

Family Nature Club Newsletter

May 4th-10th

Spending time outdoors is not only great for your health, but it is a great way to pass the time. Use these activities and additional resources to help you stay busy during this time at home!



Become a *botanist* for a day...a person who studies plants!

When humans breathe it is an easy action to see. You can simply look at the rise and fall of your chest with each breath. When you exhale against a window what happens? It steams up due to the water vapor in the carbon dioxide you breathe out! What about plants though? Do they "breathe"? Would the same thing happen if they were to exhale? Find out with this cool science experiment! Directions are in the box to the right!

Materials

- Zippered plastic bags
- Access to a variety of plants
- A sunny day!



Directions

1. Find several different plants you can use, such as a bush, vine, tree or flower (pick plants you can easily slide a plastic bag over-do NOT pick them!)
2. Place a plastic bag over a section of each plant or the entire plant if possible.
3. Zip the bags as far closed as possible on each plant without damaging the plant (you won't be able to close the bag completely but that's ok!)
4. Come back to your plants in 30-40 minutes and observe what you see!

Just like a fogged-up window, the water droplets in the bag are evidence the plants are emitting a gas, in this case it's oxygen! Although plants don't "breathe" exactly like we do, they do go through a process called *respiration*, where they take in carbon dioxide and produce the oxygen we breathe!

Article of the Week

"Melted Glacier Reveals Ancient Viking Mountain Pass"

To learn more click here: <https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/43702/20200423/melted-glacier-reveals-ancient-viking-mountain-pass.htm>

Additional Resources

- "Unseen footage, untamed nature" TED Talk: https://www.ted.com/talks/karen_bass_unseen_footage_untamed_nature#t-131569
- Explore the Panama rainforest: <https://vft.asu.edu/VFTPanamaH5/panos/L1MidCanopyMain/L1MidCanopyMain.html>
- Virtual Hike at Aurora's Star K Ranch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRMkwnPmnZ8&list=PLC5E9ECA0A7D27AC9&index=9&t=0s>
- Explore the oceans through virtual dives: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/vr/>

Nature Craft: Nature Mobiles

Find a stick about the length of your forearm. Go on a walk outside and collect any special nature items you find! Using small pieces of string attach your nature items to the stick, hanging them at different lengths. Once complete find a spot to hang your mobile.

Every time you find a new item add it to your mobile or switch it out!

Meet the City of Aurora's animal ambassadors here! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0X2aHrj3XAU>

