

# 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


GET CONNECTED WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE:

 Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
805-966-7107; www.channelislands.noaa.gov

 Santa Barbara Mission Museum  
805-682-4149

 Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation  
805-965-0093; www.sbbthp.org

 Ganna Walska Lotusland  
805-969-3767; www.lotusland.org

 Santa Barbara Botanic Garden  
805-682-4726; www.sbbg.org

 Channel Islands National Park  
805-658-5730; www.nps.gov/chis


 Santa Barbara Maritime Museum  
805-962-8404; www.sbmm.org

 Santa Barbara Museum of Art  
805-963-4364; www.sbma.net

 Santa Barbara Historical Museum  
805-966-1601


 Rancho La Patera and Stow House  
805-964-4407; www.goletahistory.org

 Elverhoj Museum of History & Art  
805-686-1211 www.elverhoj.org/

 Santa Barbara Public Library System  
805-962-7653; www.sbpilibrary.org

 Santa Ynez Valley Historical Society  
805-688-7889; www.santaynezmuseum.org

 Carriage and Western Art Museum of Santa Barbara  
805-962-2353; www.carriagemuseum.org

 Cachuma Lake Nature Center, Inc.  
805-693-0691

 University Art Museum, UCSB  
805-893-2951 www.uam.ucsb.edu


 Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
www.sbnature.org; 805-682-4711

 Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens  
805-962-5339 www.sbzoo.org

 Santa Barbara County Parks  
805-568-2461 www.sbparks.com

 Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum  
805-966-5373; www.sbcacf.org

 Art From Scrap  
805-884-0459 www.artfromscrap.org

 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: Become A Naturalist



Charles Darwin

Naturalists are people who study nature, especially by direct observation of animals and plants. Through their detailed scientific observations, they come to understand the natural world around them.

February 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of the most famous naturalists who ever lived:

Charles Darwin. Born in England on February 12, 1809, Darwin is known as one of the founders of modern biology. He was a scientist whose observations of the natural world

led him to propose a theory about how life on earth changes over time.

When Darwin was a young man, he went on a five-year scientific expedition on the survey ship, *HMS Beagle*. Through his travels, he saw many new kinds of plants, animals, geological formations, and even fossils. These experiences greatly shaped how he saw the world. After many years of experiments and observations, Darwin published his famous book, *On the Origin of Species*, in 1859.



HMS Beagle at Tierra del Fuego. Painting by Conrad Martens.

For more information about Charles Darwin, visit "The Evolution of Darwin" exhibit at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History starting February 6, 2009. Also, visit [www.sbnature.org](http://www.sbnature.org) for details about events celebrating Darwin's birthday at the Museum of Natural History.



Nature Journaling at the Beach

### How to Become a Naturalist:

- Go outside and observe the natural world around you.
- Use your eyes, ears, nose, and hands to explore.
- Visit a variety of places throughout the year to see how they change.
- Keep a nature journal to record what you learn through notes, measurements, and drawings. Your journal is a way to keep a memory collection of your experiences, so be sure to record everything you think you will want to remember.

## BIG Beans, LITTLE Beans



Lima Beans

Adapted from a lesson by the UC Museum of Paleontology

As a young naturalist, you can examine living things and see how they change and grow over time. This activity involves measuring and noting the differences in lengths of lima beans and comparing how beans of different sizes grow.


#### Materials:

- Bag of dried lima beans
- Nature journal
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Two cups (with drainage holes in the bottom) or small flower pots
- Soil
- Water

1. Examine a pile of lima beans. Measure the lengths of some of them. Record and draw your observations in your nature journal.
2. Pick the largest (#1) and smallest bean (#2) and plant each in its own numbered pot. Record your ideas about how each will grow.
3. Put the pots in a well-lit place and water regularly. Observe the plants each day, recording details such as number and size of leaves, color and height of each plant.
4. When the plants have grown several centimeters, compare the two plants. Is there any difference in growth between them? How does this compare to your prediction?

Page created by Heather Moffat, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

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

 Kids do Ecology  
National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis  
805-892-2500 http://kids.nceas.ucsb.edu/

 Wildling Art Museum  
805-688-1082 www.wildlingmuseum.org

 Ty Warner Sea Center  
805-962-2526 www.sbnature.org

 The Outdoor School at Rancho Alegre  
805-686-5167 www.theoutdoorschool.org

 The Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens  
805-967-7369 www.fairviewgardens.org

PLUGGED IN is made possible by the ORFALEA FOUNDATIONS