Life Lab's Rainbow chip Backpacket Activity Explore your yard or nearby outdoor space for all the colors of the	Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History: Cloud Observation activity. Read and view images exploring different kinds of clouds and then use this chart to make observations and record data in order to better detect patterns of local weather and make predictions about the climate.	Life Lab's Pondering Plants Science Lessons Students examine the jobs of three different plant parts-roots, stems, and leaves-to understand that all plants need the same resources- sun, soil, water, and air. Life Lab's Soil Stories Science Lessons Students dig into dirt and discover the
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			rainbow. Use paint samples or other color chips as a guide. Also for older students! Demonstration Video		secrets of the intricate ecosystem living beneath their feet.
GRADE 3rd	Life Lab's Garden Pollinators Science Lessons Examining the diversity of pollinators in the garden and their role in the ecosystem provides an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the mechanisms of adaptation.	Life Lab's Six of One, Half Dozen of the other Lesson Students use multiple senses to find and classify contrasting objects in the natural environment. <i>Also for older students!</i> Demonstration video	Save Our Shores: Beach Cleanup Virtual Field Trip Explore human impacts to the sandy beach habitat 12 minute video paired with data card and worksheet	Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History: Natural Dye Video & Tutorial : Watch a short video exploring how to turn the common weed known as "sourgrass" into a vibrant natural dye! Pair with this page exploring natural pigments , too!	Seymour Marine Discovery Center's Bat Star Creature Feature 4 min video + activity Look at patterns, structure and function of a bat star and then make a model at home.
GRADE 4th-5th	Coastal Watershed Council: Neighborhood Trash Study Activity Guide (English) Activity Guide (Spanish) Explore your neighborhood streets and document how much trash you see, learning about the different ways that trash impacts our	Coastal Watershed Council: Green Home Detectives Activity Guide (English) Activity Guide (Spanish) Explore your home to learn how your family can help reduce waste, save energy and save water. <i>Also for younger students!</i>	Elkhorn Slough Reserve Protecting Our Planet from Plastic Can be done over multiple days or each activity assigned separately. Build understanding of the impact of plastics on birds through games and activities and then create of a personal	Coastal Watershed Council: Let's Stop Erosion Challenge 30-45 minutes of activities Observe erosion in action and then create a tool to stop erosion. Virtual Activity Guide Or PDF Guide (English)	Life Lab's Garden Habitat Science Lessons A full unit that explores plant and animal habitats to help students learn more about the diversity of life in the garden. <i>Adult guidance needed. Go to link to download pdf.</i>

	community and environment. <i>Good for many ages!</i>		flier to tell the plastic story. Open this Hyperdoc and work through the activities.	PDF Guide (Spanish)	
GRADE MS	Elkhorn Slough Reserve Protecting Our Planet from Plastic Hyperdoc 5E lesson, could be done over multiple days or each activity assigned separately. Builds an understanding of the impact of plastics on birds through games and activities. Culminates with the creation of a personal flier to tell the plastic story.	Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History: The Importance of Surfgrass 7 minute lesson Surfgrass habitats provide crucial habitat for many organisms here on the California coast.	Watsonville Wetlands Watch & Strategic Energy Innovation 1 minute video & Worksheet Video made by Pajaro Valley High School student on reducing your carbon footprint, and Introduction to Green Transportation worksheet .	Watsonville Wetlands Watch & Strategic Energy Innovation 1 minute video & worksheet Video made by Pajaro Valley High School student on home energy audits, and Personal Energy Assessment worksheet .	Coastal Watershed Council: Neighborhood Pollution Prevention 30-45 minutes of activities Survey your neighborhood for signs of pollution and then learn how you can help prevent that pollution from getting into our rivers. Virtual Activity Guide Or PDF Guide (English) PDF Guide (Spanish)
GRADE HS	Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History Beach Clean-up tutorial and walkthrough : watch a short video and follow the steps on how to conduct a safe beach clean-up that promotes healthy	Watsonville Wetlands Watch & Strategic Energy Innovation 5 minute video & worksheet Video made by Pajaro Valley High School student on climate change, and	Watsonville Wetlands Watch & Strategic Energy Innovation 4 minute video & worksheet Video made by Pajaro Valley High School student on the benefits of a	A Good Ideas Project: A Problem-Solving Hyperdoc for the Environment Use this tool to identify environmental topics you care about and	Monterey Bay Aquarium #TEENS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE Grades 6-12 a free interactive course influenced and inspired by teens to help youth find a

	beaches.	Introduction to Sustainability and climate change worksheet.	plant-based diet, and Understanding our impact and food waste log worksheet.	generate ideas to improve things.	spark for conservation and take action.
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