



Cycles of the Earth



CYCLES OF THE EARTH

Our Earth is constantly changing. Natural cycles balance the Earth, its water and its atmosphere. Human activities can cause changes to these natural cycles. The Earth is special; it has air to breathe, liquid water to drink, and temperatures just right for life as we know it. So let's explore some of these important cycles.

Water

Water keeps being used over and over again. It's called the water cycle. The water you use today was used by the dinosaurs! The same water was used by other plants and animals before and after the dinosaurs. People add steps to the water cycle. We pump water to our houses through pipes and then send the water we used in our houses through other pipes to a water treatment plant. After the water is cleaned, we send it on to another step of the water cycle.



Recycle More

When you buy something that is made out of paper, plastic, glass, or metal, you can recycle it by putting it in a blue recycle container when you are done with it. Those used items can then be made into new items. A plastic bottle can be used to help make a new fleece jacket. A used aluminum container can be made into a new aluminum container. Why is this important? When you recycle, you save valuable resources and you make less trash. Now you can recycle more in Spokane! Check out the new, bigger blue recycling cart and learn about all the items you can put into it to be recycled!



Trees and Plants

Trees and plants go through lots of different cycles. One cycle they go through is the nutrient cycle. All living things need nutrients. We get ours from food, and trees get theirs from the soil. When trees and other plants die they break down in the soil and become nutrients themselves.



Weather and Air

Changes in weather affect our air. When winds are light and the air is stable, or doesn't mix, the air can get dirty or hazy. When storms blow through the area with rain, snow or breezy winds, this cleans our atmosphere and brings in fresh clean air. The movement of the air evens out the differences in temperature too, and creates a cycle.



Day, Night and Seasons

Our Earth moves through many cycles. Day to night is our daily cycle, and it happens from the Earth spinning on its axis. Changes in the moon is our monthly cycle, and it occurs with the moon rotating around the Earth. The seasons, moving from summer to fall, and winter to spring, is our yearly cycle. It's caused by the Earth moving around the sun.



FALL COMPOST FAIR AND FALL LEAF FESTIVAL



Saturday, October 27th
11am—2 pm
Finch Arboretum

Earn 5 points by participating in each event

Kids—Come play in a giant leaf pile!
Parents—Learn how to compost and be able to take home a free compost bin.

Limit one per household. Please arrive no later than 1:30 pm and bring proof of residency. Bins provided by Spokane Regional Solid Waste System and the Washington State.



America Recycles Day

Monday, November 12th
11am-3pm

Mobius Kids Museum—808 W Main Ave
Lower Level of River Park Square—regular admission



Preserve Pressed Leaves

Leaves go through a cycle. They start as small buds in the early spring. They grow to big leaves by summer. Then in the autumn, leaves turn colors and fall to the ground. This is a great time to collect the leaves.

1. Collect many different types and colors of leaves.
2. Place the leaves between two sheets of newspaper. Place heavy books on top. Leave the leaves alone for 1-2 weeks until they are dry and flat.
3. Arrange pressed leaves between the shiny sides of two sheets of wax paper. Place a brown paper bag under the wax paper.
4. ADULT— Press the top sheet of wax paper gently with a warm iron for about 10 seconds. Let cool.
5. Display your leaf collection for others to see!



Apple Smiles



Ingredients:

- Smooth peanut butter or cream cheese
- 1 red apple, cored & sliced
- Squeeze of lemon juice
- Mini marshmallows

Directions:

1. Spread peanut butter on one side of each apple slice. Squeeze a little lemon juice over the apple if not serving right away.
2. Place five mini marshmallows on one apple slice and then lay another apple slice, peanut butter or cream cheese side down, on top.
3. Eat & Enjoy!

Big Blue...



Community Calendar

October

- 23 Deadline-Spokane Recycles Poster Contest
27 Fall Leaf and Compost Fair @ Finch Arboretum, Free, 11am—2pm

November

- 12 Recycle at Mobius Kids @ River Park Square, admission fee, 11am—3pm

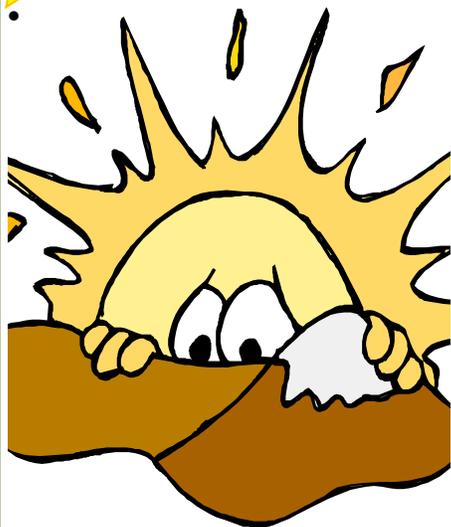
Boogle Puzzle

Find words by connecting letters vertically, horizontally or diagonally. Some possible words include: **LEAVES, WORMS, SOIL, ROOTS, WOOL, TOW, LOVE, ROSE, LOSE, TOOL**...and many more.

T	S	L	I
O	W	M	O
L	O	R	S
E	A	V	E

See how many words you can find!

Earn 5 points by completing each special EnviroKids' activity and return this page!



Exploring the Earth's Daily Cycle

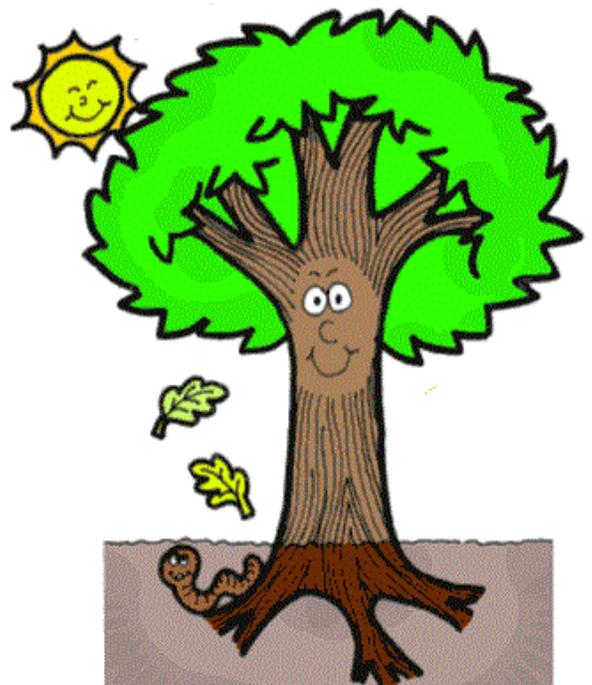
You have probably observed the sun appearing in the morning and disappearing in the evening. Have you ever wondered what makes that happen?

- Where does the sun seem to rise at your house? (You may need a compass)
- Where does it seem to set?
- Make a drawing that shows your house and where the sun rises and sets. See how it changes each day.

Nutrient Cycle Puzzle

See if you can fill in the blanks with these words? **LEAVES, FOOD, ROOTS, SOIL, and FALL**

1. Leaves make sunlight into _____.
2. Then the leaves _____ to the ground.
3. Earth worms in the soil eat the _____.
4. The earth worms leave the nutrients in the _____.
5. _____ take up the nutrients from the soil.





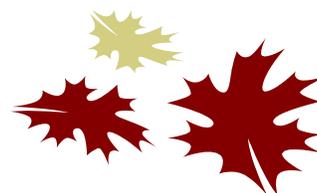
EnviroKids' Club

EnviroKids' Club
c/o National Weather Service
2601 N Rambo Rd.
Spokane, WA 99224

PRSR T STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 722

**See inside for
Activity Details!**

Members can earn 5 points
by completing each special
EnviroKids' activity that is
marked with a gold star!



EnviroKids'... caring for the Earth

EnviroKids' Club provides its 300+ members with information and activities to explore aspects of the environment: air, water, weather, garbage and recycling, plants and animals. The Club is open to all Spokane County residents who are in grades K-6.

Club members receive a newsletter in the mail four times a year. The newsletter contains activities to complete and ideas for activities at home or in the community. Members who are interested can complete activities and/or participate in some of the events to earn points. Earned points can then be used to trade-in for prizes. **Members need to participate in at least one activity per year to receive newsletters.** For more information, visit www.spokaneenvirokids.org.

**To earn points, mail the completed activities
page and this page by Dec. 30, 2012 to:**

EnviroKids' Club c/o National Weather Service
2601 N. Rambo Rd. Spokane, WA 99224

Complete the activities in the newsletter, fill in this form and send it back to us to earn your points! Do you have a friend or sibling who would like to join Envirokids' Club? Copy this page for them to send in and be added to our mailing list.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

My child has permission to participate in EnviroKids' Club activities that I accompany him/her to and permission is granted to use his/her photo that may be taken at such event, for promoting the Club (newsletter, flyers, ads, website, etc.)

Parent Signature. Please print name, then sign and date

EnviroKids' Club Partners: National Weather Service, Spokane County Water Resources, Spokane Conservation District, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, Spokane Regional Solid Waste System, and WA State Department of Ecology.

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