

Birds

Kids-Make an Ice Rainbow Sun Catcher

A below zero winter day is just what you need for this adventure and craft.

To make an Ice Sun Catcher you will need:

Round foil cake tins, bits of nature, water, food coloring, string or ribbon

What to do:

1. Take a walk in the cold to gather bits of nature.
2. Place the items you found into the tin.
3. Fill a jar with water and add food coloring.
4. Pour the colored water into the tin, over your items.
5. Arrange items in the water if necessary.
6. For hanging, fold a string or ribbon in half and put one end in the water while it freezes.
7. Carefully carry tins outside and set in a flat location to freeze.

twigandtoadstool.blogspot.com/2014/01/ice-rainbow-sun-catchers.html



All Ages Skate in the Park

Want to play outside in the cold? During the holiday season (November through January), Acacia Park comes to life with activities that revolve around an outdoor skating rink. Acacia Park is located between Nevada Avenue and Tejon Street, just south of Platte Avenue. Skate in the Park offers occasional discounted admission promotions, such as Ugly Christmas Sweater and Parent-Child Skate.

Admission

Skate in the Park will be open seven days per week from November 2015 through January 2016, including holidays.

\$10 per skater, which includes skate rental

Children 4 and under - FREE with paid admission

For a full schedule of hours, special events theme nights, and rink information, please visit DowntownCS.com/skate.

Webpicks

PPLD's website has great links to help your family explore winter sports! From the Kids Web section of ppld.org, click on **Homework Help**. Then, scroll down to **Sports**. There are two databases in the sports section that have excellent information regarding winter sports and athletes. World Book Online contains information on every winter sport from snowboarding to curling while Biography in Context provides background information on athletes like Apollo Anton Ohno and Dick Button.

If you're looking for a website that will give your family information about participating in winter sports, check out Colorado Ski Country USA. From the PPLD Teens website, click on **Homework Help**, then choose **Sports**. On the Sports page, select **Websites**. Colorado Ski Country USA has information on which ski areas are open, the snowpack number at individual sites, and special deals for kids. Have fun exploring different sports this winter!

Cool Reads for Teens

Fiction

Brian's Winter by Gary Paulsen
PAUL

Girl Overboard by Justina Chen
HEAD

The Long Winter by Laura Ingalls Wilder
WILD

Peak by Roland Smith
SMIT

The Trap by John Smelcer
SMEL

Nonfiction

Backcountry Avalanche Safety
by Tony Daffern
796.90289 D124B 2009

The Boys of Winter by Wayne R. Coffey
796.96209 C674B

Into Thin Air by John Krakauer
796.522 K891

Michelle Kwan by Michelle Kwan
796.912092 K98M

Kids Books to Snuggle Up With

J-Easy (picture books)

Sugar White Snow and Evergreens: A Winter Wonderland of Color
by Felicia Sanzari Chernesky **CHER**

The Magical Snow Garden by Tracey Corderoy **CORD**

First Snow by Peter McCarty **MCCA**

Once Upon a Northern Night by Jean Pendziwol **PEND**

J-Fiction (chapter books)

Wolf Storm by Dee Garretson **GARR**

Anna's Blizzard by Alison Hart **HART**

Ant and Honey Bee: a Pair of Friends in Winter by Megan McDonald
MCDO

Snow Treasure by Marie McSwigan **MCSW**

J-Nonfiction

551-5784 G4411 It's Snowing! By Gail Gibbons

591-43 M5850 Over and Under the Snow by Kate Messner

790-1 G482K Kids' Winter Fun Book:

Homespun Adventures for Family Fun by Claire Gillman

796-939 H644S

The Science of Snowboarding by Lori Hille



HOMESCHOOL CONNECTIONS

An Educational Resource Tool

Winter
2015 - 16

Winter Sports and Outdoor Fun

Since Colorado boasts beautiful blue skies, mild days, and clear nights, each season packs a plethora of activities families can enjoy. When cold winter days begin, children get excited for snowfall and the images of snow forts and sledding! Families may want to experience snow-filled mountain sports such as snowmobiling, tubing, ice skating, snowshoeing, and snowboarding. Dad, Mom, and children may experience old-fashioned ice skating in Boulder, Fort Collins, Evergreen, and Keystone. For an urban rink experience close to home, families may enjoy the Colorado Springs rink at Acacia Park. This rink is open November through January with a visit from Santa during the holidays.

While snow tubing and sledding may be found at most of Colorado's well-known ski resorts, children may throw on their hats and gloves right here in their backyards or nearby parks. Cottonwood Park near East Library and Woodmoor Hill near Monument Library are two of the most enjoyable neighborhood sledding spots. Winter sports and recreation do not need to cost a lot or take all day to enjoy. Cheyenne Mountain State Park just south of Colorado Springs is open year-round with 2,701 acres of open space, campgrounds, bike (snowshoeing) paths, and sledding. After families spend the morning outside, they may enjoy an afternoon together in "The Trail's End" visitor center near the stone fireplace.

If your family would like to venture into winter ice fishing, try Chatfield Reservoir, Eleven Mile Reservoir, or Monument Lake for a pleasant winter day. All these activities may be explored further at Colorado Parks and Wildlife: cpw.state.co.us.

For fun and information to share as a family, visit Pikes Peak Library District and check out these resources:

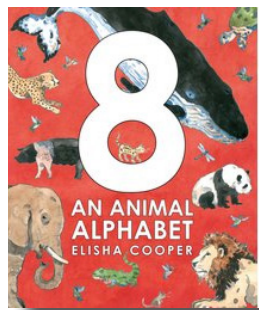
The Kid's Winter Handbook by Jane Drake and Ann Love

Peppa Pig and the Day at Snowy Mountain by Neville Astley and Mark Baker

Winter Eyes by Douglas Florian



To contact PPLD's Homeschool Committee, please email gsohns@ppld.org.



8: An Animal Alphabet
by Elisha Cooper (2015)

Elisha Cooper is a wonderful author/illustrator, and this new book is a delight. Think of it as a counting book (preschool), a naming book (preschool and older), with a little bit of zoology thrown in, and you will have pegged it perfectly. The author includes notes at the beginning, which must be read to enjoy the "game" in the book, and notes at the end that explain the more zoological notes.
Science – ages 3 - 13

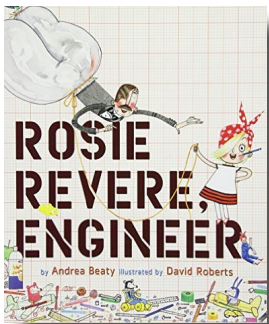
Little Puffin's First Flight
by Jonathan London (2015)

Jonathan London is famous for his "Froggy" picture books, but he is also a nature author, and this is an example of how a picture book can be more than just a picture book. This type of book is challenging to find using the catalog; knowing a few authors who write this type of book is helpful. Browsing the shelves is a must.
Science – ages 3 - 10



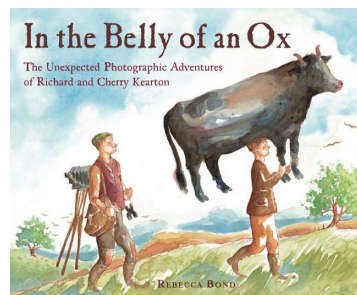
Rosie Revere, Engineer
by Andrea Beaty (2013)

Here is another example of a book with a little history and a little fiction that can be a stepping stone to more historical studies. Rosie Revere is the imaginary granddaughter of the famous Rosie the Riveter, of WWII fame. Young Rosie suffers setbacks, and failures, and is discouraged by this, until her famous grandmother comes for a visit. While 99% fiction, the message of "keep trying" is an excellent one, as well as the concept of failure as part of eventual success.
Smidgen of history, character study – ages 5 - 10



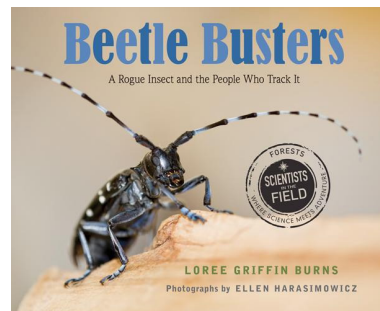
In the Belly of an Ox: The Unexpected Photographic Adventures of Richard and Cherry Kearton
by Rebecca Bond (2009)

This is a solid picture book biography, yet it is not cataloged or shelved with biographies. Two English brothers set out to capture photographs of every bird's nest in Britain, and this is a brief story of how they did just that. Their book was published in 1895. Some of their old photographs are included in this book.
History, biography, science – ages 5 - 15



Beetle Busters: A Rogue Insect and the People Who Track It
by Loree Griffin Burns (2014)
[Scientists in the Field series]

This is the story of BAD beetles, and it is science through and through, but all the books in this series read like adventure stories. (sciencemeetsadventure.com is the website) These books would make an excellent



science curriculum for independent readers.
Science – ages 8 - 12+

Pikes Peak Library District

Little-Known Secrets

Homeschool Hub

While PPLD has an array of programs and print resources at our locations, we also strive to connect our patrons to excellent homeschool resources through our blog, **Homeschool Hub**. The blog includes information about library programs, local non-PPLD events, and resources which may be of special interest to homeschool families. Patrons can access the **Homeschool Hub** at ppld.org/homeschool-hub.

The first page of the blog features PPLD programs with an emphasis on programs for homeschool families. These events include recurring programs such as our Science Labs as well as special programs at individual community libraries. Alongside homeschool-specific programs, this page also features PPLD programs for school-age children and teens which include social events, arts and crafts, and volunteer opportunities.

Beneath the "Home" tab on the left side of the webpage, the "Resources" tab leads to information about homeschooling law in Colorado, extracurricular activities, and lesson plans. While these websites are not directly affiliated with PPLD, they have been highly recommended by library patrons who homeschool and vetted by library staff. If you have a resource you find especially useful, please let us know so we can add it to our list!

"Non-PPLD Events," the second-to-last tab on the left side of the page, lists a number of local events that are of particular interest to homeschool families. These events are submitted by community organizations, homeschool parents, and homeschool advocates. If you have an event you would like to share with other homeschool families, contact Corrie at cbaker@ppld.org. She will need the necessary information two weeks in advance. Be sure to include: what it is, who can attend, when it is (date and time), where it is, and who to contact. If any pertinent information is missing it will not be posted.

Take some time this winter to explore the Homeschool Hub and see how PPLD's online resources can help your family!

HOMESCHOOL EVENTS

The Educational Resource Center is open!

The Educational Resource Center ("ERC") is open at East Library for families interested in enriching the education of their children. It is located on the second floor next to the new computerlab and maker space. The ERC houses the expanded Homeschool Science Lab, over 90 manipulative kits (for math, science, language arts, social studies, music, and art), tables for experimenting and learning, computers with interactive software (including driver's education and virtual dissections), and early literacy toys for younger siblings. Materials may not be removed from the library, although some can be used outside the ERC for limited periods of time.

9th Annual Homeschool Art Show!

It's time to get your creative juices flowing! Homeschooled students of all ages can submit one drawing, painting, photo, sculpture, etc. during the last week of March 2016. All artwork will be on display during the entire month of April and we'll end with a reception for friends and family. Watch for more information about location as we get closer to March. The art show will not be juried.

Science Lab Programs

A special program is planned each month. Contact Gail at gsohns@ppld.org for more information or visit ppld.org/homeschool-hub.
3rd Friday of each month • 1 - 3 p.m.
East Library Community Room

Homeschool Programs at... High Prairie Library, Library 21c, Monument Library, and Rockrimmon Library

Participate in a different family learning experience every time. Access the **Homeschool Hub**, "Events," for details, dates, and times (ppld.org/homeschool-hub) or ask at one of the above libraries.

Science Fair

The Homeschool Science Fair will allow your student(s) to demonstrate a science project for other homeschool families! This event is noncompetitive, and there are no strict rules or guidelines. Registration is required for each student wishing to present a project. You can register online at tinyurl.com/PPLDScienceFair2016 or call Gail at (719) 531-6333, x1409.

Fri., Feb. 19 • 10 a.m. - noon
The Venue @ Library 21c



Are you homeschooling and desire a fun and interesting mini-unit study?

Choose one of PPLD's "Homeschool Discovery Packs" for an enriching week of adventure and discovery!

Homeschool families may check out materials for many subjects such as **Art, History, Science, Math, Language Arts, and Music**. We even have packs for your horse lover and inspiring chef! These packs are suitable for ages 5 - 12 and usually include an activity book for the teacher. **Find these packs in the Library 21c Children's Department at 1175 Chapel Hills Drive and enjoy your week of homeschool discovery!**



Make an Ice Rainbow Sun Catcher and read about Skate in the Park

instructions on page 4



Other Events & Programs

Study Buddies

Teen volunteers help students in kindergarten through fifth grade with homework or reading practice.

East Library
Tuesdays • 6:30 - 8 p.m.
(719) 531-6333, x1407 or x1403

Library 21c
Thursdays • 6:30 - 8 p.m.
(719) 884-9800, x6310

Make Art!

Kids in grades 1 - 5 can create a unique work of art one Saturday afternoon per month at East Library! Call (719) 531-6333, x1403 or x1401 for dates and theme.

Family Fun

Enjoy performers, animals, crafts and much more at monthly programs. Fun for the whole family! Check online at ppld.org, or at your local library, to find out what's happening at that location

Teen/Tween MAKE Monday:
MLK-Inspired project
Use your Voice
Use common objects to build a microphone.
Mon., Jan. 11 • 4 - 5:30 p.m.
East Library Makerspace

Chinese Lanterns
Celebrate the Year of the Monkey and the upcoming Lantern Festival by making Chinese lanterns. Multiple designs, multiple levels of complexity.
Mon., Feb. 8 • 4 - 5:30 p.m.
East Library Makerspace

The 5th Wave Murder Mystery Night (ages 12 - 18)
Celebrate the release of *The 5th Wave* movie with a themed murder mystery night!
Thu., Jan. 14 • 6 - 8 p.m.
Old Colorado City Library

Anti-Valentine's Day Zombie Party! (ages 12 - 18)
What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than by smashing a few hearts and eating a few brains?
Sat., Feb. 13 • 3 - 5 p.m.
Old Colorado City Library

Book Madness (ages 12 - 18)
To celebrate March Madness, vote for your favorite books every week starting March 14 at [ppld.org/teens!](http://ppld.org/teens)
March 14 - April 10

