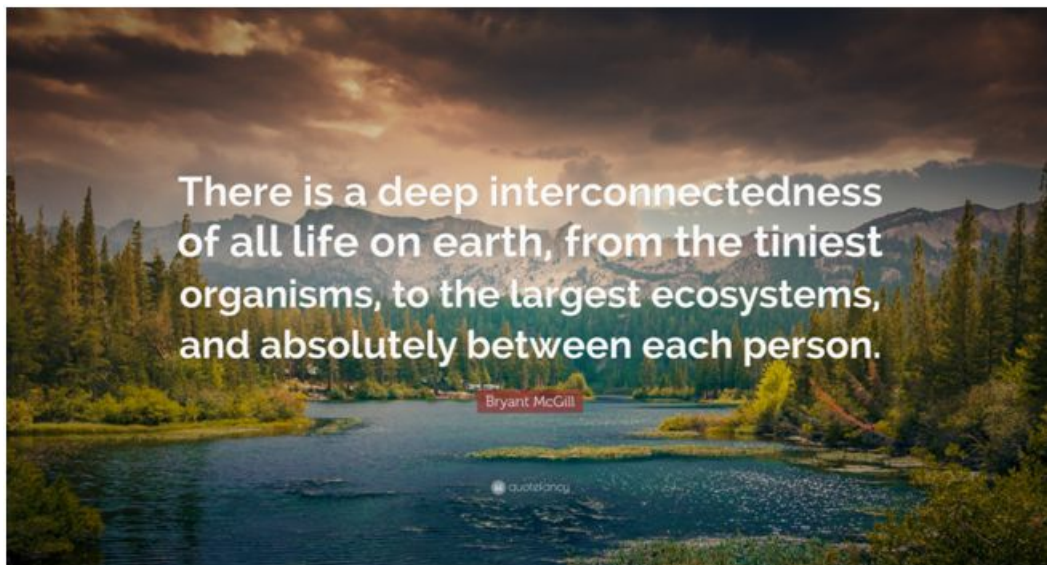
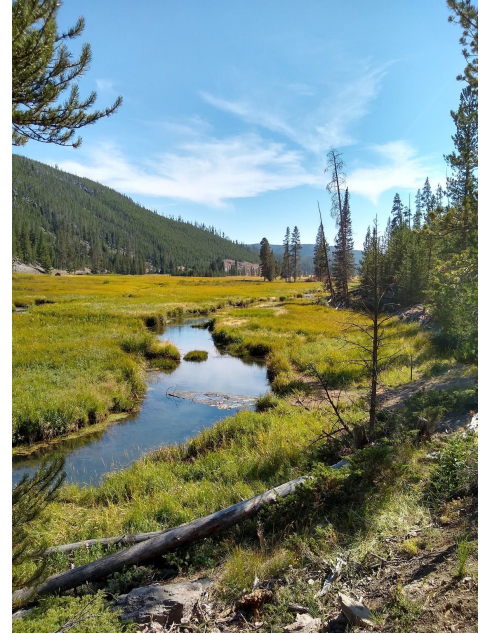




We are All in This Together

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2020 has been unusual and a bit chaotic in a number of ways, not least of which have been the global pandemic and unprecedented wildfires and smoke which have made it difficult for everyone to breathe. We are realizing, like never before, the level of interconnectedness between all living things on this planet, as well as the value of spending time outdoors. What someone does upstream impacts everyone living downstream - and in a way we're all downstream from someone, and can all be impacted by others' actions. The smoke from our fires here in Oregon have reached the East Coast and even Europe! Sometimes there are things that happen that are out of our control, but there are a lot of things we can do to decrease the negative impact on other people and the planet. **Anthropology** is a branch of science which studies people and human culture. (To learn more about anthropology, click [here](#).) This week, we're going to take a moment to appreciate the interconnectedness of our larger human family in our country and around the world.



ACTIVITY: Get to Know Someone

There are a lot of differences between people, and there's a grand biodiversity of living beings on this planet. We all want to be known, understood, and accepted. Perhaps you can take the time to get to know a person who seems different from yourself (or research an animal or plant or culture you don't know much about). Approaching others with an open mind and willingness to hear their stories helps them to feel heard, and it can be so lovely to share our experiences with

others too. Are there ways you could connect with people and build community in your neighborhood or school? What needs or problems exist that you could address? Learning more about the reasons why a problem exists, sharing what you've learned, and figuring out a way to do something about it show that you care, and can help make the world a better place.

You will need:

- ❖ Local newspaper, books about different people/cultures or plants and animals, &/or a laptop/computer
- ❖ Open mind and willingness to learn

Instructions:

1a) Decide who or what you'd like to learn about. If you're in school, this could be as simple as talking to a new person at lunch and getting to know them. If you're researching about a culture or group of people from a different part of the world, or a specific type of plant or animal you're interested in, you could use books or an electronic device to help you learn more.

1b) If you're interested in problem solving, or coming up with solutions to a problem or existing need in your community, a local newspaper could be a great resource to use to help you find or figure out what's going on that you could help with. Or, you might already know of an issue that could be solved with a new idea. Brainstorm some possible solutions and share them with others - all great inventions started with an idea, you never know where yours might lead!

Not sure what to research?

The UN has come up with a number of *Sustainable Development Goals* to address the problems facing our world today...

2) Once you've learned more about this other living being or existing problem, reflect on your learning process. What is something you found out that you didn't expect? What are you still wondering? Who or what else might you like to get to know? Share your experience and thoughts with your parent(s)/guardian(s).



RELATED HOLIDAY THIS WEEK:

International Day of Peace - September 21st

Click [here](#) to learn about more fun activities you could do to celebrate the International Day of Peace.

Or, you could join in for [Peace One Day's Live Broadcast](#) on Monday, September 21st.

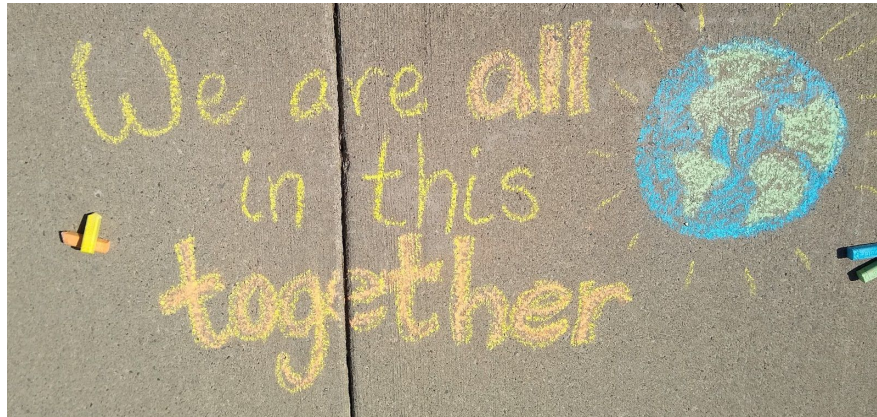
Here are a few activity ideas from an organization called [Roots & Shoots](#)!

How will you celebrate and spread peace?

ARTS & CRAFTS IDEA: Share Positive Messages with Sidewalk Chalk

You will need:

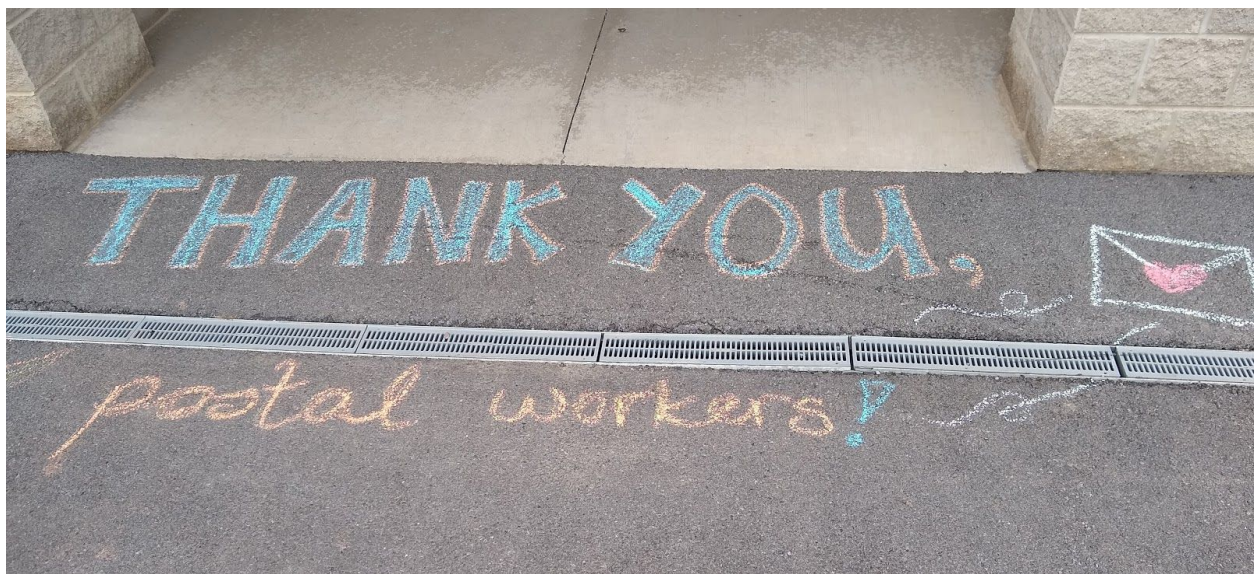
- ❖ Chalk
- ❖ Sidewalk
- ❖ Clear day (without smoke or rain)



I drew this a few months ago to help people get through the pandemic.

Instructions:

- 1) Brainstorm what positive messages you might want to share with others. Perhaps you want to write a note of gratitude, kindness, or joy. Maybe you'd like to wish someone peace and good health.
- 2) Then think about what picture or drawing would go well with your message.
- 3) On a nice day (when the weather is pleasant and you have time), beautify the sidewalks in your neighborhood with your messages of encouragement for all to see! (Make sure your parents are with you or know where you'll be before you head out.)



The messages you write are sure to brighten someone's day! A few days after I wrote my chalk messages of positivity I noticed that another person had drawn some nice messages and pictures as well, which made me smile.

Coming Up:

Umpqua Watersheds will be starting a **book club** for all ages! Be sure to be on the lookout for more information!

This Week's Lessons & Activities Were Adapted from:

Hands Around the World: 365 Ways to Build Cultural Awareness & Global Respect
United Nations/internationaldayofpeace.org

QUOTE TO PONDER

"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

~ Chief Seattle

Thanks for joining me for this week's Home Explorer activities from the Umpqua Watersheds Education Program. There will be new lessons, projects, crafts (and more) posted weekly!

With smiles :)

~ Miss Ryan

