

Into the Field

Environmental Education

Distance Learning Resources

Issue 5: Online and Interactive Materials



While learning outdoors is ideal, we know that environmental literacy can develop through a variety of media and experiences. Particularly in a distance learning context, having multiple methods of facilitating environmental education is important. This issue focuses on online and interactive tools that facilitate environmental education. The resources presented below are stand-alone internet websites or apps that students can access, many of which you as an educator could connect to other activities or areas of study.

We've grouped activities by age, but in general these are suggested guidelines. Many of the activities could be easily adjusted to work with a different age-group, so double-check before you skip a section!

ALL AGES OR FAMILY ACTIVITIES

[Take a Quiz](#)

Get the family together and test your knowledge on a variety of environmental topics. Discover who is an expert in what as you work your way through these quizzes created by earthday.org. Learning together is a great way to have conversations about the environment and its importance in our own lives.

[Wall of Birds](#)

The Wall of Birds Project is a one-of-a-kind celebration of the world of birds. Envisioned by Cornell Lab ornithologists to showcase biodiversity and evolutionary change, the project features 270 species from all surviving bird families accompanied by a ghostly parade of extinct ancestors. The mural and its online interactive comprehensively represent the spectacular variety in the bird world from past to present. Zooming in on the beautiful mural allows users to click on specific bird species and families, opening a descriptive panel with audio recordings, maps, and other details about the bird.

[Virtual Dive](#)

Take a virtual, 360° dive with sea lions! The National Marine Sanctuaries website has narrated dive videos that the whole family could enjoy watching. Explore the view of the ocean and its inhabitants through the eyes of a diver through this and other tours on the website.

EARLY LEARNERS

[Plum Landing](#)

This is an exciting multi-platform, indoor-outdoor, science exploration adventure for kids and grown-ups. There are games, animations, videos, an app, a whole digital curriculum for afterschool and summer programs, and science activities for parents and kids to do together. Resources are available in English or Spanish.

[Peep and the Big, Wide World](#)

The animated series Peep and the Big Wide World gives wings to the innovative idea of teaching science and math to preschoolers. Wry and distinctive visual humor, charming plotlines, and lovable characters combine with a comprehensive science program to attract and engage kids three to five years old.



GRADES 3-5

[Conservation in the Classroom](#)

Bring conservation and science to life by giving children the opportunity to hear from WWF experts. Through free 45-minute virtual events livestreamed on the website, children can listen as WWF experts share stories of their experience working to protect species and habitats around the world. As you watch live, you can submit questions for the expert, participate in polls and quizzes, and interact with the expert by showing how much you learned! These experiences are open to parents with children, teachers with students, and anyone interested in bringing conservation experts into your classroom or living room.

[NASA: Climate Kids](#)

NASA's Climate Kids website brings climate science to life with fun games, interactive features and exciting articles. Students can explore by type of activity or through one of these topics: Weather and Climate, Atmosphere, Big Questions, Plants and Animals, Energy, or Water

GRADES 6-8

[iNaturalist](#)

One of the world's most popular nature apps, iNaturalist helps you identify the plants and animals around you. This user-friendly app allows users to connect with a community of over a million scientists and naturalists who can help you learn more about nature! What's more, by recording and sharing observations, users create research quality data for scientists working to better understand and protect nature. iNaturalist is a joint initiative by the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society.

[All About Feathers](#)

The Cornell Lab has created an interactive website for exploring the anatomy and characteristics of birds. Students can independently follow the link to explore unique aspects of birds by clicking on illustrations and diagrams. This step-by-step interactive is accessible and engaging with detailed explorations contained within its five sections.

HIGH SCHOOL

[BioInteractive: Understanding Global Change](#)

This standards-aligned interactive module allows students and educators to build models that explain how the Earth system works. The Click & Learn can be used to show how Earth is affected by human activities and natural phenomena. The website can be viewed in Spanish.

[Understanding Food and Climate Change: An Interactive Guide](#)

An interactive guide for educators, students, and advocates that explores how food systems and our changing climate interact, and how personal choices can make a difference. Created by the Center for Ecoliteracy, this interactive can be used in multiple formats. The website also shows related modules.

[Epidemiologists: Disease Detectives](#)

In this PBS lesson, students learn about epidemiology and the role epidemiologists play in responding to disease outbreaks and protecting public health. Students also learn through class discussion the various means by which infectious diseases are transmitted and that environmental factors may help or hinder their spread. A final activity gives them a chance to extend the outbreak investigation they saw in the West Nile virus videos.

You can reach us with your comments and questions at
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