

## Books for Kids: Picture Books (J-Easy)

**Trillions of Trees** by Kurt Cyrus

**No More Plastic** by Alma Fullerton

**Stand Up! Speak Up!: A Story Inspired by the Climate Change Revolution** by Andrew Joyner

**Zonia's Rain Forest** by Juana Martinez-Neal

**The Old Boat** by Jarrett Pumphrey & Jerome Pumphrey

**Amara and the Bats** by Emma Reynolds

## Books for Kids: Chapter Books (J-Fiction)

**Willodeen** by Katherine Applegate

**The Silver Arrow** by Lev Grossman

**The Plant Planet** by Jon Scieszka

**Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers** by Celia C. Pérez

## Books for Kids: J-Nonfiction

**A Child's Introduction to the Environment: The Air, Earth, and Sea around Us--Plus Experiments, Projects, and Activities You Can Do to Help Our Planet!** by Michael & Dennis Driscoll 333.72 DRIS 2021

**Plastic: Past, Present, and Future** by Eun-Ju Kim 363.72 KIM

**This Book Is Not Garbage: 50 Ways to Ditch Plastic, Reduce Trash, and Save the World!** by Isabel Thomas 363.735 THOM

**How to Change Everything: The Young Human's Guide to Protecting the Planet and Each Other** by Naomi Klein (adapt. by Rebecca Steffoff) 363.738 KLEI

**Climate Action: The Future Is in Our Hands** by Georgina Stevens 363.73874 STEV

**Girl Warriors: How 25 Young Activists Are Saving the Earth** by Rachel Sarah J-Biog 333.72092 SARA

**Right Now!: Real Kids Speaking Up for Change** by Miranda Paul J-Biog 323.042 PAUL

## Books for Teens: Fiction

**Ship Breaker** by Paolo Bacigalupi

**The Marrow Thieves** by Cherie Dimaline

**War Girls** by Tochi Onyebuchi

**Endangered** by Eliot Schrefer

**Dry** by Neal and Jarrod Shusterman

## Books for Teens: Nonfiction

**It's Getting Hot in Here: The Past, Present, and Future of Climate Change** by Bridget Heos 363.73874 HEOS

**Taking on the Plastics Crisis** by Hannah Testa 363.738 TEST

**The Call of Antarctica: Exploring and Protecting Earth's Coldest Continent** by Leilani Raashida Henry 919.89 ANTA

**The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go from Here** adapt. by Hope Jahren 363.73874 JAHR

**Earth Will Survive\*: \*But We May Not: A History of Humans' Understanding of Earth, Our Impact on It, and the Steps We Must Take to Save Countless Species—Including Our Own** by Katie Coppens 304.2 COPP

## Kids Activity: Go Green Treasure Box

### Supplies

Look around your home for materials you may already have. This is an opportunity to be creative while you Go Green.

Egg carton (from your recycle container)

Dark colored paint (any leftover paint will be perfect)

Silver or gold metallic paint, ribbon or washi tape (this detail truly defines the look of a treasure box.)

Leftover shiny gems or stickers (cut out photos of gold or silver coins, gemstones, jewelry from old magazines)

Glue (for ribbon or cut-out pictures)

### Instructions

Paint your egg carton with dark paint on the outside. If you find a metallic paint, you can paint the inside with this or another color.

Add two metallic straps on the top of your treasure box and the closing tab. You can add details to the closing tab to look like a lock with a black marker. Let dry if using paint or glue.

Decorate with shiny stickers, gems, cut-out coins, jewelry, or gemstones pictures.

Place your keepsake treasures inside and enjoy your Go Green Treasure Box

## Teens Activity: Small Indoor Terrarium

### Supplies

Watch <https://youtu.be/y7xrn1zSgII>

Glass container, potted plant (succulents work well), potting soil, gravel, decorative stones, piece of wood, or figurines

Optional: activated carbon, ground cloth

### Instructions

Choose a plant that will fit well in your container and won't grow too big.

Place gravel at the bottom of your container, at least an inch thick. If you have activated carbon, place this in first with your gravel over it.

If you have ground cloth, you can cut a piece smaller than the width of your container and place it on top of the gravel.

Add potting soil, at least a few inches. Your plant can sit completely within your container or rise above it.

Before you remove your plant from its pot, play around with your decorative pieces and plant to see what arrangement you like best.

Once you decide on a location, carefully remove it from its container by gently squeezing the bottom. If the roots are all bound up, gently loosen them.

Dig a small hole for your plant and place it inside, carefully pushing the dirt back in around it.

Lightly water. If you've planted a succulent, you'll only want to water when the soil is completely dry. Water should not be sitting at the bottom of your container.



# Homeschool Connections

An Educational Resource Tool **SPRING 2022**

## LOCATION KEY

- CA Calhan Library**  
600 Bank St., Calhan  
(719) 531-6333, x7013
- CH Cheyenne Mountain Library**  
1785 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
(719) 531-6333, x7001
- EA East Library**  
5550 N. Union Blvd.  
(719) 531-6333, x7014
- eLibrary**  
ppld.org  
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- FO Fountain Library**  
230 S. Main St., Fountain  
(719) 531-6333, x7002
- HI High Prairie Library**  
7035 Old Meridian Rd., Peyton  
(719) 531-6333, x7003
- KCH Knights of Columbus Hall**  
20 W. Pikes Peak Ave.  
(719) 531-6333, x6142
- LI Library 21c**  
1175 Chapel Hills Dr.  
(719) 531-6333, x7012
- MA Manitou Springs Library**  
515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs  
(719) 531-6333, x7004
- Mobile Library Services**  
ppld.org/mobile-library-services  
(719) 531-6333, x7702
- MO Monument Library**  
1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument  
(719) 531-6333, x7005
- OL Old Colorado City Library**  
2418 W. Pikes Peak Ave.  
(719) 531-6333, x7006
- PA Palmer Lake Library**  
66 Lower Glenway St., Palmer Lake  
(719) 531-6333, x7007
- PE Penrose Library**  
20 N. Cascade Ave.  
(719) 531-6333, x7015
- RO Rockrimmon Library**  
832 Village Center Dr.  
(719) 531-6333, x7008
- RU Ruth Holley Library**  
685 N. Murrery Blvd.  
(719) 531-6333, x1584
- SA Sand Creek Library**  
1821 S. Academy Blvd.  
(719) 531-6333, x7018
- UT Ute Pass Library**  
8010 Severy Rd., Cascade  
(719) 531-6333, x7011



**Homeschool Hub** | [ppld.org/homeschool-hub](http://ppld.org/homeschool-hub)

Whether you are a veteran homeschooling family, or just getting started, visit the PPLD Homeschool Hub to check out community and library events, sign up for eNewsletters, and access reading lists. Click on the "Resources" tab to link to information on getting started, Colorado homeschool laws, local enrichment programs, tutoring, extracurricular activities, support organizations, and more.

## Go Green!

Going "green" to help our planet has gone beyond things we can do at home, such as recycling plastic and paper products, turning off the lights when you leave a room, and using less water. Some creative thinkers have really gone "outside the box" to help the environment. Read about the innovative ideas below, then research online for more information!

### Potty-Trained Cattle

Researchers in Germany trained 11 calves to use a special stall covered with artificial turf when they needed to pee. This helps prevent the ammonia and nitrous oxide found in the cows' waste from going into the air and leaching into waterways. Those cows are real whizzes at potty training!

### Landfill Flowers

Old landfills can be eyesores, and those covered in fescue (lawn grass) take up a lot of resources with the watering and mowing necessary to keep them looking neat and green. However, a nonprofit group, Sustainability Matters, decided to try something new – flowers! Thousands of seeds were spread across five acres of old landfill in Shenandoah County, Virginia with the hope that 15 different types of wildflowers will bloom in the spring, providing a habitat for pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, while also helping to prevent erosion. What a beautiful idea!

### Plastic-Eating Mushrooms

Yes, you read that correctly! In recent years, mushrooms species that can consume polyurethane, a main ingredient in plastic products, have been located. Found in the Amazon rainforest by Yale research students, Pestalotiopsis microspora breaks down, then digests polyurethane, and eventually turns it into organic matter. Scientists are even looking at the potential edibility of some species of plastic-eating mushrooms after they have consumed plastic.

### Plastic Roads

The path to the future may just be paved in... plastic! Engineers in Ghana have been experimenting with adding plastic bags, bottles, and other packaging to their slurry of asphalt. The recycled products act as a bonding agent that keeps the typical components, such as gravel, sand, or limestone, together. It is estimated that a ton of CO2 emissions are saved for every ton of bitumen (the black gooey substance from crude oil typically used in asphalt mixtures) that is not used in the asphalt.

**HOMESCHOOL Art Show**

**Submit your art between Mar. 21 - 29 at East Library!**  
Art will be displayed at East Library during the month of April.

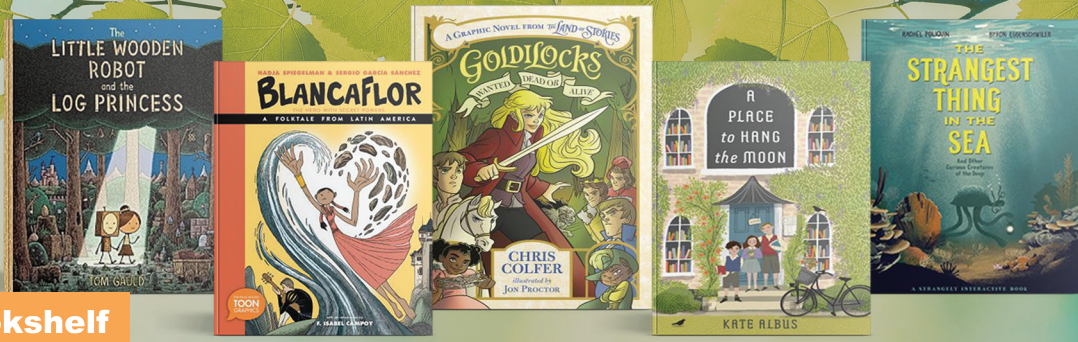
Homeschoolers, grades K - 12, can submit one artwork (drawing, painting, sculpture, needlework, etc.) for this non-juried exhibit.

Learn more at [ppld.org/Homeschool-Art-Show](http://ppld.org/Homeschool-Art-Show)



Other Cool Resources: Go Green

The New Bookshelf



**The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess**  
by Tom Gauld

Cartoon artwork and a well-written narrative present a captivating tale of two inseparable siblings—one created mechanically and the other created magically. This picture book is a brand-new fairy tale, full of love and disaster, with a very happy ending. Read it again and again!

**Ages 5 - 10**  
**Traditional Tales**  
J-Easy GAUL

**Blancaflor: The Hero with Secret Powers**  
by Nadja Spielman & Sergio García Sánchez

Delight and terror are found in fairy tales; it is why we go back to these stories over and over. This retelling of a traditional tale features a magical princess, a foolish prince, and an ogre who plans to beat the prince in a game and EAT him. An author's note explains that this story exists in nearly every culture, as it is one of the oldest tales in the world.

**Ages 8 - 12**  
**Traditional Tales**  
J-741.5972 BLACAFLO SPIE

**Goldilocks Wanted Dead or Alive**  
by Chris Colfer

This long graphic novel is full of exuberance as traditional stories such as "The Gingerbread Man" are encountered but new endings occur. But wait, this is far more than just twisting a few well-known tales, as fugitive Goldilocks reveals her origin story and fights for justice. Weak and timid storybook characters learn to act with courage in this very satisfying re-envisioning.

**Ages 8 - 12**  
**Traditional Tales**  
J-741.5976 GOLDILOC COLF

**A Place to Hang the Moon**  
by Kate Albus

In World War II England, three siblings who love to read are sent out of London for their safety. True orphans (their grandmother has passed away), the kids are placed with struggling families who don't even read. The unfairness the siblings experience is a great opportunity for talking about difficult/bad situations. But don't despair—there is a happy and satisfying ending.

**Ages 8 - 12**  
**Historical Fiction**  
J-Fiction ALBU


**The Strangest Thing in the Sea**  
by Rachel Poliquin


Poliquin has a way of writing about animals that leaves readers amazed, entertained, and remembering the facts because the presentation both surprises and amazes. This book introduces creatures of the sea. Read all of her other books and become experts on an assortment of animals.


**Ages 5 - 10**  
**Zoology Ecology**  
J-591.77 POLI


PPLD Resources: Go Green

PPLD has resources about the environment and conservation that would be useful for kids of many ages.

 **PPLD Databases**  
To access these educational resources (free with your library card and pin #) go to [ppld.org/databases](http://ppld.org/databases) and type in the name of the database, or visit [ppld.org/kids](http://ppld.org/kids) and click Homework.

 **Green Living LibGuide**  
[research.ppld.org/greenlivingresources/home](http://research.ppld.org/greenlivingresources/home)  
LibGuides are primarily used by librarians to consolidate links and resources in an easy-to-navigate fashion. In the Green Living LibGuide, you'll discover databases with information about the environment and a curated list of national and local websites with information about Colorado and environmental education.

 **Gale in Context: Elementary -- Climate Change Resources**  
Covering a wide array of subjects, Gale in Context: Elementary is a wonderful database for elementary and middle school students because it allows you to sort by content level; there are easy-to-read articles for those just learning to read and articles that would be more appropriate for middle-schoolers. Load the database and type "Climate Change" in the search box to discover a wealth of materials including book articles, news articles, pictures, and more!

 **Endangered Species (online)**  
This encyclopedia will interest animal lovers and conservationists of all ages! It presents information about each animal including a picture, habitat, reason for being on the endangered or threatened species list, and what is being done to keep the animals from going extinct.

 **PBS: Human Impact on the Environment**  
[mpbs.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/climate-change-understanding-the-impact](http://mpbs.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/climate-change-understanding-the-impact)

Check out this website to learn about human impact on the environment! These short, friendly videos from PBS cover topics like air pollution, ocean litter, endangered animals, and more. Each video is accompanied by supporting materials, including discussion questions and activities, to help you make the most of each lesson.

 **Colorado Parks & Wildlife**  
[cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/Kids.aspx](http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/Kids.aspx)

Start learning about the world around you by getting outdoors and exploring your local environment! The Colorado Parks & Wildlife website features engaging, hands-on activities for kids and families. Download the activity book for coloring pages and fun facts about animals and the environment. Check out the accompanying ideas for self-guided exploration to help you make the most of your trip to the state park.

 **Ecological Footprint Calculator**  
[footprintcalculator.org/home/en](http://footprintcalculator.org/home/en)

Understanding your impact on the planet is a great way to start going green! Use this website to calculate your family's carbon footprint and your personal Earth Overshoot Day, but don't get discouraged by what you discover! You can explore facts and figures, compare your results to the rest of the world, and when you're ready, find solutions to lower your impact.

 **Upcycle That**  
[upcyclethat.com](http://upcyclethat.com)

Looking to send less trash to the landfill? Find new and exciting ways to reuse household items on this website! You can learn how to make art projects, toys, and other useful items from your discarded materials. Turn a plastic bottle into a bubble blower, make a cozy lampshade out of a ruined sweater, make a toothbrush holder out of a plastic dinosaur, or submit your own creation to share with the world!!

 **Young Voices for the Planet**  
[youngvoicesfortheplanet.com/for-kids](http://youngvoicesfortheplanet.com/for-kids)

Want to get involved in environmental activism? Check out Young Voices for the Planet for ways to make a difference. Watch their short films about kids who got involved, from planting trees to petitioning their town hall to allow solar panels on buildings. When you're ready, check out the "Take Action" section for lesson plans, youth action groups, and other helpful tips.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FORM A FAMILY GREEN TEAM**

Consistently making environmentally friendly choices as a family may sound daunting, but just making a few simple changes in your family's lifestyle can make a significant impact on your carbon footprint. Your Family Green Team can make intentional, earth-friendly choices to develop lasting habits that are good for the environment. Here are some sustainable lifestyle tips to get your team started!

**Conserve energy.** Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. Depend on natural lighting when possible. Upgrade your home with LED lights (they use less energy, demanding less from power plants). And dress in layers indoors on cooler days before turning the heat up.

**Reduce your carbon footprint.** Carpool, walk or bike, drive less when possible and reduce vehicle emissions that affect global warming.

**Use a travel mug or water bottle and reusable grocery bags.** Plastic water bottles and bags are single use items that can end up in the landfill where they take 450 to 1000 years to decompose.

**Add pollinator plants to your garden or yard.** Choose a variety of flowering plants and native species when adding to your landscape. This will attract bees and butterflies that facilitate reproduction in 90% of the world's flowering plants (e.g. The fruits and vegetables that we consume).

**Pack a zero waste snack, lunch, or picnic.** Purchase a reusable lunch box with several compartments, reusable beeswax wrappers, a reusable insulated container, and a reusable wooden spoon/fork. Leftover scraps of food can be composted for zero waste!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle as a family. You can reduce the use of fuel, purchase of items in excessive packaging, take shorter showers, and update lighting. When possible, reach for items that can be reused or creatively repurposed. Recycle anything your family no longer uses by donating clothing, games, books, craft supplies, and household items, and consider adding the Recycle service to your weekly trash pickup.

Choose a few green tips to get started or find a new one to add to your repertoire as you and your family team up to "Go Green!"