



Earth Week 2020

RESPECT

Respecting the Earth

I hope you all had an amazing Earth Day and were able to get outside (even though it was raining here) and say thanks to Mother Earth! Today is our final lesson for Earth Week and we will be focusing on respect and watershed **stewardship!** Focus today on getting to know the chunk of Earth where you spend most of your time, especially now that we're all at home!



What is Stewardship?

It's ok if you've never heard of the word stewardship. You may have heard of a similar word though. If you've ever been on an airplane, or seen one in the movies, there is usually someone serving drinks to passengers, and ensuring they follow the safety guidelines. This person is known as a steward or stewardess. Their job is to take care of and protect the passengers on the plane. So being a **watershed steward** means that you are taking care of and helping protect a watershed!



Let's quickly review what a "**watershed**" is. The word "shed" can refer to something that stores things, like a garden "shed;" or it can mean to allow something to run off, like an umbrella "sheds" waters. A watershed does both! Watersheds are just another way of looking at the land we live on. A watershed is the land that captures water in any form, such as rain, snow, dew, sleet or hail. All the land whose water drains into a particular stream system, like the Umpqua River is part of the Umpqua watersheds.

CRAFT 1: The starts of stewardship mobile

Protecting and caring for the watershed and all its parts means caring for our water supply. By learning about the plants and the animals in your watershed through the Home Explorer activities you are already taking the first step to becoming a watershed steward (*high five!*). As part of Earth Week let's think about some of things in nature that matter to you and what you would like to do for them!

You will need:

- 2 popsicle sticks or sticks from outside
- string or yarn (or dental floss would work fine too)
- Scissors
- Crayons, markers or colored pencils
- Recycled paper
- Hole-punch (optional)
- Something round to trace a circle (I used mason jar lids)

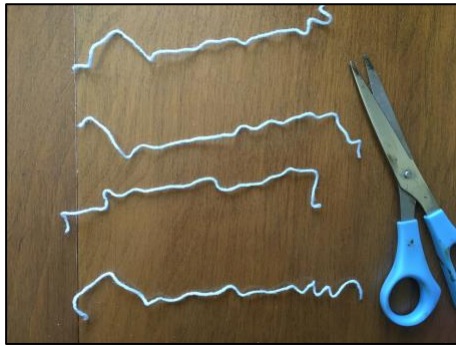
Instructions:

1. Have an adult help you gather all of your supplies!

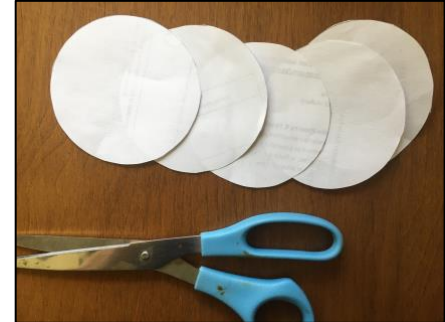
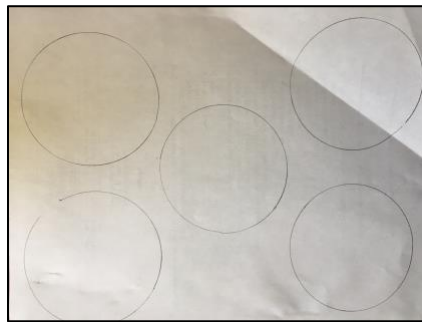
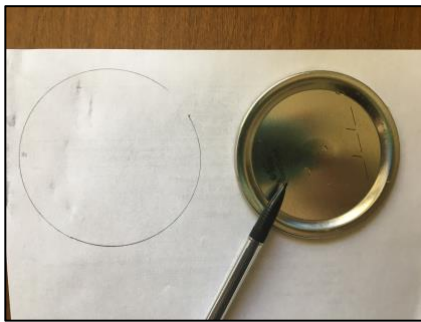




2. Tie together your two popsicle sticks (or tree sticks) with your string and leave 1ft extra at the end to hang it up with.
3. Cut 5 pieces of string, all 12 inches long. Set aside



4. Trace your cup or bowl onto a piece of paper and then cut out your circle. Repeat to make 4 more circles.



5. Punch a hole (or make a small cut) at the top of each circle



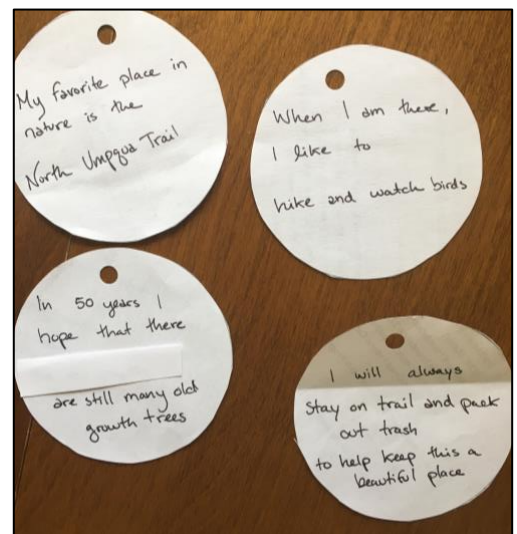
6. On each of the first 4 circles write out one of these sentences and fill in the blank:

a. My favorite place in nature is _____.

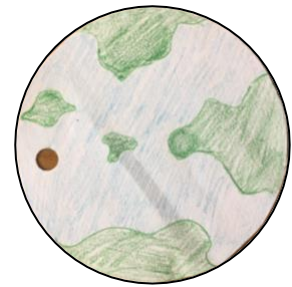
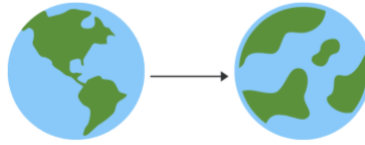
b. When I am there I like to _____.

c. In 50 years, I hope that there _____.
(ex: is less litter, are bigger trees)

d. I will _____ to help keep this a beautiful place.
(ex: pick up trash, plant a tree, keep away invasive plants)



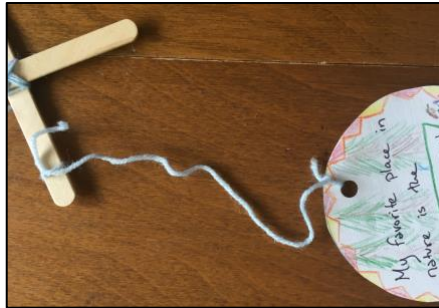
7. Decorate your circles when you're finished writing!



8. On the final circle draw the Earth and sign your name on the other side.

As much as I want to draw an Earth that has all of the continents, I usually go for a simple design like this!

9. Tie 1 circle to each end of the sticks and the Earth circle to the middle. You can adjust the length of the strings so that hang at different places. Cut off the spare ends when you're done.



10. This is now a mobile you can hang in your room, or outside as a reminder to take care of the places in nature that you care about!

EXPERIMENT 2: Getting familiar with something small!

In this experiment you are going to take ownership of a very small piece of your watershed and get to know it! So first you need to choose a place outside where you can spend time!

This could be a place like:

- In your yard or on your porch
- Along a path in the park where you can still go
- At a grandparent's house

You will need:

- Your observation journal
- A magnifying glass if you have one (if you don't be sure to request a Home Explorer Kit for free [HERE](#))
- A piece of paper
- A pencil

Instructions:

1. Find the place outside where you can sit down and observe.
2. Lay down your piece of paper on the ground. This marks the boundary of your observation. You are only looking at things inside this piece of paper. You can put the paper on a tree trunk, in the grass, on flowers, in your garden, on a crack in the sidewalk - whatever works for you!



3. Open your observation journal to a clean page and begin by writing the date at the top.
4. Remove the piece of paper, but remember where it was. Make a quick sketch of the things inside of your little area. Maybe you'll draw a lot of grass or flowers. Make sure to label what's there.



5. Now get closer...
Much closer...
6. Get your magnifying glass if you have one. Focus on 1 blade of grass, or the pedal of 1 flower. Get to know EVERY detail about it!
7. Now try draw a sketch of that one small thing and see how detailed you can be!
8. Write down one new thing you learned about what you drew based on this close examination!



CHALLENGE!

Go back to this one area **every day for 1 week** and make a sketch of the area every day in your journal. See if you begin to notice small differences in the color of the grass, or different insect. Then go back 1 month later and notice if there are any bigger changes! Once you train your scientist brain to observe tiny details, a whole new world will open in nature!



Thanks for conducting science with me for this Home Explorer activity from Umpqua Watersheds Education Program.
Happy Earth Week!

Join me for new activities posted every week!

- Ms. Robyn

