

PLUGGED IN

FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ART

GET connected connected


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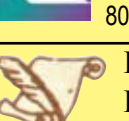
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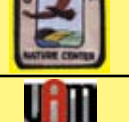
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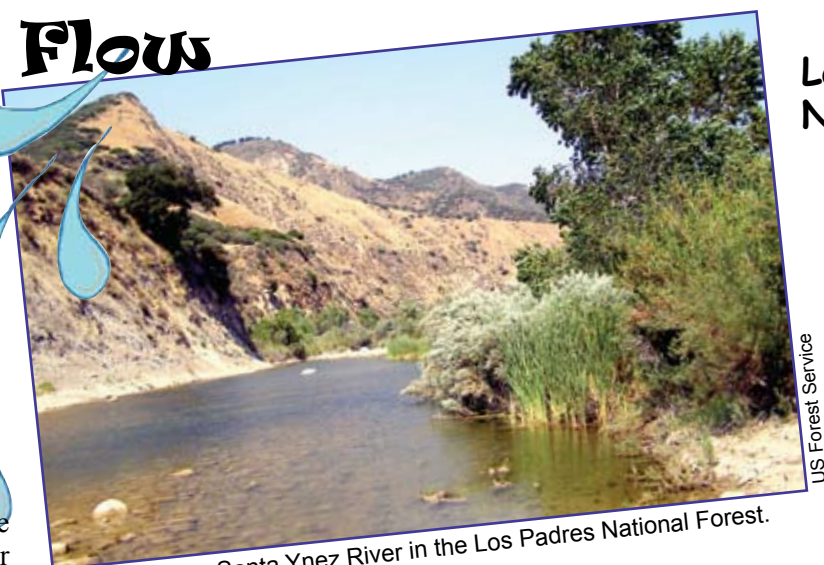
 USDA Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest
805-968-6640 www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres

 South Coast Railroad Museum
805-964-3540; www.goletadepot.org

This Month's Theme: Water

Water: Go with the Flow

All life depends on water. Water is always there for us when we turn on a faucet, so we never stop to think about it. There are many places in the world where people have very little fresh, clean water to drink. Have you thought about where your drinking water comes from? Join us now and follow the flow from the forest to the sea.



This is the Santa Ynez River in the Los Padres National Forest.

Los Padres National Forest

Going with the flow in Los Padres National Forest begins with a drop of rain that ends up in your glass of water at home. Whether you live in the Santa Barbara area or the Santa Ynez Valley, your drinking water comes from watersheds within the forest. Some watersheds, such as the Santa Ynez River watershed, are very large and have hundreds of small streams collecting water that flow into them. Eventually the water from the Santa Ynez River flows into Cachuma Lake. Big or small, watersheds in the forest are important because they provide clean water to drink, an ecosystem that supports fish and other wildlife, and healthy forests. Did you know that over a hundred years ago, one of the main reasons that National Forests were created was to protect watersheds? What can you do today to protect these valuable resources? When you visit the forest, you can help keep our streams, rivers, and lakes clean by putting your trash in trash cans and recycling bottles and cans. Do your part to keep the flow going.....

Cachuma Lake

If you lived in Santa Barbara one hundred years ago, you would only be able to take a bath on Saturdays! That's how little water there was for people to use—there was no Cachuma Lake.

Cachuma Lake was formed by building Bradbury Dam across the Santa Ynez River, a big project that was completed in 1953. Cachuma Lake collects and stores water that flows into it from the Santa Ynez River watershed.

Some of the water flows to Santa Barbara through Tecolote Tunnel, which runs through the mountains. The rest of the water continues past the dam and flows past Santa Ynez, Solvang, Buellton, and Lompoc on its way out to the ocean.



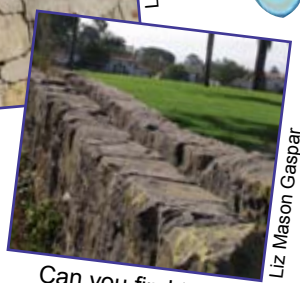
You can visit Cachuma Lake County Park for all kinds of recreation like camping, fishing, boating, hiking, birding, picnicking, and visiting the Cachuma Lake Nature Center.

Santa Barbara's First Water System

The Chumash people of the Santa Barbara area built their villages near springs and creeks so they could have good water. When the Spanish first settled here in 1782 they worried about saving water for times of little rainfall. When they built the Mission in 1786 they knew the big Mission Indian Village would need lots of water for the people, the farm crops, and the animals. To provide year-round water, the Chumash worked under the direction of the Padres to build a dam on Mission Creek, which you can still see at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. They built a long Spanish-style channel lined with stones and tiles, called an aqueduct, to carry water down Mission Canyon to the Mission houses and fields. This was Santa Barbara's first water system.



The old Chumash-carved spout in the shape of a mountain lion's head can still be seen at the end of the trough on the Mission Lawn.



Can you find this portion of the old aqueduct the next time you visit Mission Historic Park?


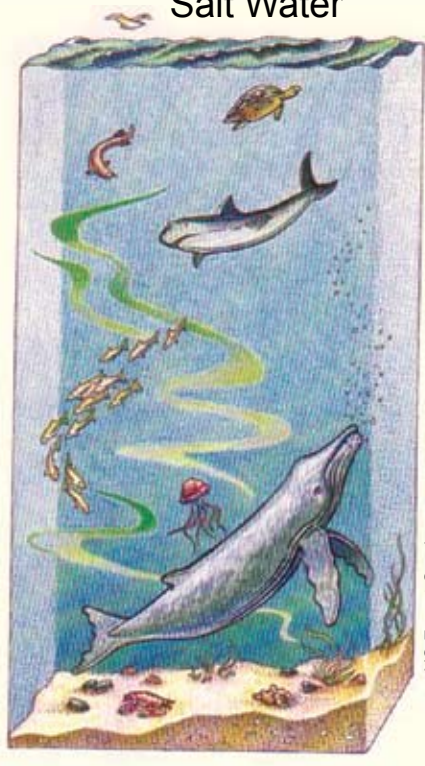

A watershed is not a shed filled with water!




A watershed is the land that you are standing on. When it rains on a watershed the rain flows down over the land and through the soil into a body of water, like a creek, pond, or lake. The rain carries with it anything that is in its path. In Santa Barbara County our watersheds are unique; they are short and steep like giant waterslides!!

Look around you; do you notice any litter or other pollution on the ground? That litter may be on a one way ticket to the ocean. When water washes down the city streets, it will flow into the storm drains. Storm drains are connected to pipes that lead directly into a creek. These pipes do not have filters, so any pollution that enters the storm drain will end up in the creek which flows into the ocean. Did you know that 60 to 80 percent of the litter in the ocean comes from the land? What can you do to keep our creeks and oceans clean?

Water covers about 70% of the Earth. Can you guess how it's divided up? How much is salt water? How much is liquid fresh water? How much is fresh water in snow and ice? Draw a line matching the amounts with the correct pictures, then check your answers at the bottom.

<p>Liquid Fresh Water</p>  <p>97.7%</p>	<p>Salt Water</p>  <p>97.7%</p>
<p>Fresh Water in Snow and Ice</p>  <p>0.4%</p>	<p>Answers: Liquid Fresh Water 0.4%; Fresh Water in Snow and Ice 1.9%; Salt Water 97.7%</p>


 Marine Science Institute, UCSB
805-893-8765 www.msi.ucsb.edu

 Kids Do Ecology
National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis
805-892-2500 nceas.ucsb.edu/nceas-web/kids

 Wildling Art Museum
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 Ty Warner Sea Center
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 The Outdoor School at Rancho Alegre
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 The Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens
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