

Books for Kids: Environmental Conservation and Protection

Picture Books (J-Easy)

Bee & me
by Alison Jay
Stand Up! Speak Up!: A Story Inspired by the Climate Change Revolution
by Andrew Joyner
We Are Water Protectors
by Carole Lindstrom

The Water Princess
by Susan Verde
Miss Maple's Seeds
by Eliza Wheeler
Kate, who Tamed the Wind
by Liz Garton Scanlon

Chapter Books (J-Fiction)

Elsie Mae Has Something to Say
by Nancy J.avanaugh
Big Game
by Stuart Gibbs
Hoot
by Carl Hiaasen
Garbage Island
by Fred Koehler

Gorilla Dawn
by Gill Lewis
The Last Panther
by Todd Mitchell
Forest of Wonders
by Linda Sue Park
Rooting for Rafael Rosales
by Kurtis Scaletta

J-Nonfiction

You Can Change the World: The Kids' Guide to a Better Planet
by Lucy Bell. 363.7 BELL
Plastic: Past, Present, and Future
by Eun-Ju Kim 363.72 KIM
True Green Kids: 100 Things You Can Do to Save the Planet
by Kim McKay and Jenny Bonnin 363.7 M153T
Don't Let them Disappear: 12 Endangered Species across the Globe
by Chelsea Clinton 591.68 CLIN

Can We Save the Tiger?
by Martin Jenkins 591.68 J52C
Follow the Moon Home: A Tale of One Idea, Twenty Kids, and a Hundred Sea Turtles
by Philippe Cousteau and Deborah Hopkinson 597.928 COUS
Start Now!: You Can Make a Difference
by Chelsea Clinton 646.7 CLIN

J-Biography

Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace
by Jen Cullerton Johnson 333.72092 M111J
One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia
by Miranda Paul 363.728096 CEES
Rachel Carson and Ecology for Kids: Her Life and Ideas, with 21 Activities and Experiments
by Rowena Rae 570.92 CARS

The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps
by Jeanette Winter 590.92 G646W
Shark Lady: the True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist
by Jess Keating 597.3 CLAR
The Forest Man: The True Story of Jadav Payeng
by Anne Matheson and Kay Widdowson 634.95 PAYE

Teen Activity: Bee Hotels

Bees are a very important part of our ecosystem. They help pollinate flowers which provide us with essential foods like fruits and vegetables. Unfortunately, these helpful little workers are on the endangered species list. To help, we can build small bee "hotels" to provide temporary shelter to solitary bees so they can rest on long journeys, or to protect them from rough weather like rain.

Supplies:

- Paper bags
- String
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Clean empty can or bottle with top cut off

Instructions:

1. Make sure the can or bottle is clean and dry.
2. Cut paper bags into rectangles approximately 2 inches wide and the same length as the can or bottle (they don't have to be perfect!).
3. Roll each strip of paper around a pencil to turn it into a straw-like tube. If you like, you can secure the tubes with tape or glue to keep them wrapped tight. They do not have to all be the same diameter.
4. Place your tubes into the can or bottle until it is packed tight, but not too tight that the tubes lose their shape.
5. Tie a string around the can or bottle and leave enough left over so that you can hang it in a sunny spot outside. Think about placing it in areas where bees may be hanging out, like near a bed of flowers.

The paper is biodegradable (zero-waste) and the seeds will germinate

You can forage for other natural materials such as dried grass, sticks and twigs, or pinecones to place in the can or bottle as well.

You can decorate it any way you like (e.g., paint the can with yellow and black stripes, add some eyes and wings so it looks like a bee)

Books for Teens

Fiction

War Girls
by Tochi Onyebuchi
The Last Human
by Lee Bacon
Unnatural Disasters
by Jeff Hirsch
The Last
by Katherine Applegate
The Emissary
by Yoko Tawada

Nonfiction

Taking on the Plastics Crisis
by Hannah Testa 363.738 TEST
End of the Megafauna: The Fate of the World's Hugest, Fiercest, and Strangest Animals
by Ross D. E. MacPhee 591.41 MACP
Silent Spring
by Rachel Carson 363.7384 CARS 2002

A Life on Our Planet: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future
by David Attenborough, Jonnie Hughes 508 ATTE
Into the Deep: Science, Technology, and the Quest to Protect the Ocean
by Christy Peterson 551.46 PETE

Kids Activity: Handmade Seeded Paper

Supplies:

- Mix of shredded regular paper/ torn newspaper pieces/ toilet paper
- Wildflower seeds/ poppies/ cat grass, etc.
- 2 large bowls
- Blender
- Small screen with frame (at least 12"x24")
- Heavy bath towels
- Waxed paper
- Scissors (cookie cutters/scissors with decorative edge, optional)

Instructions:

1. Shred/cut up/ tear paper into small pieces. Place into a bowl with about five cups of water (completely submerge all pieces). Let sit for six hours to overnight.
2. Place 1.5 cups of clean water in the blender. Add a large handful of soggy paper to the blender, draining off the excess water as you transfer it. Put the lid on and use the pulse function to make a mushy mixture. Pour the mixture into a clean bowl and repeat with more paper until all the paper has been blended.
3. Place two thick bath towels on a waterproof surface and lay the framed screen on top. Spread the pulpy paper mixture onto the screen, flattening it out in a thin layer as you go. The towels will absorb the water (you may need to change them out during the process).
4. Sprinkle the packet of seeds evenly over the wet paper, patting them down firmly into the mixture with your hands. Then apply a piece of waxed paper over the mixture, pressing hard to squeeze out any excess water.
5. Cover with waxed paper (weighted down on the edges) and place in the sun. It may take a few days to completely dry, depending on how thick your paper is. It should be stiff.
6. You can use regular scissors, decorative edge scissors, or cookie cutters (trace shape onto paper) to make separate seed cards. These can be decorated/ labeled with markers, or even stamped, and are now ready to "plant" in your own spring garden, or to be offered to family and friends! In the garden, lay the paper flat and cover with about .5 inches of wet soil.



Homeschool Connections

An Educational Resource Tool

SPRING 2021

LOCATION KEY

- CA Calhan Library**
(719) 531-6333, x7013
600 Bank St., Calhan
- CH Cheyenne Mountain Library**
(719) 531-6333, x7001
1785 S. 8th St.
- EA East Library**
5550 N. Union Blvd.
(719) 531-6333, x7014
- FO Fountain Library**
230 S. Main St., Fountain
(719) 531-6333, x7002
- HI High Prairie Library**
7035 Old Meridian Rd., Falcon
(719) 531-6333, x7003
- KCH Knights of Columbus Hall**
20 W. Pikes Peak Ave.
(719) 531-6333
- LI Library 21c**
1175 Chapel Hills Dr.
(719) 531-6333, x7012
- MA Manitou Springs Library**
515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs
(719) 531-6333, x7004
- Mobile Library Services**
ppld.org/mobile-library-services
(719) 531-6333, x2313
- MO Monument Library**
1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument
(719) 531-6333, x7005
- OL Old Colorado City Library**
2418 W. Pikes Peak Ave.
(719) 531-6333, x7006
- PE Penrose Library**
20 N. Cascade Ave.
(719) 531-6333, x7015
- RO Rockrimmon Library**
832 Village Center Dr.
(719) 531-6333, x7008
- RU Ruth Holley Library**
685 N. Murravy Blvd.
(719) 531-6333, x7009
- SA Sand Creek Library**
1821 S. Academy Blvd.
(719) 531-6333, x7018
- UT Ute Pass Library**
8010 Severy Rd., Cascade
(719) 531-6333, x7011



Homeschool Hub

ppld.org/homeschool-hub

Whether you are a veteran homeschooling family, or just getting started, visit the PPLD Homeschool Hub to check out community and library events, sign up for eNewsletters, and access reading lists. Click on the "Resources" tab to link to information on getting started, Colorado homeschool law, local enrichment programs, tutoring, extracurricular activities, support organizations, and more.

Back to Nature: Conservation

Forest fires are on the rise in Colorado, California, the rest of the United States, and across the world. Last summer, Colorado saw its largest fire yet: The Cameron Peak Fire. Though wildfires are scary, they are also normal in some ways, and worth researching to find out more.

For a long time, forestry and land management groups suppressed naturally occurring fires in parks and open spaces. However, with more research, scientists learned that many ecosystems rely on naturally occurring, periodic fires; that's why it's necessary for land management professionals to manually set small, controlled fires throughout the year. This can be difficult as we continue to build new homes and communities on what was once open, buffer space between cities and forests. Here in Colorado, we also have many large stands of beetle-kill trees making fires easy to start, fast to grow, and hard to control. Finally, our average temperatures are getting higher, warm weather is coming sooner, and snow is melting earlier.

What's causing these temperature changes? Climate change refers to the current global temperature change that is being documented by scientists. The Earth is slowly warming, which doesn't sound altogether scary, but even the tiniest temperature change can result in dramatic consequences, including the extreme weather patterns we've been witnessing world-wide over the past several years.

Want to hear some good news? Great strides are being taken worldwide to help fight global warming including the use of solar panels and other renewable energy by homes, businesses, and even schools. Globally, we are now producing more solar- and wind-based power than from non-renewable resources. Many big businesses including Walmart and Apple have committed to dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emission and their overall carbon footprint.

So how can we all work together to help slow or even stop Earth's climate change and make a brighter future? There are lots of small steps you and your family can take to cut your carbon footprint, reduce greenhouse gases, and help fight that global temperature rise:

- Reduce the number of trips you take in the car
- Walk or bike instead of driving
- Reduce the amount of packaging you use (especially plastic) by buying bulk, buying locally, or making it yourself
- Lower the heat in your house or reduce the amount of time in the shower
- Try some green activities for kids (environmentamerica.org/feature/ame/greener-together-0)

For inspiring stories, visit dailyclimate.org/good-news/, or check out this list of resources from Yale: yaleclimateconnections.org/2020/09/where-to-find-upbeat-news-about-climate-change/. And learn how Colorado scientists figure out what to burn, how, and when at The Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (cfri.colostate.edu/)

Other Cool Resources: Green Websites for Kids

Energy Kids

(eia.gov/kids/)

This U.S. Energy Information Administration site explains what energy is, what sources provide energy, how we use and can save energy, and also has games for the kids.

NASA Climate Kids

(climatekids.nasa.gov/)

This NASA site tackles big questions, such as "What is the greenhouse effect?" and "How do we know the climate is changing?" Kids can also browse an array of games, activities, and videos focused on the environment.

Our Planet

(ourplanet.com/en/explorable-globe/landing/)

Based on Netflix's documentary series, Our Planet, this site provides a self-guided tour of the globe, inviting users to explore fresh water, grasslands, jungles, and other habitats. Each module offers stunning visuals, facts, and ideas about how you can help the planet.

Recycle City

(www3.epa.gov/recyclecity/)

This interactive EPA site invites kids to learn about the basics of recycling by discovering how the citizens of Recycle City recycle, reduce, and reuse waste. Explore the main map, try one of the games, or check out the learning resources.

Smithsonian: Explore Science & Nature

(si.edu/explore/science)

Browse this information-packed site to discover an array of fascinating topics, or narrow your focus with search terms, such as "conservation" or "endangered species." Read an array of well-written articles, watch a video webcast, or learn about objects in the Smithsonian's collection. Be sure to check out the "Fun Stuff for Kids and Teens" page (si.edu/kids).



The NEW Bookshelf

Kid to Kid's Books: Fresh Reads for Spring

On a Snow-Melting Day: Seeking Signs of Spring

by Buffy Silverman

Enjoy a poetic photo essay, with easy-to-read text, and watch winter begin to melt away as spring sneaks in. A glossary is included at the end of the book, along with two full pages of scientific facts about the animals and happenings mentioned in the text.

Ages 3 - 8; Science, Poetry (J-508.2 SILV)



Photo Ark: Celebrating Our Wild World in Poetry and Pictures

by Kwame Alexander

Engaging photos of all kinds of endangered animals, eloquent poetry, and insightful notes from both the photographer and author about the process of making such a book add up to a lovely volume. Lift the back flap to find the names of the featured animals and their conservation status.

Ages 3 - 10; Science, Poetry (J-811.6 ALEX)

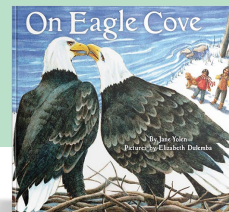


On Eagle Cove

by Jane Yolen

Part story and part science, this picture book tells a tale about a girl and her mother observing a nest of bald eagles, and then provides pages of information about these majestic birds along with photographs of eagles hunting, on a nest, etc. This is just the kind of book to catch a child's interest in nature.

Ages 3 - 10; Science, Bird Watching (J-Easy)

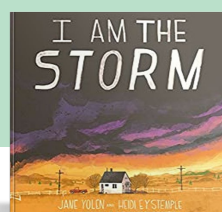


I Am the Storm

by Jane Yolen

Weather can be frightening to children, and this book faces that issue head on with comforting words and the reassurance that calm will return. A tornado, blizzard, hurricane, and forest fire are depicted, and brief information about storms is appended at the end of the story.

Ages 5 - 8; Science, Emotional Comfort (J-Easy)



Feel the Fog

by April Pulley Sayre

Beautiful fog-filled photos allow readers to experience the vagaries of this weather phenomenon. Poetic text focuses our attention on the elements of fog as we would see it, hear it, feel it, and the science of fog is explained at the end of the book. This author has other offerings that combine poetry and nature studies; make a point to read several more.

Ages 5 - 8; Science (J-551.575 SAYR)



PPLD Resources: Wildfires

Weather Resources LibGuide

(research.ppld.org/weatherresources/wildfires)

LibGuides are primarily used by librarians to consolidate links and resources in an easy-to-navigate fashion. One of the tabs in our Weather Resources LibGuide is dedicated to wildfire resources and provides many links with information about wildfire mitigation and preparedness, surveying ongoing wildfire response in the state of Colorado, and how to become a wildland firefighter along with a few books to try as well. This resource is appropriate for teens and adults.

Gale Elementary Wildfire Resources

(bit.ly/2Lm9QOF)

Gale Elementary is a wonderful database for younger students as it allows you to sort by content level, meaning that there are easy-to-read articles for elementary-age students (even those just learning to read) and articles better suited to middle-schoolers. The link will take you to a group of newspaper and magazine articles from the last five years that are appropriate for folks of many different reading levels. You will need your library card and pin number to access the database.

Special Collections: Waldo Canyon Fire

(cdm15981.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15981coll3)

Want to learn more about a wildfire that affected Colorado Springs? Check out our digital Waldo Canyon Fire collection which brings together documents, reports, press releases, photographs, videos, and oral histories generated as a result of the destructive Waldo Canyon Fire, which occurred in 2012 during June and July. These resources are appropriate for teens and adults.

Did You Know?



Trees help improve our water quality as they slow and filter rainfall.



A shade tree can help cool your home or office building by as much as 20 degrees in the summertime.



The rings in a cut tree don't just reveal its age. They can also show signs of environmental changes, like a volcanic eruption or severe drought.



One large tree can provide a day's supply of oxygen for up to four people.



In Los Angeles, trees remove nearly 2,000 tons of air pollution each year.



In one year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the amount of CO2 produced by a car driven 26,000 miles.



When U.S. recycling levels reach 75 percent it will be the environmental and CO2 equivalent of removing 55,000,000 cars from U.S. roads each year.



Every three months, Americans throw enough aluminum in the landfills to build our nation's entire commercial air fleet.



Glass can be recycled and re-manufactured an infinite amount of times and never wear out.



Americans throw away enough office paper each year to build a 12-foot-high wall from Seattle to New York (a new wall every year).

Considering a Career in Conservation?

Student Conservation Association

(thesca.org/)

SCA is dedicated to building the next generation of conservation leaders and inspiring lifelong stewardship of the environment by engaging young people in hands-on projects, and members protect and restore national parks and other natural treasures in all 50 states. The SCA blog has many resources for children and teens interested in learning about jobs and volunteering opportunities in conservation. Check out these links to find out more about pursuing a career in the field: tinyurl.com/thesca1; tinyurl.com/thesca2.

EnvironmentalScience.org

This website provides information on the expansive field of environmental science and its specialties, as well as resources for kids interested in related academic fields. There are interviews with experts in the field, and students can also find information about degree programs and average salary by state for their area of interest.

USDA Sustainable Agriculture Education and Training Directory

This site lists nation-wide degree programs and certifications in sustainable agriculture and specialties. Students can use the search filters to find programs specific to their interests. nal.usda.gov/afsic/edtr/sustainable-agriculture-education-directory

ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture Information Service

(attra.ncat.org/) A registry of internships, apprenticeships, and other on-the-job learning opportunities in sustainable and organic agriculture in the United States. ATTRA also identifies and links to educational resources, academic programs, and training programs (attra.ncat.org/other/#Education).



Check the virtual calendar for all events!

tinyurl.com/ppldvirtualcalendar