

PLUGGED IN

FUN FOR KIDS

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

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connected
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GET CONNECTED WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE MUSEUM EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE:


 **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**
805-966-7107; www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov
Outdoors Santa Barbara Visitor Center open daily 11 am to 6 pm.

 **Santa Barbara Mission Museum**
805-682-4149

Tour includes historical art, artifacts, gardens, church and cemetery. Children free, Adults \$4.

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

Encourages the preservation and interpretation of historic buildings and sites in Santa Barbara County

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

California native plants, miles of trails, classes, tours and more.

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

Tidepool Programs Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. Ventura Visitor Center

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


Promoting Plant Conservation, Education, and Preservation

 **Goleta Valley Historical Society**
805-964-4407; www.goletahistory.org

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY TOURS AT 2PM AND 3PM.

 **Santa Barbara Historical Society**
805-966-1601

To promote an appreciation and understanding of Santa Barbara regional history and the importance of history in general.

 **Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History**
www.sbnature.org; 805-682-4711; Explore the wonders of nature. Open 10-5 daily. Planetarium Shows: Wed 3; Sat 11, 1, 2, 3; Sun 1, 2, 3;

 **Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens**
805-962-5339; www.santabarbarazoo.org

Dedicated to the preservation, conservation and enhancement of the natural world through education, research and recreation.

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

Gifts anyone? Make your own with CAF artist Harinani Orme at Art from Scrap on Dec. 1 & 15, 10am-12pm. 302 E. Cota St.

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

Candy Cane Train continues thru Dec. 23. Wed.-Sun. 1 to 4 pm. 300 N. Los Carneros Road, Goleta.

This Month's Theme: Environment

KIDS HELP KEEP THE OCEAN CLEAN

By Jill Carlson
Creek Watchers Coordinator

Have you ever been to the beach and seen a sign that warns people not to swim in the ocean because of pollution? How did that make you feel? Sarah Clark (8 yrs old) says, "I felt bummed out because I couldn't go swimming, but also because I knew that meant bad

things were happening to the ocean."

Did you know that much of the pollution that ends up in the ocean gets there by traveling through creeks? A group called "Creek Watchers" volunteers its time to monitor, or "watch" a creek that they care about in Santa Barbara County. Once a month, Creek Watchers use special equipment to test the water for amounts of oxygen, nutrients and bacteria that are very important to the health of a creek. If their tests show bad results, they call people who can try to solve the problem. Many creeks all over



Creek Watchers Austin Clark, Nate Charest and Sarah Clark test creek water.

Santa Barbara County need volunteers.

Nate Charest, and Sarah and Austin Clark are a family of Creek Watchers who live near Cold Springs Creek. Austin (12 years old) thinks it is important to volunteer because "I can help protect the fish and all the things that live in the creek."

How can kids help keep creeks clean? Nate (9 yrs old) knows that trash can pollute creeks. "People should pick up their trash and pick up after others when they don't...and always pick up after your dog!" All kids can help keep creeks and the ocean clean by volunteering or picking up trash when they see it. If you love doing things outside, you enjoy nature. Please do what you can to help protect it!

For more information about volunteering with Creek Watchers, visit: www.communityenvironmentalcouncil.org/creekwatchers

HOT TOPICS

By Amy Findlay

The South Coast Watershed Resource Center asked 6th graders from Mountain View School: "What can kids do to help protect the environment?"

"We can protect air quality by carpooling, riding bikes, or taking the bus."



KEVIN CHENG



"We can reuse and recycle paper to reduce the amount of trees cut down."

MEHA AGRAWAL

"We can help by doing beach clean-ups as well as creek clean-ups."



KATELIN DAVIS



"We can help by being aware and knowing not to throw trash on beaches"

ANTHONY DeMARIA



"We can help preserve wildlife and plants."

TREVOR KOSMO



"We can tell parents to take oil and paint to the collection facility and make sure spilled oil is cleaned up so it doesn't end up in the creeks and ocean."

KATHERINE PERRY

To find out more about the South Coast Watershed Resource Center, please visit: www.communityenvironmentalcouncil.org/wrc



Sunlight Maps

Plants are some of the only living organisms on Earth that can change energy from the sun into food energy. Plants use light energy from the sun to split apart water and carbon dioxide molecules. These recombine to make sugar molecules and oxygen is released. This process is how plants produce the energy they need to grow and is called **photosynthesis**.

Most garden vegetables need "full-sun" to "partial-sun" in order to grow well. Read the backs of seed packages to find out how much sun different plants need.

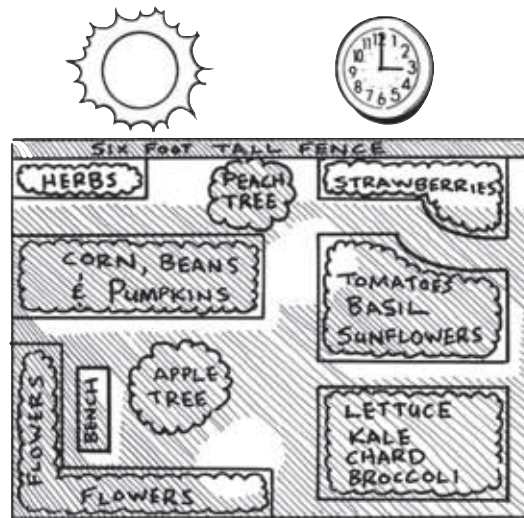
Make a sunlight map of your garden to learn what to plant where. Pick a sunny day to make your sunlight map. Color your map once in the morning,

once during the middle of the day, and once in the afternoon.

Directions:

- Using graph paper, draw a map of your garden.
- On your map, color in the areas in the sun. Use a different color for the morning, mid-day, and afternoon mapping.
- The areas of your map that are colored in with all three colors receive "full sun". The areas colored-in with only two colors receive "partial sun". The areas colored-in with only one or no colors are considered "shady."

Note: The amount of sunlight your garden receives changes throughout the year. Make a sunlight map during win-



ter, spring, summer and fall to learn what to plant where at different times of year.

This activity is from "Garden Detectives" which is available through the Community Environmental Council, phone 963-0583, extension 100.



Fun Facts

By Tahara Ezrahti
Art From Scrap

Less than 50% of the food waste dumped in landfills breaks down in the first 15 years. Whole heads of lettuce, ears of corn and entire hot dogs are often found intact! Why? Microorganisms (organisms that can only be seen with a microscope) that break down waste don't survive well

in landfills because:

- 1) There is not enough air
- 2) There is usually either too much or too little water
- 3) Even though it is illegal, people still put poisons in landfills that kill microorganisms.

The people of Southern Santa Barbara County send over 7 thousand tons of trash each year to the Tajiguas Landfill.

Over the last ten years Santa Barbara County has cut down the amount of waste that it sends to the landfill by half. This is because many people have tried hard to recycle, to make compost, and to produce less trash.

Trees do not always have to be cut down for making paper. Over 900 years ago, the Chinese were making paper out of mulberry tree bark, fish nets, and rags. In Europe and America, linen and cotton rags were used for making paper until 1799.

It takes about 17 trees that weigh about 3,688 pounds to make one ton of paper.

The first plastics were made from cornstarch, but almost all the plastics we have today are made from petroleum.

Aluminum can be recycled over and over again. If you use recycled aluminum to make products instead of new aluminum, this means 95% less air pollution, 97% less water pollution, 100% less solid waste and the process uses 95% less energy. Each day Californians recycle enough aluminum to produce 13 Boeing 727 jet airplanes.

If a person dumps one quart of motor oil in a storm drain they can pollute 250,000 gallons of water. Three and a quarter million tons of oil enter the oceans of the world each year.

The U.S. outlawed the dumping of trash in the ocean in 1933. Unfortunately, some people still use the ocean as a dumping ground.

To find out more about Art From Scrap, please visit www.artfromscrap.org

 **University Art Museum, UCSB**

805-893-2951
www.uam.ucsb.edu

Hours: Tuesday 12-8 pm
Wednesday-Sunday 12-5 pm

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

Art From Scrap is an environmental education and art program of the Community Environmental Council.

 **Karpelles Manuscript Library Museum**
805-962-5322

The world's largest private holding of important original documents and manuscripts.

 **Santa Barbara Maritime Museum**
805-962-8404
www.sbm.org

Museum and Store Hours:
Thurs.-Tues. 10am-5pm.
Closed: Wednesdays.

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Dec. 30