

Week 1: Nature in your neighborhood



Day 1

Learn about the plants and animals in your neighborhood, play nature in your neighborhood bingo and learn how to camouflage yourself like animals.

Observe and write down all of the plants and animals that are around your home. How many can you count?



Day 2

Learn about pollinators and the threats facing them. Make seed bombs or learn how to plant a pollinator garden.

In recent years, beekeepers report they're losing on average 30% of all honey-bee colonies each winter — twice the loss considered sustainable. We rely on bees to pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide 90% of most of the world's food. Imagine no almonds, fewer apples and strawberries, less alfalfa to feed dairy cows, and the list goes on.

Scientists point to several causes behind the problem, including global warming, habitat loss, parasites and a class of bee-killing insecticides known as neonicotinoids (or neonics). We need to call on our decision makers to declare a nationwide moratorium on the use of bee-killing neonics.

There's also a lot we can do from our own homes to protect bees and pollinators, like planting pollinator gardens.

Draw a picture of the foods in your state that depend on bees:





Day 3

Learn about birding. Learn about birds in your area, make a homemade bird feeder, make binoculars out of toilet paper rolls, and learn how to become a birder!

Watch for birds outside your home. How many different types of birds do you see? Write down the names you know, and research online to find out the names of the birds you don't know.



Day 4

Learn about wildlife habitats and make your own! Read about animal architects and create your own habitat out of found materials in your yard or neighborhood. You can also make a self-portrait out of found materials, like leaves, sticks and flowers.

Use this page to make your own self portrait:

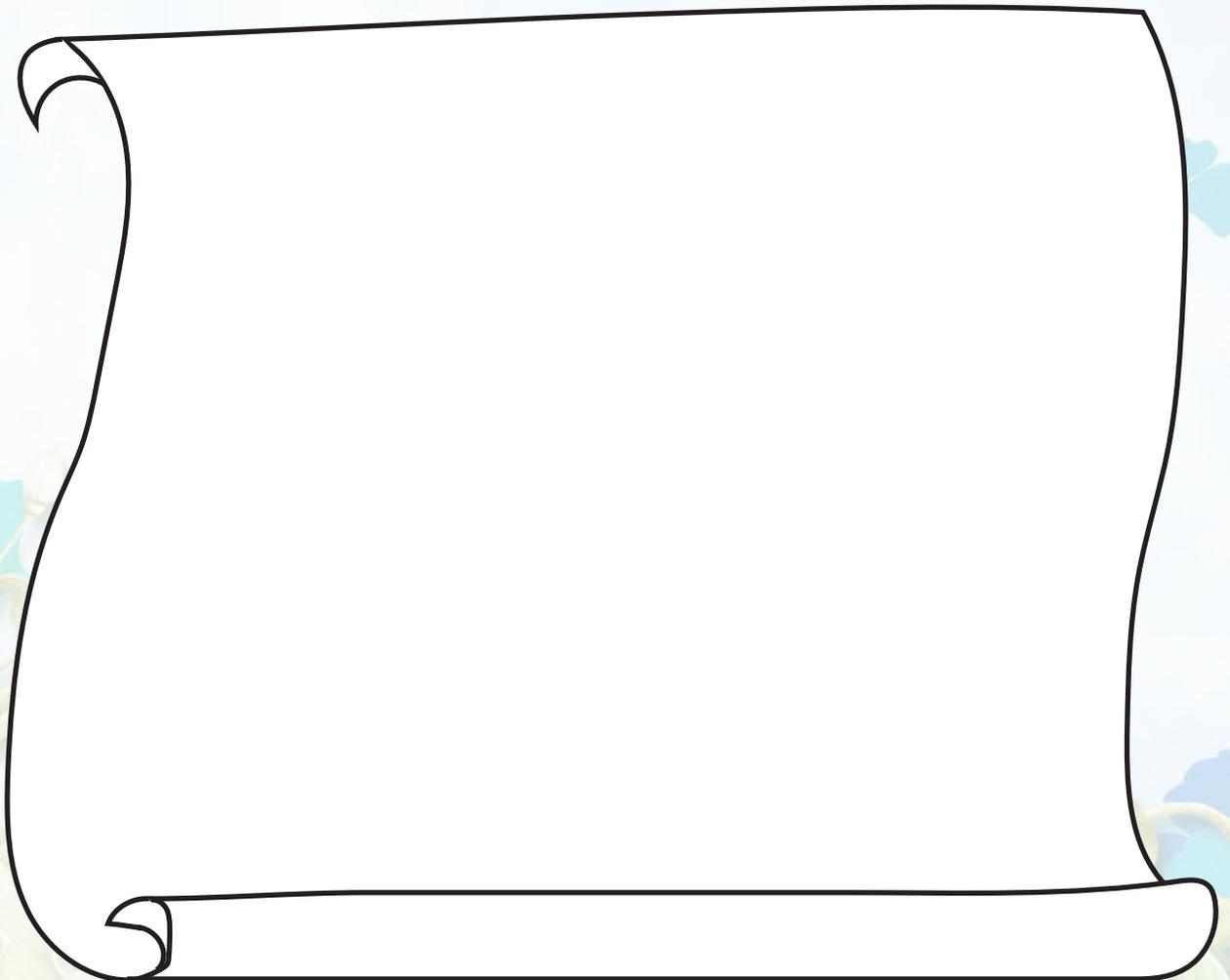




Day 1

Learn about how our waters are connected. Map the waterways in your area and draw a picture of the rivers and streams that flow in your state or county. Take a virtual field trip down the Mississippi River, the largest river in the U.S.

Research waterways in your area and draw a map of the rivers and lakes in your state.





Day 3

Learn about plastic waste and how it impacts our waters and wildlife. Make your own reusable bag from old T-shirts.

Write down the ways you can reduce plastic waste in your home.



Day 4

Learn about water filtration. Gather some water, rocks and sand from a nearby pond or stream, if safe, and learn how treatment plants filter water to clean it. You can also learn about important efforts to get lead out of drinking water in our schools.

Write down what you learned about water filtration. Why is it important to filter water?



Day 5

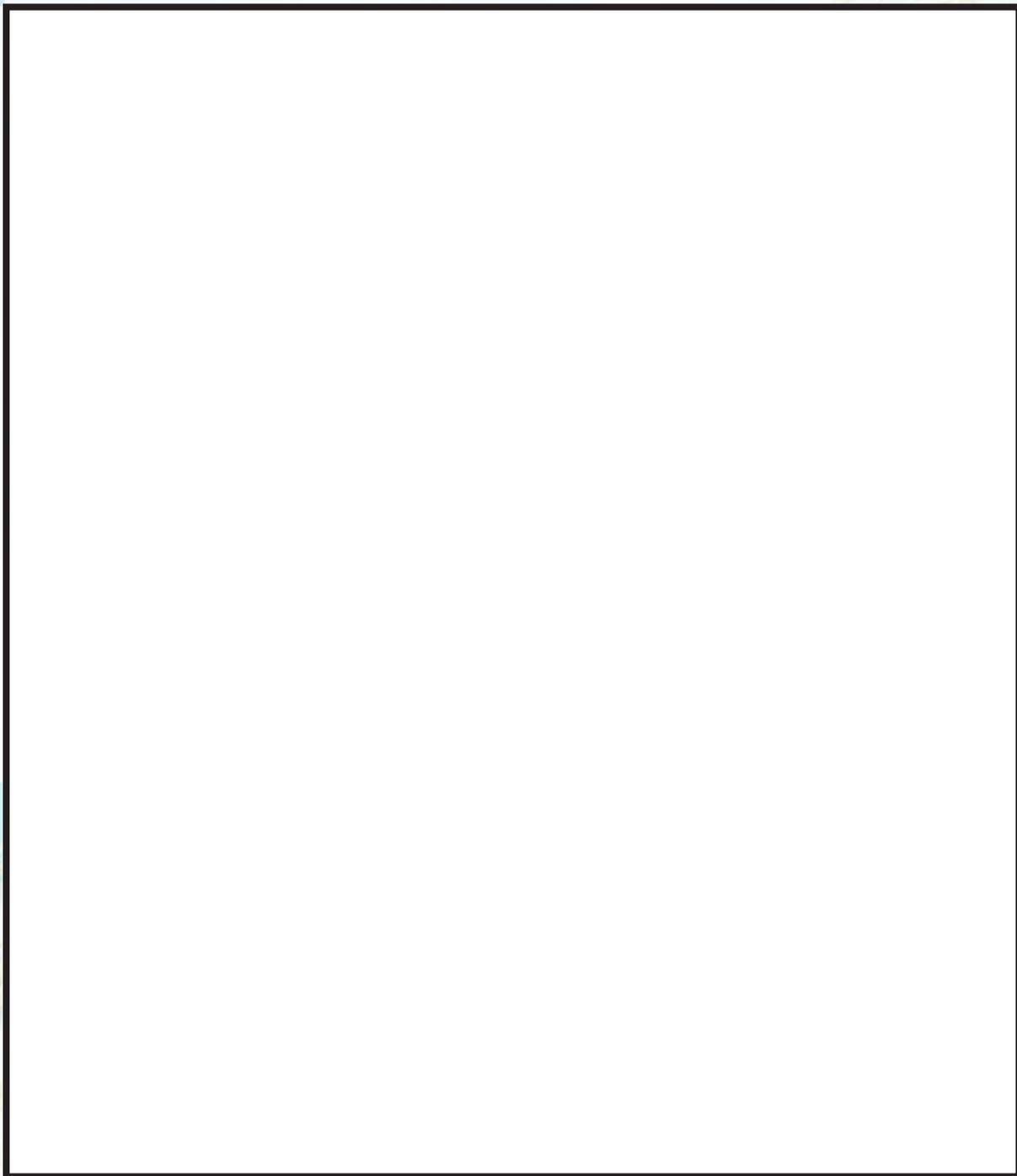
Go on a water adventure! Following local, state, and CDC guidelines and with adult supervision, make a plan to go to a nearby lake, stream or river. Sit beside the water or get out on a canoe. Draw a picture of the area or write about it and why it's important to you.

Write about the area and why it's important to you:

Week 2: Caring for our Waters



Or draw a picture of the area:





Day 1

Learn about climate change and how humans have contributed to it, and discuss with your families ways you can work to reduce your carbon footprint.

Write down five or more ways your family can reduce your carbon footprint.



Day 2

Learn about wind power. Make your own wind turbine and learn about the power of offshore wind.

Turn this piece of paper into a windmill. Follow these instructions online:

*[www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project-ideas/
Energy_p025/energy-power/power-of-a-pinwheel#procedure](http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project-ideas/Energy_p025/energy-power/power-of-a-pinwheel#procedure)*



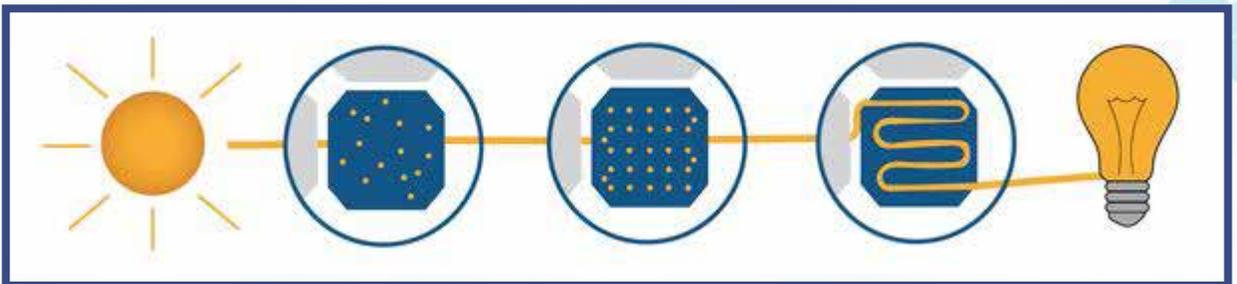


Day 3

Learn about solar power and make your own solar oven.

How do solar panels work?

Solar panels are made up of photovoltaic solar cells. When the sun heats these cells, electrons begin to move, creating an electric current. This direct current (DC) electricity is captured by wires and converted into alternating current (AC) electricity by the solar inverter. AC electricity is what flows into your home and powers your electronic devices. Any electricity leftover from powering your home then goes into your electric grid.



How does solar energy help protect the environment?

More solar means less reliance on fossil fuels - and that means fewer greenhouse gas emissions entering our atmosphere and contributing to climate change. Fossil fuels also produce pollutants when extracted and used, endangering our air and water. Solar panels don't create toxic spills, contribute to smog in our cities or threaten our drinking water with dangerous byproduct. Instead, tapping into the power of the sun means using a clean, virtually limitless energy source to power our homes and businesses.



Day 4

Learn about energy efficiency and become an energy vampire slayer!

Write down a list of ways you can make your home more energy efficient.



Day 5

Learn about how to make healthy communities. Learn about the impact of transportation on our climate. Make a plan for how to incorporate more walking and biking into your family's daily life — and more public transit, like electric buses, once we get past “social distancing.”

Write down 5 or more ways you can do more walking and biking to get where you need to go.



Day 1

Learn about efforts to make a difference for our environment. Check out our favorite nature books for elementary-aged children. For middle and high school students, head to your local library or purchase a copy of *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson.

How can you help educate your family and friends about protecting the environment?



Day 3

Learn about how to lobby your decision makers. Young people are calling on our decision makers to support a 100% renewable future.

Write a letter to your mayor or Governor about an environmental issue that is important to you. Why is that issue important to you? What do you want them to do about it?

Write your letter below. Then cut it out, look up the address for the decision maker and mail the letter to them.



Day 5

Celebrate your environmental accomplishments!

Cut out and color these 4 badges and display them on your fridge or in your room:

