

Environmentally Kids Newsletter

The Newsletter About Kids Saving Nature. Year 1, Issue 5, Jan.-Mar. 2022

Hello & welcome to those who are back! We hope you enjoy this next issue.



About the Newsletter

This newsletter is for people (especially kids) who want to save Nature. We really hope that you will take action in your own ways, and that this newsletter helps you start.

Snow

Though you may know this white fluffy stuff as simply “snow,” there are a lot of things that affect what it is like. For example, there is the snow that is good for packing, the fluffy stuff that makes bad snowballs, and the really slushy kind.

So what makes all these different types, well, different? Let's find out!

One of the ways snow is **classified** is by water content. Here is a table explaining it in more detail:

Types of snow by water content

Category	Water %	Good for Snowballs?
dry	zero percent water	No
moist	less than 3 percent	Yes
wet	3 to 8 percent	Yes
very wet	8 to 15 percent	No
slush	more than 15 percent	No

Info for table from: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/do-you-want-build-snowman-physics-180954024/>

How is snow made?

“Snow crystals are born in the clouds when water vapor freezes on a particle of dust, a floating bit of bacteria, or another solid material. When cloud temperatures are at the freezing point or below, and there is an **ample** supply of moisture in the air, ice crystals form around a core particle. As water vapor condenses and freezes, the complex pattern of a snowflake is born, one **molecule** at a time. A snowflake's **hexagonal** shape is born at the **atomic** level. It is here that water molecules bond together into stable crystal structures.

“Snow can be further classified into six basic patterns called: Needles, columns, plates, columns capped with plates, **dendrites**, and stars. Each

type is the result of different atmospheric and temperature conditions within the cloud.” —from <https://www.familyeducation.com/fun/winter-crafts-activities/learning-about-snow>

Also check out: <https://13wham.com/news/local/the-science-behind-snow-wet-heavy-vs-light-fluffy>

One Good Book:

Book review by Kamilla Milligan

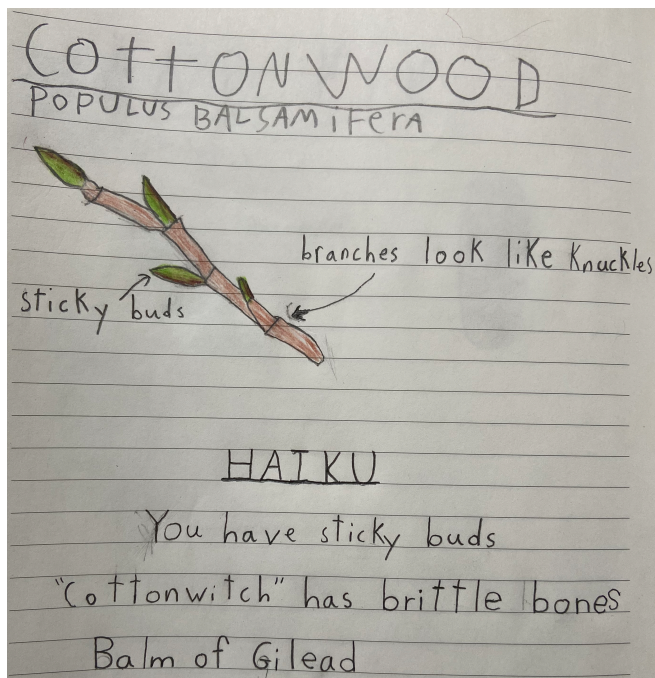
Wilding by Isabella Tree is a wonderful natural history memoir of a farming estate in England. When they were faced with the financial and environmental **unsustainability** of their farming, they began converting their land back to nature. It is an ongoing process that began decades ago. Their work has involved intensive questioning about what a natural ecosystem really is. They faced many barriers, including opposition from people in the area because of the messy, weed-filled nature of some of the stages of **succession**, and environmental regulations that wanted to create defined outcomes even though nature is messy.

Instead, this family wanted to trust natural processes. Lessons they learned include:

- the vital importance of a diversity of animals, particularly **apex species**, that disturb the land in complementary ways and create micro-habitats that support other life forms;
- how soil, once freed from tilling and chemical inputs, can become fertile and able to support much richer plant growth;
- the vital role of mycorrhizal fungi in sequestering carbon in undisturbed soils; and
- the way natural watercourses, particularly when managed by beavers and other such animals, are able to hold water and prevent flooding.

This book has great stories about species rebounding, often much faster than expected, and the exciting ways that ecosystems grow and change continually over time. I highly recommend it.

News from Members And Pet Pics



Yet another beautiful tree
haiku from Amelie Nakatsuka

Moose the Jack Russell came from Salt Spring. He has tons of energy and only gets tired at night. He loves to get scratched and likes kids but doesn't like other dogs much. Thank you Emma Rose for the picture of Moose and the picture of you feeding the chickens.



A floral of blooms,
A branch of life,
A cool breeze,
A fine ray of light,
Melting snow on distance hills.

By Emma Rose

Important Upcoming Days/Dates and Ways to Celebrate

Come up with your own, too, and let us know what they are

World Wildlife Day is March 3rd, 2022

- Learn about an endangered species
- <https://wildlifeday.org/>

World Book Day is March 3rd, 2022

- Read a book that challenges you
- <https://www.worldbookday.com/2021/09/world-book-day-2022-announcements/>

Earth Hour is March 26th, 2022

- <https://www.earthhour.org/our-mission>

Earth Day is April 22nd, 2022

- <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2022/>
- Contact a local government official on an important environmental issue

International Day of Families is May 15th, 2022

- Do something for the environment with your family, like a garbage walk

International Day for Biological Diversity May 22nd, 2022

- Make an unusual picture using different things you find in nature
- More info: <https://www.cbd.int/idb/>

Sharing

We would love to hear from you all if you would like to share. Please submit things for the newsletter (e.g. pictures, poems, stories, etc.) to: kamillab@gmail.com. We'll include the ones we can in the "News From Members And Pet Pics" section. If you want to give a book report with a picture to include in the "One Good Book" section please email it to us.

Next issue will be about starting seeds, so if you have anything to share in that regard, please do so.

Keep at it! Remember, together we can make the difference!

Extra Fun!

Solutions to last issue's fun

Cryptogram Puzzle

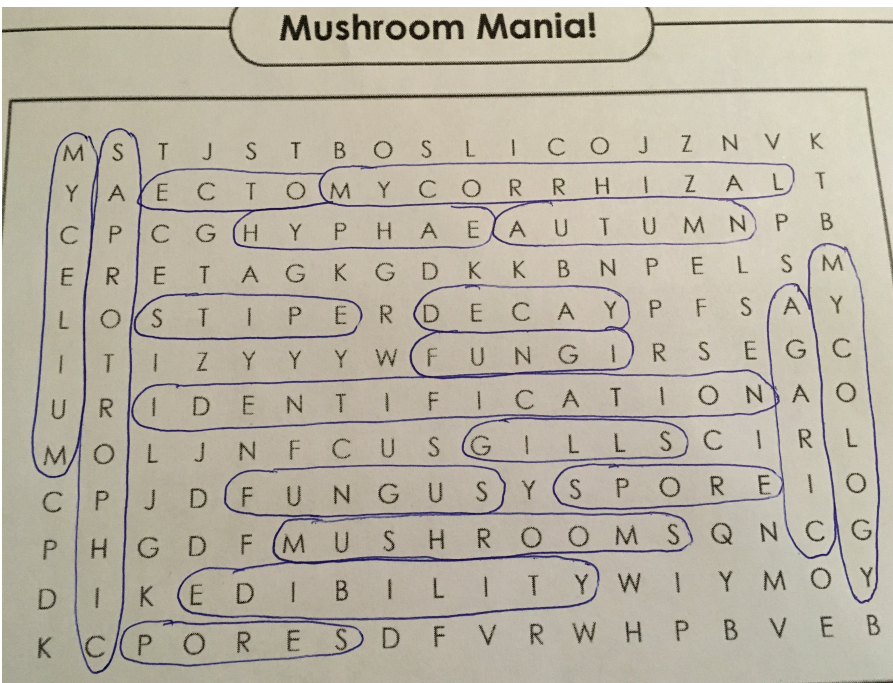
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
U	Z	R	K	A	Y	X	O	M	G	V	C	N

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Q	H	B	L	T	I	W	J	F	D	E	S	P


I N D I G E N O U S
M Q K M X A Q H J I

E O R E S I M A N A G E M E N I
Y H T A I W N U Q U X A N A Q W

Mushroom Mania!



This Issue's Puzzles:

<p>Plant a tree</p> 	<p>Try to identify the trees near your home</p>	<p>Find a sit-spot in Nature</p>
<p>Make and distribute "Save Nature" flyers</p>	<p>With an adult's help, balance on a log</p>	<p>Read a book about trees</p>
<p>Free Space or Make up your own "Save Nature" activity</p>	<p>Recycle/compost what you can from a garbage walk</p>	<p>Make a plan to eat the food in your fridge before it goes bad</p>

Please print the Nature bingo & answer keys (pages 6-7) back to back to avoid wasting paper. Thank you!

Glossary

These definitions are based on our own understanding of the words, plus some research

Ample: Plentiful, abundant

Apex species: The dominant species in an area. They are often top of the food web.

Atmospheric: Related to the atmosphere, the airy space surrounding the earth.

Atomic: Related to atoms

Classified: Put something into a class or category; describe something

Dendrites: A tree-like form

Hexagonal: Having six sides

International: Involving lots of different nations

Molecule: A small particle

Succession: When different types of species (plants and animals) follow one another over time in an area. Each set of species changes the environment and prepares it for the next species.

Unsustainability: when something can't last; it isn't sustainable.

Writers and publishers:

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Thank you for reading!