

January 2014

# California Kids!

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# Discover Museum Science & Space Center Events

**Space Quest!: The Final Days, Thursday-Sunday, January 2 - 5, 12:30 to 4 p.m. 3...2...1 Blast off!** Join the for the closing of their Space Quest! exhibit.

Learn about the science of the universe and about our own solar system in this entertaining and hands-on exhibit. Visit the 12-foot rocket play space and dress up in an astronaut costume and helmet. Explore color and light in the light affects room. Children 12 and under make a paper rocket wand to fly around the exhibit and to take home. Admission includes an animal presentation at noon & 2pm and planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. (for ages 4 and older).

**Blast from the Past! Opening Weekend, Saturday-Monday, January 18 -20, 12:30 to 4 p.m.** It's opening weekend for the "Blast from the Past!" exhibit with loads of rocks, crystals, fossils and dinosaurs for you to explore. Take a picture in a dino costume, see the crystal collection and learn



## Discovery Weekends

about the different types of rocks found on our planet -- and in space! To add to the excitement, the Discovery Museum is one of four sites in the country chosen by NASA to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Opportunity rover and Mars geology it has studied. A life-size rover twin is on display and children (ages 12 and under) explore its tools through simulation stations. Take-home activities help kids remember this great experience.

**Dino Diorama, Saturday and Sunday, January 25 and 26, 12:30 to 4 p.m.** Visit with your family to find dinosaurs lurking about our "Blast from the Past!" exhibit. From the peaceful Apatosaurus to the terrifying claws of the raptor

family, there is a dinosaur for everyone. Make sure you catch a view of our newest beast- a life-size Velociraptor! Bring your camera to catch your little ones transformed into dinos in the costume corner. Children craft a dinosaur diorama in the classroom. Admission includes an animal presentation at noon and 2 p.m. and planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. (for ages 4 and older).

*Discovery Museum Science & Space Center is located at 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. Admission is: \$8 adults (18+), \$7 seniors (60+), \$7 teens (13-17), \$6 children (4-12), \$0 children (3 and under). Ages appropriate for: 4-12 years old. For more information, call (916) 808-3942 or visit [www.thediscovery.org](http://www.thediscovery.org).*



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# California Kids!

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# Fairy Tale Town events

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day- Monday, January, 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Fairy Tale Town will be open on Martin Luther King Jr. Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting. Holiday admission is \$5 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit [www.fairytaletown.org](http://www.fairytaletown.org) or call (916) 808-7462.



**Sacramento Museum Day - Saturday, February 1, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Sacramento Museum Day returns for a 16th year with half-price or free admission at nearly 30 museums. Fairy Tale Town will be offering half-price admission on Sacramento Museum Day. Admission is \$2.50 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. A Sacramento cultural tradition, Sacramento Museum Day is designed to encourage all members of the community to experience the region's incredible wealth of art, history, science and wildlife at little cost. This hugely popular community event is presented by the Sacramento Association of Museums. For more information, visit [www.fairytaletown.org](http://www.fairytaletown.org) or call (916) 808-7462.

## About Fairy Tale Town

Fairy Tale Town is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit children's park and educational center in Land Park whose mission is to promote the imagination, creativity and education of children. Established in 1959, Fairy Tale Town is home to 25 three-dimensional play sets based on favorite fairytales and nursery rhymes, a family of 22 rare and miniature breed animals, three interactive learning gardens and two performing arts stages. From March through October, the park is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting. From November through February, the park is open Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting. For more information, visit [www.fairytaletown.org](http://www.fairytaletown.org) or call (916) 808-7462.



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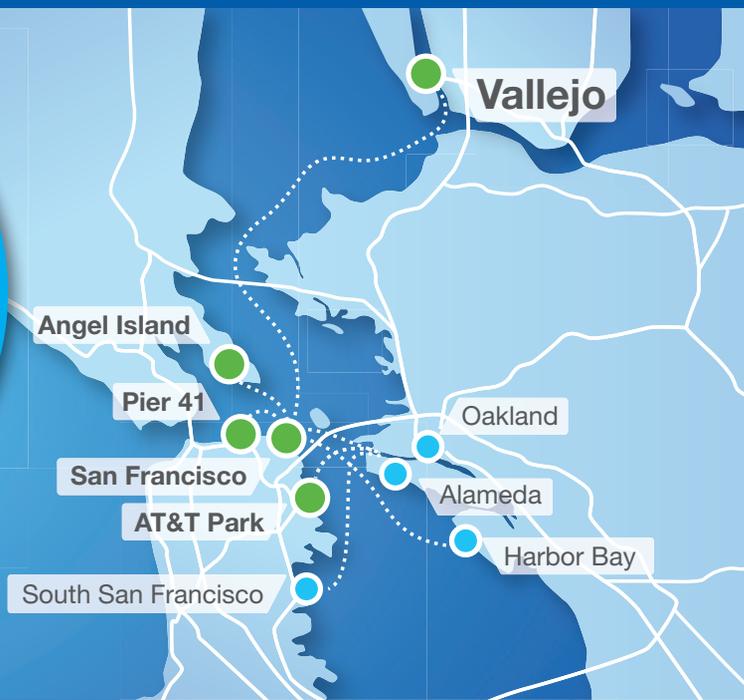
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# Maidu Museum & Historic Site Events

All Nations Native Craft Fair: Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Native American artisans from California tribes and the Cherokee Nation will be selling contemporary jewelry, basketry, and other handmade crafts from traditional materials. Free entertainment includes: tribal drumming, traditional music and singing and free children's activities. Door prizes will be available throughout the day.

Museum Free Days: December 17 – 19, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Enjoy FREE admission, FREE guided tours at 10 a.m. and FREE children's activities all day.

## Continuing Exhibits:

**“Maidu Museum Collections Exhibit” - Exhibit Show Dates: To January 3**

This exhibit from the archives and collections of the Maidu Museum & Historic Site includes artwork from well-known Native American artists such as Frank Day, Stan Padilla, Larry Rodriguez, Paul Stone, Alan Wallace and the Maidu Independent Theater. Each piece represents and reflects important elements of tribal tradition, embedded within a vitality of vibrant colors, textures and creativity.

**“Traditional Arts of Jeremy Peconom, Mountain Maidu Artist” - Exhibit Show Dates: To January 6**

Jeremy Peconom is a local Maidu Indian artist who has created an amazing collection of traditional tools, weapons and regalia. Jeremy developed his artistic expression of his culture from learning the traditional knowledge passed down to him by his ancestors. Jeremy continues to follow the traditions of his people in many ways and he believes that the old time ways are more important now than ever.

**“Our Journey - The First Families of East Yolo” - Exhibit Show Dates: to January 31**

The exhibit “Our Journey: The First Families of East Yolo”, co-curated by Thom Lewis and April Farnham, honors the first families - Native Americans - who lived, worked and raised their families in what is now West Sacramento. This collection of historical photographs, on loan from the West Sacramento Historical Society, includes pictures from the 1940s-1950s of the Federated Indians of California, an “All-Indian Chapter” of the VFW in Bryte, California. Indian families have been actively involved in the civic and political affairs of East Yolo and the greater Sacramento region for decades. This exhibit shares some of those stories.

Museum hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3rd Saturdays 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Guided Tours Saturdays at 10 a.m. Self-guided tours on weekdays. Admission is \$4.50 adults, \$4 senior/child, \$2 after 2 p.m. The museum is located at 1970 Johnson Ranch Drive, Roseville. For more information, call (916) 774-5934 or visit [www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum](http://www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum).



**Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent and Help Us in Healing the Hope for Tomorrow**

Please join us on February 8th from 1-3pm for an informative foster/adoptive parent orientation.

2775 Cottage Way #11, Sacramento CA, 95825  
For more information please call 916-487-2111

# International Gymnastics Centre finishes season with top honors

*Special to California Kids*

West Sacramento's largest gymnastics training facility, International Gymnastics Centre (IGC) has finalized their 2013 competitive year with multiple individual and team accolades.

The USA Gymnastics Men's Junior National Development Team is determined through the use of a “Future Stars” Championships and Evaluation held in the fall of each year. IGC's Landon Wu competed in the 10-year old division and earned 8th place to qualify him for the Team and earn him invitations to exclusive Developmental Camps throughout the Spring of 2014.

IGC's Acro Team ended their season with two golds and one silver at the National Championships, held in Louisville,

Kentucky. They had four athletes named to the Age Group Developmental Team, earning them the honor to train at the Olympic Training Center in Huntsville, Texas. In addition, our athletes won the Region 1 Athletes of the Year award for both Levels 5-7 and Levels 8-10, and our coaching staff won the Junior Olympic National Coach of the Year award.

Last month, IGC's Girl's Compulsory Teams in Levels 3, 4, & 5 completed their State Championships with a grand total of 34 first place finishes for the season. This is the gym's most-decorated year to date with a team of over 100 athletes.

IGC enters the Spring of 2014 with facility renovations, an updated staff roster, and high hopes going into the upper level Junior Olympic competitions.

*Happy New Year!*  
From the staff at California Kids!



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featuring

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# Whooping Cough on the Upswing in California

By **Connie Goldsmith, RN, BSN, MPA**

California reported more than 9,100 cases of whooping cough in 2010, making it the biggest breakout since 1947. While cases declined over the next two years, pertussis is once again on the rise. By November 4, 2013, doctors had reported 1,576 cases of whooping cough to the California Department of Public Health. The two counties – Marin and Nevada – with the highest rates in the state are here in northern California. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 48,000 cases of whooping cough were reported in 2010, the highest number of cases in half a century. Many more cases go undiagnosed and unreported.

## What is it?

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is caused by the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*. About

eight out of ten cases of pertussis in California occur in children under age 18. Pertussis is highly contagious, and is spread by droplets spewed into the air by infected people when they sneeze or cough. One person with pertussis can infect as many as fifteen other people.

Symptoms typically develop within seven to ten days after exposure and include runny nose and eyes, low fever and a mild cough. Days later, fits of coughing begin, often followed by a high-pitched whoop in many, but not all people. Infants may not whoop at all; instead they may stop breathing for a few seconds as they try to catch their breath after a coughing spell.

People may cough so much that they throw up or break ribs. The coughing may last ten weeks or more. Whooping cough can cause serious illness in infants, children and adults. It can be deadly to infants. About half of children under one year old must be hospitalized for treatment of whooping

cough. Complications include pneumonia, seizures, breathing difficulties and encephalopathy (brain disease).

## Curing pertussis

Like other bacterial infections, antibiotics usually can cure pertussis if given early enough. However, in most cases, the diagnosis is made too late for antibiotics to work. Because early symptoms of pertussis resemble those of the common cold, people may not immediately seek medical care.

The bacteria attach to the cilia, the tiny hair-like structures that line the respiratory system. The bacteria release toxins which damage the cilia. By the time the patient sees a doctor, the bacteria have often disappeared, and little or nothing can be done for the cough. Recovery is slow because it takes a long time for the cilia to heal.

## Preventing pertussis

Vaccination is the best way to prevent pertussis. The CDC

recommends children receive five doses of DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis) at: two months, four months, six months, between 15-18 months, and between four to six years. Children who are not immunized are eight times more likely to develop pertussis than are children who are fully immunized.

A booster shot of a similar vaccine called Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) is recommended at 11 or 12 years of age. Adolescents and adults who didn't get Tdap as a preteen should get a booster. Getting Tdap is especially important for pregnant women and for those of any age caring for young infants

Everyone needs a tetanus booster every ten years. Many doctors now recommend the Tdap vaccine instead of the plain tetanus booster. If it's been a long time since your last tetanus booster, ask your doctor if Tdap is right for you. Parents and grandpar-

ents of very young children also should check with their doctors to see if they need a pertussis booster.

A report published in *Pediatrics* (the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics) in September 2013, found a major cause of the 2010 California pertussis epidemic was parents who refused to have their children vaccinated for pertussis because of personal or religious beliefs.

Despite years of studies by prestigious organizations showing that vaccination is safe, some parents remain reluctant to have their children vaccinated. For example, an article in the *Sacramento Bee* in September 2013 found the number of children in surrounding counties who start kindergarten without being vaccinated jumped by 30% over the past school year.

Good "cough etiquette" can also help prevent the transmission of pertussis and other infectious diseases. Simply covering the mouth and nose when sneezing, disposing of used tissue, and thorough hand-washing go a long way towards keeping you and your little ones well.

You can learn more about whooping cough at the California Department of Public Health website at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Pertussis.aspx>, or the CDC website at: [www.cdc.gov/pertussis/](http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/). Listen to a recording of a typical whoop in an infant at: [www.pkids.org/diseases/pertussis.html](http://www.pkids.org/diseases/pertussis.html).

Resources: CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/>; California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/pages/pertussis.aspx>.

Note: The information contained in this article is not intended to replace medical advice. Parents and caregivers should always contact their child's doctor for guidance with any health concerns.

*Connie Goldsmith writes health and science books for young people and continuing education courses for nurses. She has also worked as a pediatric triage nurse on a 24/7 nurse advice line. She maintains a health blog on her website at [www.conniegoldsmith.com](http://www.conniegoldsmith.com).*

## Have fun coloring!



[www.ActivityVillage.co.uk](http://www.ActivityVillage.co.uk) - Keeping Kids Busy

# Effie Yeaw Nature Center Events

## Winter Break Adventures!

Under the Oaks Kids Camps give children the opportunity to experience, discover and explore the great outdoors. Each camp is focused on different nature-related themes with hands-on explorations, hikes, games, with crafts and stories. For more information call (916) 489-4918 or visit [SacNatureCenter.net](http://SacNatureCenter.net)

## January 11, Kids Christmas Bird Count, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sometime in the 1940s, Sacramento Audubon sponsored its first Christmas Bird Count, and this effort has been going strong ever since. All over the world, thousands come together to count birds and this information is used by scientists and others who study birds. Sacramento area kids aged 5 – 16 can be a part of this exciting event. Reservations needed: contact Maureen Geiger at (916) 444-0804 or [mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net)

## Free Weekend Activities

### January 4, Raptor Rapture, 10:30 a.m.

Raptors do more than just soar above us. Discover how these birds play a crucial role in their habitats. Meet a live raptor!

### January 5, New Year's River Stroll, 1:30 p.m.

You may hear the splash of a fish or the call of a circling hawk. Perhaps the flash of a dashing deer's black tail or the ruby red of an acorn woodpecker head will catch your eye. Many sights and sounds await you on this guided walk.

### January 11, Tools and Tales, 10:30 a.m.

Join us inside and enjoy some tantalizing tales of creatures, people, and nature. Get a chance to view replica Maidu artifacts made from the gifts of the earth and learn about their many uses.

### January 12, Salamander Story time, 1:30 p.m.

Come enjoy some stories about these amazing amphibians, learn all about their double lives, and meet one of the most deadly kinds up close!

### January 18, Birding for Families, 10:30 a.m.

Bring the family out to join our special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society for a birding walk. Bird-watchers of all levels welcomed!

### January 19, Nature's Art Box, 1:30 p.m.

Expert artists not required. Come find what inspires you in nature and learn some simple skills to capture it on paper. Supplies provided, all ages welcome.

### January 25, Nature's Hide and Seek, 10:30 a.m.

Take a guided walk through the Nature Area and see how Nature protects herself by playing hide and seek.

### January 26, Critters of the American River, 1:30 p.m.

Reptiles, mammals, and birds are found all along the American River. How can you tell these three groups apart? Is it by eggs or skin or flight? Examine some biofact evidence and meet an animal resident of the Nature Center up close to decide in which group it belongs.

*Effie Yeaw Nature Center is located at California Avenue and Tarsbes Drive, Carmichael. For more information, call (916) 489-4918 or visit [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net). Donations gratefully accepted. There is a \$5 per car County entrance fee into Ancil Hoffman Park (Free to members).*

# Send us your Photos!

California Kids! is looking for themed photos to use for our monthly publication.

This is your BIG chance to land a cover shot!

For more info please contact [kathleen@valcomnews.com](mailto:kathleen@valcomnews.com)

# celebrate baby!

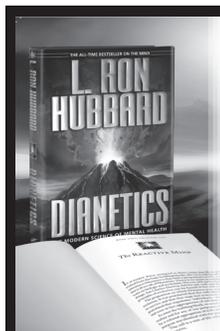
Hey kids! Can you find the hidden words relating to celebrating baby? Life certainly changes with the arrival of a baby! Look carefully, words can appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward and upside-down.

R S U O H D E R A T T L E I G T B  
 I B N G R R C O O G I R L H E O O  
 A L E T E Y S O L M D K I D O C O  
 H A P N L C A R S E A T D G R T T  
 C N Y O L K F N G L C Y G I T L I  
 H K A K O C O V D Y B K B I P S E  
 G E L W R E R T H E S O E K A C S  
 I T P Z T N M R A H U O B C C S L  
 H L N N S B U R O C R B E O I R I  
 T R T I N S L L T L P Y L T F E G  
 S P I T U P A A U S E B O Y I P S  
 B G D I A P E R B A G A S G E A B  
 A E R E D W O P Y B A B C N R I I  
 B W C R A D L E A N E S K A Z D B  
 Y S E E R T S G N I H T E E T P C

Baby  
 Baby Book  
 Baby Powder  
 Bibs  
 Blanket  
 Booties  
 Boy  
 carseat

cradle  
 crib  
 Diapers  
 Diaper bag  
 formula  
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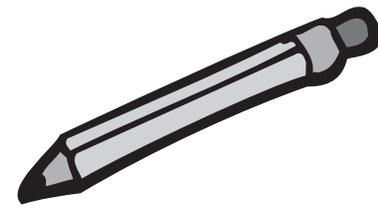
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# MAKE IT YOURSELF!



## Mini Blossom Tree craft

**M**ake this beautiful little mini blossom tree with the kids - it's a sweet craft for Chinese New Year. And won't it look pretty on display!

### You will need:

Florist foam (from craft shops or florists), 4 brown pipe cleaners (chenille stems), pink tissue paper, glue

### You will need to:

Rip up small pieces of tissue paper and scrunch into balls.

Cut the pipe cleaners into 2 pieces. Don't cut them all exactly in half - make sure you end up with a variety of lengths. Push one end of some of the pieces into the center of the foam and bend the pipe cleaners. Twist a few pieces around others to form branches. When you are happy with the shape of your tree, dab the scrunched up balls of tissue paper with glue and stick on to the branches. This gets tricky as your fingers get gluey so it helps to keep a wet wipe to hand.



## Blossom Tree Painting

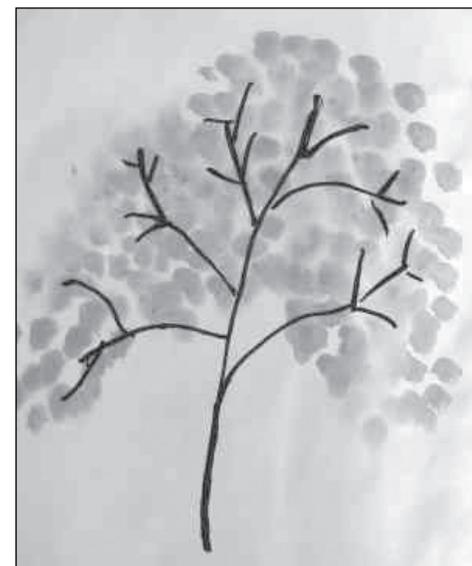
**B**lossom trees are symbolic of Chinese New Year, celebrated in Japan, and welcomed in Spring in much of the world.

### You will need:

Pink paint, black pen

### You will need to:

Mix the paint with an equal part of water. Paint your paper all over with water. Dot on the paint and watch the dots spread. When you are happy you have enough blossom leave the picture to dry. When the paint is dry use the black pen to draw on the branches of the tree.



## Blossom Tree craft

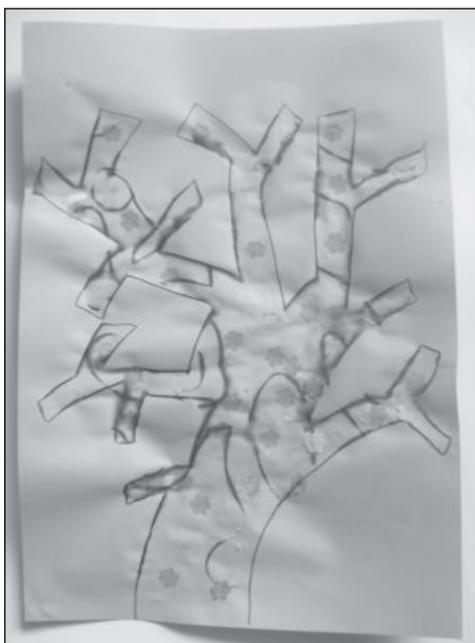
**H**ere is a quick and simple idea for Chinese New Year which results in a pretty picture which any child will be proud of.

### You will need:

Pink paper, black pen, pink tissue paper, flower paper punch, glue

### You will need to:

Draw an outline of a tree on your paper. Paint the tree with glue. Punch out (or cut out) lots of tissue paper flowers and stick them to the tree.



## Blossom Tree collage

**T**his blossom tree collage picture is so pretty to display for Chinese New Year. And it's quick and easy to make, too!

### You will need:

Paper, brown wool, pink tissue paper, glue

### You will need to:

Rip up small pieces of tissue paper and scrunch into balls. Paint a tree shape in glue on the paper. Stick on pieces of wool to make the trunk and branches. Stick on the tissue paper balls as blossom.



Crafts courtesy of: [www.ActivityVillage.co.uk](http://www.ActivityVillage.co.uk) - Keeping Kids Busy

# For Baby!



## 5 Phases Revolutionary Hybrid GLASS Baby Bottle

For families looking to grow and become more eco-friendly in their home or wanting to embrace a healthier lifestyle for themselves and their babies, 5 Phases glass baby bottles is a great way to start!

5 Phases is a new full line of revolutionary hybrid glass baby bottles that are BPA, PVC and phthalate free. The unique patented design features a removable glass insert encased in a translucent protective BPA free plastic sleeve, to protect from breakage. Experts agree that glass is a better option since plastics are linked to birth defects. 5 Phases recently launched a 4oz bottle and 4oz starter set which are great for newborns!

This award winning product was created by a mom who wanted a safer alternative to traditional bottles after the birth of her 1lb 7oz micro-preemie baby. Having a compromised child, she became aware how environmental factors were affecting children. For more information visit [www.5phases.com](http://www.5phases.com).

# Baby B'Air

([babybair.com](http://babybair.com))

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# Who wrote that?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

Featuring Heather Montgomery

By Patricia Newman

When Heather Montgomery was a child she climbed trees and pretended to be a monkey. She snuck up on a great blue heron in a marsh to see it fly. She waded in streams to see what swam around her feet. But she feared spiders and other creepy crawlies. "I was the kid who wouldn't go to the bathroom at camp because there were spiders in there," she says.

The junior ranger programs at national parks changed her mind. "I thought the rangers were the most fantastic people ever," she says. They inspired her to conquer her spider-phobia and become an environmental educator. "Now I pick up spiders in my hand and teach kids about them," she says. And although thousands of students visit her environmental education center in Alabama each year, she wanted to reach a wider audience. Writing seemed to be the best way to achieve that goal.

For Montgomery, the desire to write nature books did not necessarily translate into the courage to write, but she found support and instruction at her local chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and entered a contest. She walked away with first prize,



Photo by Sonya Sones

and although she says, "that manuscript hasn't been published...yet, [the prize gave me] the encouragement I needed to say 'yes, I can do this!'"

The author of more than a dozen nonfiction nature books, Montgomery approaches each topic as a mystery and thrives on uncovering clues and following leads. "Questions are the key to everything," she says. "They're what get me going as a scientist and a writer. What out there isn't neat and fascinating?" But because her books and her environmental programs encourage kids to question, she takes particular delight in the way children perceive the world. For example, while hiking with a group of students in the wilderness, they spied a tree whose roots encircled a rock. One kid asked, "Is that tree eating that rock?" Montgomery and the students composed questions

for a botanist and a geologist who confirmed that the tree absorbed minerals from the rock. "So in a weird way, the tree was eating the rock," she says. The question prompted a soon-to-be-published article for *Highlights*.

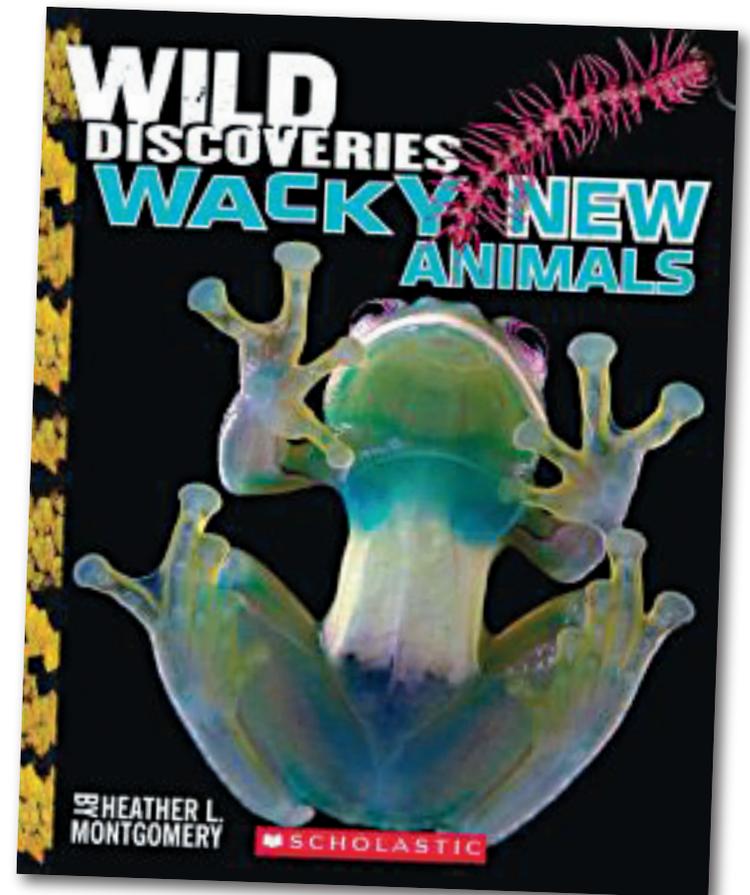
The Internet is Montgomery's jumping off point for each book. She locates research papers published in scientific journals, and then tracks down the scientist for an interview. The research phase for her newest book, *Wild Discoveries: Wacky New Animals*, was a blast. "It was so much fun talking to the scientists," she says. And since her book includes the wackiest new species, she spoke to some incredible people. "There's a guy who goes around with a trowel in his hand, and his job is to find new earthworms. How fun is that?"

Montgomery compares writing a nonfiction book to assembling a puzzle. She gathers the pieces—articles, cool facts, scientific papers—over time (often years). In the case of *Wild Discoveries: Wacky New Animals*, she stumbled upon an article about a scientist who discovered braconid wasps. These wasps lay eggs in caterpillars. When the larvae hatch, they consume the caterpillar from the inside out. Montgomery dug deeper, but the puzzle's picture remained fuzzy.

Later, she read an article about a hot pink millipede—a new species—and realized that what intrigued her about the wasps was the fact that no one ever knew they existed. The puzzle pieces snapped into place. A frame took shape around a book that celebrated the wackiest new species she could find. Some of the pieces Montgomery gathered were included in the final book, but others felt like parts of a different puzzle.

Currently, Montgomery is hard at work on another puzzle about bugs that can't behave. Since 2005, she has tried several approaches—poetry; different voices and lengths; various formats—without success, until recently when she stumbled on a melding of content, voice, and format that provided the necessary frame she needed to complete her puzzle.

Montgomery celebrates the widespread surge of interest in nonfiction. "The informa-

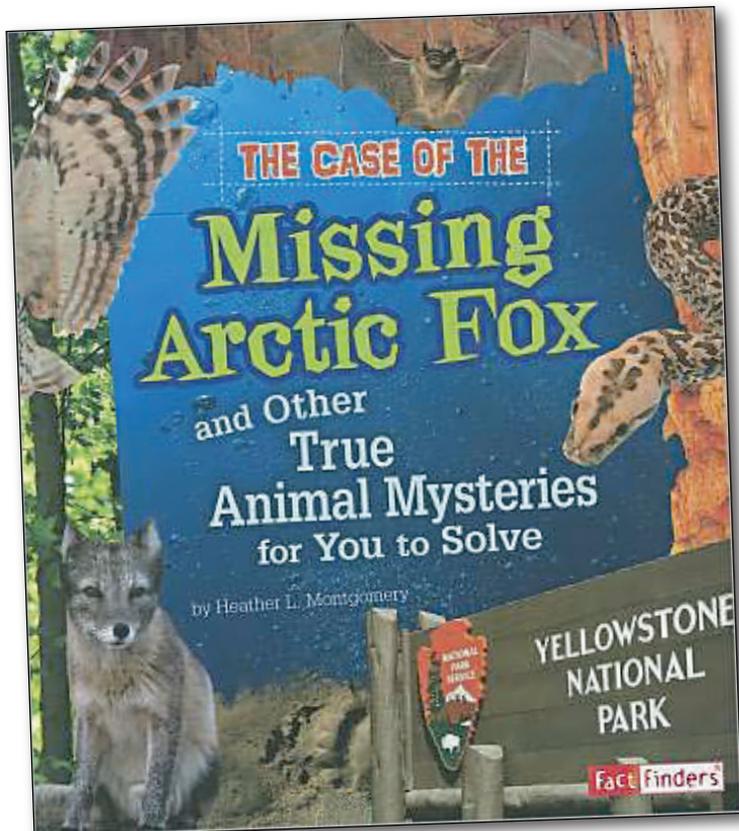


tion [is] being broken into smaller and smaller chunks," she says. "The good side of that is that kids will often pick up a book and tackle a topic they would never have delved into. The downside, of course, is it doesn't help them develop an endurance for reading. I think as an industry we have to be careful...that we don't lose the meatiness of nonfiction books."

Regardless of what the publishing industry does with nonfiction books, Montgomery will continue to question and deliver the wackiest, grossest, most fascinating stories that nature throws her way.

**Next month: Margarita Engle**

*Patricia Newman visits schools! Her newest books Navy SEALs: Elite Operations and Army Special Forces: Elite Operations are now available. Other titles include: Jingle the Brass, recommended by the Smithsonian National American History Museum; Nugget on the Flight Deck, recipient of the California Reading Association's Eureka! Silver Honor Award for excellence in children's nonfiction; Energy Lab: Biofuels and Energy Lab: Water Power. Visit her website at [www.patriciamnewman.com](http://www.patriciamnewman.com) for more information.*



## LEARN MORE ABOUT HEATHER L. MONTGOMERY

Visit: <http://heatherlmontgomery.com/>

## SELECTIONS FROM HEATHER L. MONTGOMERY'S LIBRARY

- Wild Discoveries: Wacky New Animals*, Scholastic, 2013.
- The Case of the Missing Arctic Fox: And Other True Animal Mysteries For You to Solve*, Capstone Press, 2012.
- Kingsnakes*, Capstone Press, 2011.
- Rattlesnakes*, Capstone Press, 2011.
- Garter Snakes*, Capstone Press, 2011.
- Mummies: Truths and Rumors*, Capstone Press, 2010.
- How Is Soil Made?*, Crabtree Publishing, 2010.
- Why Do My Teeth Fall Out?: And Other Questions Kids Have About the Human Body*, Picture Window Books, 2010.
- What's Inside a Rattlesnake's Rattle?: And Other Questions Kids Have About the Snakes*, Picture Window Books, 2010.
- How to Survive an Earthquake*, Capstone Press, 2009.



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**THE BOOK REPORT**

# Wild Animals!

By **Connie Goldsmith**

Kids love animal books even more than the publishers who print them do. Who hasn't imagined swimming with the dolphins, petting a lion, or riding an elephant or camel? Most of us will never get to do those things, but anything is possible when you read. Check out these amazing animal books and treat your budding zoo keeper or wild animal vet to something new.

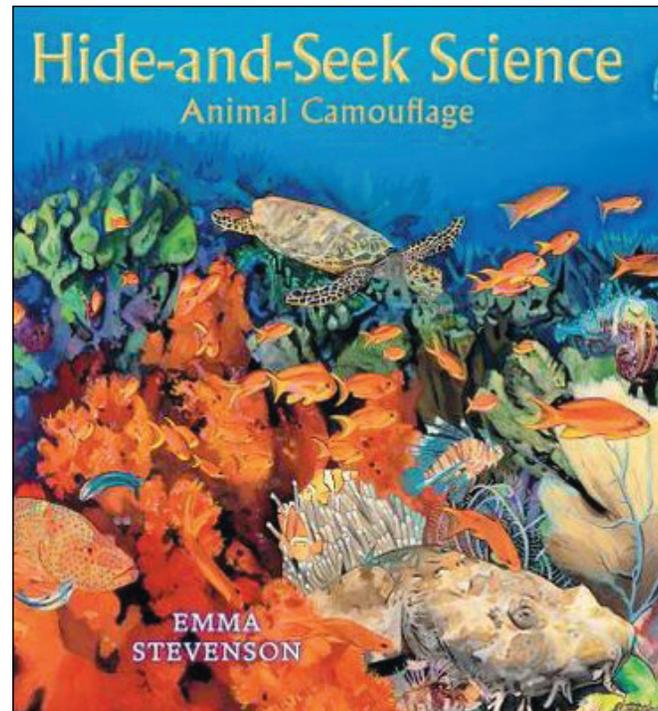
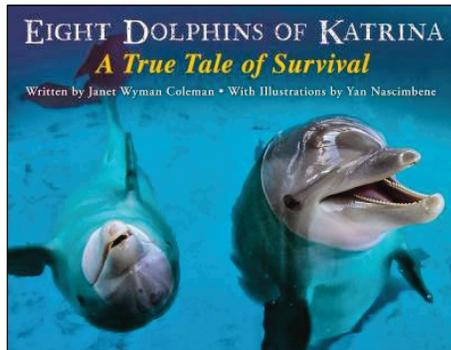
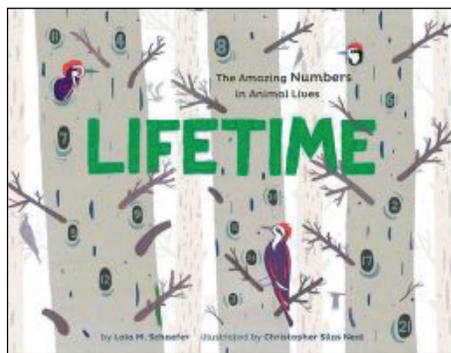
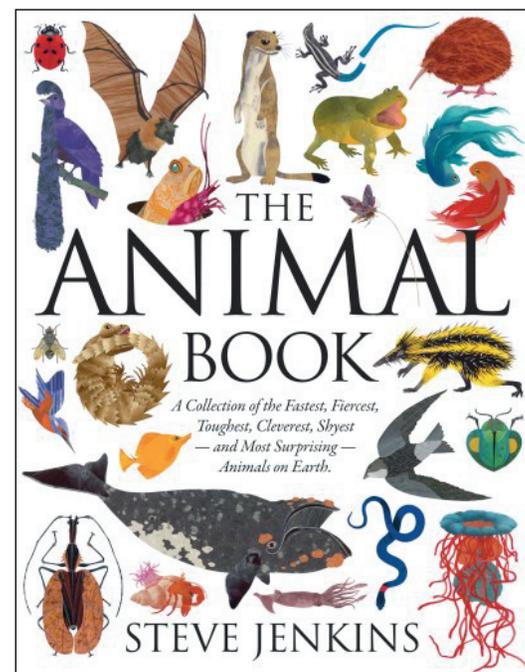
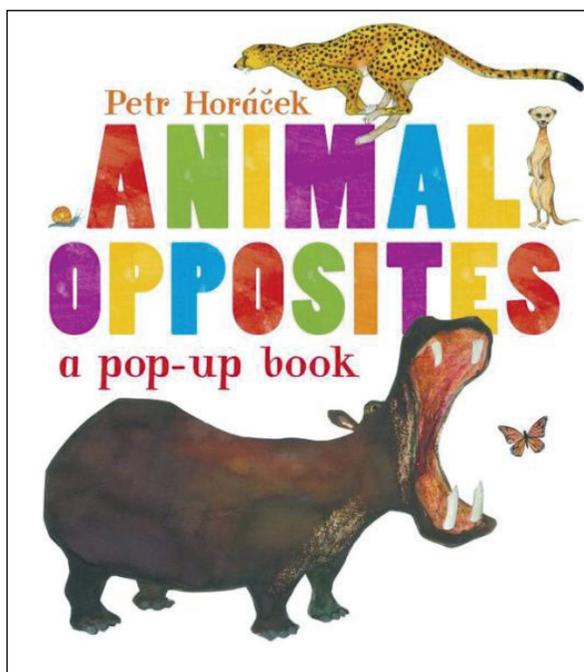
*"Eight Dolphins of Katrina: a true tale of survival,"* by Janet Wyman Coleman, illustrated by Yan Nascimbene. (Houghton Mifflin). In 2005, staff of the Oceanarium in Gulfport, Mississippi moved six of their dolphins to inland hotel pools to protect them from Hurricane Katrina. The remaining eight dolphins stayed in their tank to weather the storm. But a huge tidal wave wrecked the dolphin habitat and swept them out to sea. Raised in captivity, the dolphins couldn't feed or protect themselves. Would they survive? In a stunning mix of art and photographs, this story tells how frantic trainers searched the Gulf of Mexico for the missing dolphins. And just how do you capture a free-swimming dolphin anyway? Fascinating, moving, this story is for anyone who loves animals and happy endings. \*\* Reviewer's pick of the month\*\*

*"Animal Opposites,"* by Petr Horacek. (Candlewick). This busy book will keep little hands occupied as they learn about animals of all shapes and sizes, and what opposite means. The first spread shows a short dog (Dachshund); lift up the page and see a TALL giraffe. Quiet rabbit; loud lion. Slow snail; fast cheetah. Each page is colored or patterned like the animal it represents, and each page has an animal pop-up. The final spread: small ladybug; big elephant features a four-page fold out of the really big pachyderm. The book

with its lovely mixed-media paintings is ideal for young children who are just learning the concept of opposites.

*"Lifetime, the Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives,"* by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Silas Neal. (Chronicle). What can happen in one animal's lifetime? An alligator will lay 550 eggs. A caribou will shed 10 sets of antlers. And a woodpecker will drill 30 holes in the woods. The natural-colored mixed media art shows it all, even the 1000 babies that a seahorse will carry and birth (if you dare to count)! This book ties together animal lives and math in a unique way, showing the reader information not readily available elsewhere. The helpful back matter provides information on each of the twelve creatures shown in the book, including life cycles, and how the author estimated each number. And to end it all, the reader is left with two challenging math problems to solve, one about armadillos and one about scorpions.

*"The Animal Book,"* by Steve Jenkins. (Houghton Mifflin). This remarkable book is like having a set of animal encyclopedias. Well known science writer Jenkins shows us how animals can be categorized in several ways: carnivores, herbivores and omnivores; vertebrates and invertebrates; predators and prey; and animals that lay eggs and animals that are born alive. He proceeds to review animal senses; reproduction and family life; and defenses. The animal extremes are especially fascinating. The gorilla is the largest primate while the pygmy mouse lemur is the smallest. The world's longest animal? The lion's mane jellyfish with stinging tentacles 120 feet long! The author shows how he makes his books from cut paper, provides a complete glossary and more animal facts. This book is ideal for a family animal treasury, a book to keep and cherish for many years.



*"Hide-and-Seek Science: Animal Camouflage,"* by Emma Stevenson. (Holiday House). "Do you like playing hide-and-seek? For animals, it isn't just a game. It's a matter of life and death." This book sorts animals into seven ecosystems and shows the reader how animals have evolved to use the best camouflage for each ecosystem. One double-page spread shows a habitat and challenges a reader to find the hidden animals (for a total of 293). The next spread exposes the animals' camouflaged hid-

ing places and tells us a few tidbits about the animals. The seven featured habitats span the world: swamp (Florida Everglades), desert (Africa's Sahara), rain forest (South American's Amazon), deciduous forest (Europe), arctic (North America), savanna (Africa) and coral reef (Australia's Great Barrier Reef). We see just how much animal life can fit into a relatively small space. This is a fun book to read with a child to see how many creatures you can spot. Warning - some are very tricky!

Connie Goldsmith ([www.conniegoldsmith.com](http://www.conniegoldsmith.com)) lives in Carmichael where she writes for adults and children. Her newest nonfiction juvenile books, *"Bombs over Bikini: the world's first nuclear disaster,"* and *"Traumatic Brain Injury: from concussion to coma,"* are coming out in the spring. Other books include: *"Battling Malaria: on the Front Lines Against a Global Killer,"* and *"Influenza,"* one of the USA Today Health Reports series. Her books can be found in school and public libraries, and at online booksellers.

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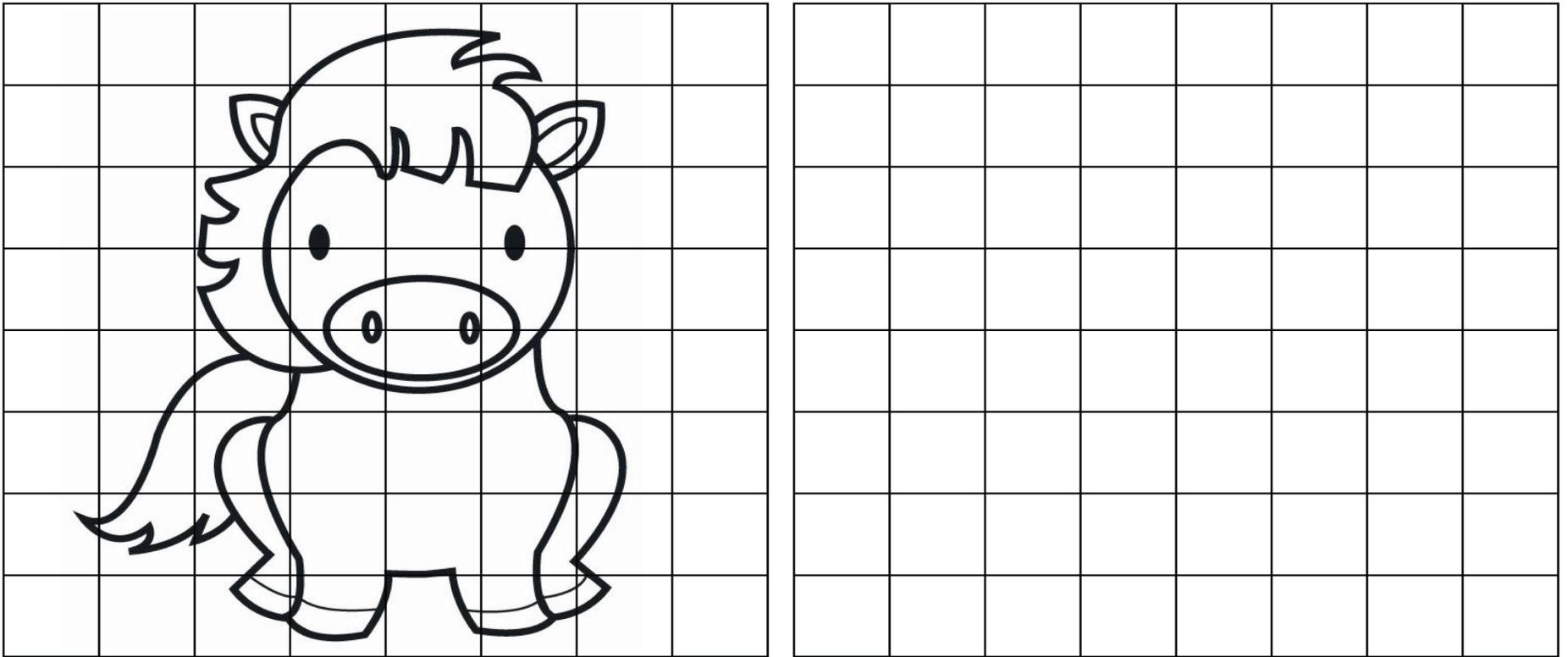
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## Meet Coquerel's Sifaka at the Sacramento Zoo

Courtesy Sacramento Zoo

The Coquerel's sifaka is the most threatened of the four subspecies of the Verreaux's sifaka. Weighing 8 to 8 1/2 lbs with black face with a white patch across the muzzle and small, naked ears. Mostly white body with maroon patches on the chest and front of thighs and forelimbs. They are found in only two reserves in Madagascar, the Ankara Fantsika Nature Reserve and Bora Special Reserve, both of which are damaged yearly by fires set by farmers. They are listed as an endangered species and given special protection in these preserves, but the level of protection varies depending upon the reserve. Although they are sometimes hunted for food and used in the pet trade by locals, the most significant cause of this lemur's decline is loss of habitat. Forest fires, over-grazing by livestock and cutting down forests continue to cause rapid decimation of their populations.



Like all other sifaka, this species is diurnal, spending 30 to 40 percent of the day searching out leaves, buds, and flowers in the forest. They eat 98 different plant species, with 12 of these species forming 2/3 of their diet. Although they are famous for hopping on two hind legs on the ground, this lemur can often be seen leaping from one tree to another. They live in small social groups numbering 2 to 12, with age and gender composition varying widely. Females are dominant over males, giving the females preferential access to food and mates. Sifaka are territorial with home ranges of 10 to 22 acres.

For more information, call the Sacramento Zoo at (916) 808-5885. The zoo is located at 3930 W Land Park Dr Sacramento.

# Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Located 9 miles outside of Boulder Creek on Hwy 236 (831) 338-8883

Coffee Talk and Crafts, Saturday, January 4 and 25, Sunday, 5 and 19, 9 a.m. to Noon

Come to the Sempervirens Room next to Park Headquarters for free coffee or hot chocolate. This is a great way to start your day in Big Basin. A Big Basin docent will be happy to answer your questions about the park and help get you going on the right trail. And bring the kids for a fun craft activity.

Volunteer with the Trail Crew, Saturday, January 11, 9 a.m. (must be 18 years of age or older)

Since 1969 the Big Basin Volunteer Trail Crew has helped make it possible for others to safely enjoy the beauty of our park. The Trail Crew meets the second Saturday of each month, rain or shine. A typical workday lasts until mid-afternoon. Please bring your own work gloves, lunch and water. Join the staff for a unique perspective of Big Basin, a lively and productive experience with others who share a love of these redwood forests, and the satisfaction of participating in a vital part of the park's ability to educate and inspire the public. Meet at Park Headquarters.

Berry Creek Falls Hike, Sunday, January 12, 9:30 a.m.

Travel deep into the heart of Big Basin as you experience a wide range of habitats on this moderate to strenuous 11-mile-loop hike. Wind through shady redwood canyons and climb dry ridges as you hike to the jewel of Big Basin—65-foot Berry Creek Falls. Bring lots of water, lunch and wear layers. Docent Bill Rhoades will guide you on this seven-hour hike. Meet at Park Headquarters.

Winter Wildflower Walk, Saturday, January 18, 10 a.m., Sunday, January 19, 10 a.m.

Flowers in the winter? Fall rains bring a whole new blooming season upon us—many plants survived through the long, hot, dry summer just waiting for the cooler, wetter months to return and refresh them. Lichens, mosses and many chaparral plants just begin blooming this time of year. Join docent Scott Peden and learn to identify many of Big Basin's flowering plants. You'll also visit several historical spots within the park. Saturday's walk is a leisurely four-mile, four-hour amble that includes two chimney trees and a waterfall. Sunday's walk is a relaxed five-mile, five-hour amble that includes a chimney tree. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Park Headquarters.



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# Calendar of Events

## Arts & Crafts

**January 8, Sunflower Power, 4 p.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.** Kids will learn how to remove sunflower seeds from the flower, create their own seed packet to take home, and discover how the seeds can also be turned into a spread that is similar to peanut butter. For kids with nut allergies, this spread made from the seeds is a safe alternative. Kids will get to eat the spread on graham crackers and listen to the story "Sunflower House." Enjoy this program at the Arcade Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 19, Nature's Art Box, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Expert artists not required. Come to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and find what inspires you in nature and learn some simple skills to capture it on papers. Supplies provided, all ages welcome. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

## Critter Events

**January 4, Raptor Rapture, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Raptors do more than just soar above us. Come to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and discover how these birds play a crucial role in their habitats. Meet a live raptor. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**January 11, Kids Christmas Bird Count, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Sometime in the 1940s, Sacramento Audubon sponsored its first Christmas Bird Count, and this effort has been going strong ever since. All over the world, thousands come together to count birds and this information is used by scientists and others who study birds. Sacramento area kids, aged 5 to 16, can be a part of this exciting event. For reservations call Maureen Geiger at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, (916) 444-0804 or mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net.

**January 12, Salamander Story time, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Come to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and enjoy some stories about these amazing amphibians, learn all about their double lives, and meet one of the most deadly kinds up close! For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**January 18, Birding for Families, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Bring the family to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center located in Ancil Hoffman Park, and join special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society for a birding walk. Birdwatchers of all levels welcomed! For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**January 26, Critters of the American River, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Reptiles, mammals, and birds are found all along our American River. How can you tell these three groups apart? Is it by eggs or skin or flight? Examine some biofact evidence and meet an animal resident of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center up

## Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park

Located Off Hwy 9 in Felton (831) 335-7077

**"Fireside Stories" - Saturday, January 25, 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.**

Bring the family and gather round the fireplace together at the Visitor Center for storytime. This 30-minute program will introduce youngsters (recommend children be at least 3) to the wonders of nature. For more information call, (831) 335-7077.

**"Flight Hike" - Sunday, January 26, 8 to 10 a.m.**

Join Park Interpreter Jessica Friedman on a bird hike where she will discuss the evolution of flight. We often admire this unique ability in birds and insects, but how did flight become possible? While looking for birds, you will learn more about their amazing ability to fly and how it could have become possible. Bring your own binoculars. Meet at the Visitor Center. For more information, call (831) 335-7077. Heavy rains cancel.

close to decide in which group it belongs. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

## Nature Events

**January 5, New Year's River Stroll, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Come to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and you may hear the splash of a fish or the call of a circling hawk. Perhaps the flash of a dashing deer's black tail or the ruby red of an acorn woodpecker head will catch your eye. Many sights and sounds await you on this guided walk. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**January 25, Nature's Hide and Seek, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Take a guided walk through the Effie Yeaw Nature area and see how nature protects herself by playing hide and seek. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

## Special Events

**January 2, 16, 23, 30, Stay and Play, 11:45 a.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael.** Parents and caregivers are invited to bring in their babies, toddlers and other children to the Carmichael Library to "stay and play." The staff will put out toys for the children to play with while the parents socialize. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Stay and Play, 10:15 a.m., 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.** "Stay and Play" at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library is an unstructured social time for babies and toddlers, ages 0 and up) and their caretakers. Developmental toys and board books will be available. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 2, Music with the Poodlums, 10 a.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Join this fun musical duo for a show of original educational music with a focus on numbers, counting, letters and animals. This program will be held at the Belle Cooledge Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m., 828 I Street, Sacramento.** Join Miss Caitlin at the Central Library for stories, songs and lots of fun. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 7, 14, 21, 28, Read to a Dog, 3:30 p.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael.** Read to a Dog is a fun and proven method for boosting a child's reading skills by reading to a trained therapy dog and adult volunteer at the Carmichael Library. Children ages 5 to 10 may bring their own books to read to these furry friends, or they may borrow a book from the library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

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# Calendar of Events

**January 7, 14, 21, 28, Homework Zone, 3:30 p.m., 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.** Trained volunteers serve as Homework Coaches and Teen Mentors to students in grades 1-8, offering free homework assistance in all subject areas. This program will be held at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library. For more information, or if you wish to volunteer, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 8, 15, 22, 29, Sing Along, 4 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Join Mr. Cooper for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for kids up to 7 years old at the Belle Cooledge Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 8, 15, 22, 29, Homework Zone, 5:30 p.m., 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.** Trained volunteers serve as Homework Coaches and Teen Mentors to students in grades 1-8, offering free homework assistance in all subject areas. This program will be held at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library. For more information, or if you wish to volunteer, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 11, Food Preservation Demonstration, 10 a.m. to Noon, 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento.** The Sacramento County UC Cooperative Extension Master Food Preservers invite the public to a demonstration: "Freezing Tips! Basic Introduction to Maximizing Your Freezer." This will be held in the Sacramento Cooperative Extension Office. This is a free program and no advanced registration is required. For more information, call (916) 875-6913.

**January 11, Tools and Tales, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Join the staff at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center inside and enjoy some tantalizing tales of creatures, people and nature. Get a chance to view replica Maidu artifacts made from the gifts of the earth and learn about their many uses. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**January 15, Food Preservation Demonstration, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento.** The Sacramento County UC Cooperative Extension Master Food Preservers invite the public to a demonstration: "Citrus Squeeze: Oranges, Limes, Kumquats, and Grapefruits." It will be held in the Sacramento Cooperative Extension office. There is a \$5 material fee, payable at the door. No advanced registration required. For more information, call (916) 875-6913.

**January 18, Learn Pruning Techniques, 9 a.m. to Noon, rain or shine, 11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks.** This is a free program by the UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners. Learn pruning techniques for fruit trees, grapes, blueberries and can berries. For more information, call (916) 875-6913 or go to [ucanr.edu/sacmg](http://ucanr.edu/sacmg).

**January 25, Composting Workshop, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento.** This advanced backyard composting workshop will be held at the UC Cooperative Extension. Workshop registration is \$30. Advanced registration is required. The Sacramento County Master Gardeners will conduct this workshop. Learn the science of composting, the best tools to use, rotation systems, compost tea, leachate, and extract differences. To register, go to [ucanr.edu/sacmg](http://ucanr.edu/sacmg). Seating is limited, no registration day of workshop. For more information, call (916) 875-6913.

**January 28, Read to a Dog, 6:30 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Read to a Dog is a fun and proven method for boosting a child's reading skills by reading to a trained therapy dog and adult volunteer at the Belle Cooledge Library. Children may bring their own books to read to these furry friends, or they may borrow a book from the library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

## Natural Bridges State Beach

**Located at the end of West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz (831)423-4609**

**Nature Walk in the Monarch Grove -- continue as long as monarchs are present Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.**

Join a Docent Naturalist for a tour of the state designated monarch butterfly preserve at Natural Bridges State Beach. Monarch butterflies are returned this fall to their winter home along our coast. Learn the story of this beautiful creature and its fascinating seasonal migration. Public tours are offered on weekends and no reservations are necessary, or you may call 423-4609 to arrange a tour for a group of 10 or more. Fall walks continue through January or as long as monarchs are present. Meet at the Visitor Center for the hour-long program. The walk is wheelchair accessible.

## Storytime Events

**January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.** Children ages 3 to 5, along with their favorite adults, will enjoy stories, fingerplays, songs and crafts in this free program at the Arcade Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 7, 14, 21, 28, Baby Lapsit, 10:30 a.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.** Come to this new program at the Arcade Library designed for you and your baby (0-18 months). There will be parent/child interaction through stories, songs, rhymes, finger plays and more. Stay afterwards until 11:20 for play time with age-appropriate toys. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 7, 14, 21, 28, Baby Storytime and Stay & Play, 12:30 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Join the staff at the Belle Cooledge Library for nursery rhymes, fingerplays, simple stories, and songs. This program is for children up to about 18 months. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 7, 14, 21, 28, Toddler Storytime, 11:20 a.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.** Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and finger plays, designed for children ages 18 months to 3 years at the Arcade Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 8, 15, 22, 29, Toddler Storytime, 11:15 a.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento.** Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays, designed for children ages 18 months to 3 years at the Arden-Dimick Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 9, 16, 23, 30, Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento.** Children ages 3 to 6, along with their favorite adults, will enjoy stories, music, arts and crafts, play time and more in this free program at the Arden-Dimick Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 9, 16, 23, 30, Toddler Storytime, 9:30 a.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Toddlers and their caregivers will enjoy stories, songs, and fingerplays. After storytime, stay and enjoy a play group or a simple craft. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**January 9, 16, 23, 30, Preschool Storytime, 11 a.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Children ages 3 and older, along with their favorite adults, will enjoy stories, music, arts and crafts, play time and more in this free program at the Belle Cooledge Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.



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# Ring in the New Year with the ABCs of Child Development Tips for boosting your child's growth and brain development



## A Message from First 5 Sacramento

The New Year is a time for renewal and an opportunity to make a fresh start. While young children can't set their own goals, parents and caregivers can resolve to focus on fostering their children's healthy growth and development. Infants start learning and exploring from the day they are born – and 90 percent of their brains develop in their first five years. As your child's first teacher, you play an important role in helping him or her grow up to be healthy and ready to learn.

First 5 Sacramento offers a few tips to help parents and caregivers foster healthy child development as we ring in the New Year.

### Start a Conversation

- Develop your infant's language skills by talking with him or her often. Not only is language the foundation for your child's thinking and communication skills, it also helps to nurture bonds of love and trust between parent and child.
- Encourage your baby to make sounds and be sure to respond.
- Talk, sing and rhyme to your infant – it helps him or her learn new words.
- Read daily to your baby and repeat stories to stimulate language and listening.

### Make the Most of Teachable Moments

- Whether you're running errands or driving to school, make the most of opportunities all day to teach toddlers and preschoolers new lessons.
- Involve your child in activities like shopping at the supermarket – learn shapes when choosing fruits and vegetables in the produce section.
- Point to signs and traffic lights to teach words and colors while you're driving.
- Guide your child to say "please" and "thank you" when asking for help at the library or checking out books.

### Encourage Curiosity and Creativity

- Being curious is important because it's how children learn new ideas. By asking questions and finding answers, kids discover ways to solve problems and how the world works.
- Ask your toddler questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer – this fosters thinking and communication skills.
- Play with your child and encourage imagination.
- Try new activities, like gardening or cooking, to stimulate children's minds.



For more information about early childhood development, contact [www.first5sacramento.net](http://www.first5sacramento.net) First 5 Sacramento at (916) 876-5865.

### About First 5 Sacramento

Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998,

adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on tobacco products to support programs for expectant parents and children ages zero to five. In the last year, First 5 Sacramento distributed approximately \$14 million a year in Prop 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs. Each county has a First 5 Children and Families Commission providing unique local services for that county. Surrounding First 5's include: First 5 Yolo: 530-669-2475; First 5 Placer: 530-745-1304; and First 5 El Dorado: 530-672-8298.

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"Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters" is packed with special features, which include an all-new motion comic and collectible cards.

For more information, visit: <http://www.amazon.com/Percy-Jackson-Monsters-Logan-Lerman/dp/B008JFUNTG>



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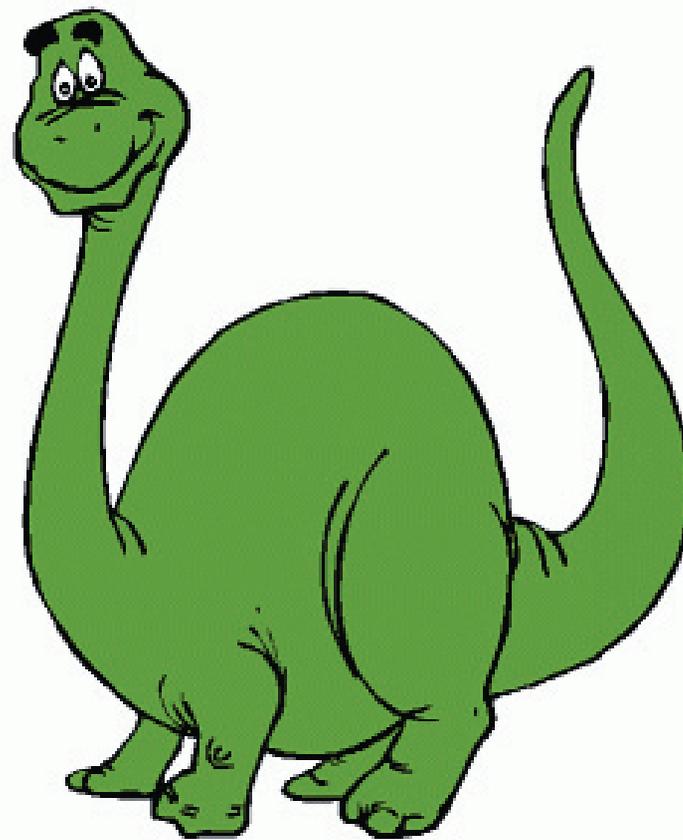
**Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties!**

# Fun ideas for a Dinosaur birthday party for kids

[www.birthdaypartyideas4kids.com](http://www.birthdaypartyideas4kids.com)

## Dinosaur Invitation Ideas

- Trace a large dinosaur footprint onto the front of a blank white card. Write party information on the inside.
- Print the Dinosaur party invitation information on a small piece of paper - 5 to a 8 x 11 sheet. Cut them out and roll into scrolls. Put them inside plastic eggs with some speckled jelly beans for a dinosaur egg invitation.
- Decorate white or solid colored blank cards with dinosaur footprint stickers. Decorations for a Dinosaur Party
- Decorate the dinosaur party like a jungle with green streamers and balloons.
- Cut out large dinosaur feet and tape to walk up or drawn them on with chalk.
- Set out blow up dinosaurs and pictures of dinosaurs, volcanoes and/or meteors.
- Set out plastic dinosaurs on the party table for guests to play with during the party.



## Dinosaur Party Games

- Make a dinosaur volcano- Make a fun dinosaur volcano that really erupts! Make a volcano shape with clay or play doh. In the center place a plastic tube about 1" wide and 5" high that will come right to the volcano top, but not be seen. When the guests are done forming their volcanoes around

the tube place a small amount of baking soda in the bottom of the tube (about 1"). When everyone is done have them stand back a few feet and pour about 2 Tablespoons of vinegar into the tube with the baking soda. The chemical reaction will make the volcano erupt ... bubble over the top of the volcano.

*Continued on page 23*



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## Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties!

The party guests can make one large one, or set out play doh or clay so they can make their own dinosaur volcano to take home.

- **Survive the Meteor** - The object of the game is to stay away from the meteor and the new meteorites that form when other children are tagged. In a large playing field mark out two lines on either side of the area. Have the party guests stand behind one of the lines. Choose who will be "it" or the meteor for the fist game. Have the meteor stand in the middle of the playing field between the two lines.

The meteor yells out to the other players that are behind the lines and says "I dare you to come and \_\_\_\_\_ across my meteor field." (The blank is filled in by what the players must do as they are crossing the meteor field. Hop, twirl, swim, run, run backwards, etc.) Then the players behind the lines must follow the directions of the person in the middle of the field and try and cross the meteor field to the other side without being tagged. Players that are tagged as they cross become meteorites and have to stand where they were tagged. In the next round both the meteor and the meteorites try and tag players as they go by but only the meteor can move around. The last player tagged becomes the new meteor.

### Game Variations:

Instead of becoming meteorites the tagged children

hold hands with the meteor and help tag players. The meteorites can catch players as they run by so the meteor can come by and tag them.

- **Pin the teeth on the T-Rex** - Played like Pin the tail on the Donkey, only guests try and pin the teeth on the T-Rex. Buy a large poster of a T-Rex (or any dinosaur) and trace the teeth onto paper. Make several copies of the teeth and then cut them out. Place a number on the back of each set of teeth so the guests will know which one is theirs. Put sticky tape on the back of the teeth and give one to each child. Line the children up about 10 - 15 feet from the poster. One by one blindfold them and spin them around 3 times. Tell them to stick their T-Rex teeth as close to the mouth of the dinosaur on the poster as they can. The closest to the original wins a prize. Variation: Give a prize to the winner and then have small prizes for everyone who played the game. A fun way to give the prizes is to number several small prizes before the party - then have the children find the number on their paper teeth. They get the prize that matches the number on their teeth.

- **Dinosaur Egg Hunt** - Hide lots of plastic eggs all over the backyard or park. Give each party guest a backpack or bucket and tell them to find all the dinosaur eggs they can. Fill the dinosaur eggs with candy or prize numbers. If

they find a prize number they get to turn in the dinosaur egg for a prize with the same number.

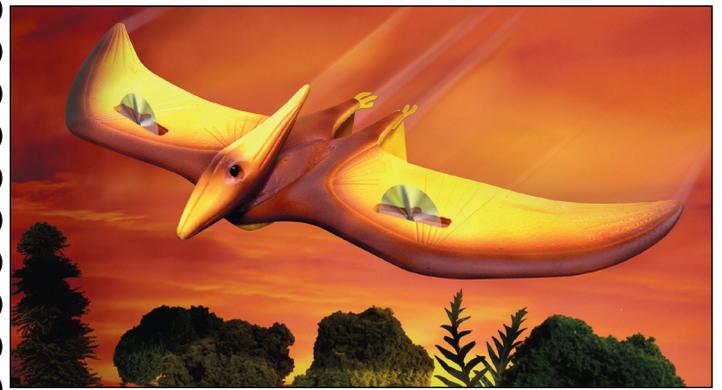
- **Dinosaur Excavation** - Hide small dinosaurs and prizes in a sandbox. Give the party guests small shovels, brushes, etc. and tell them to excavate the dinosaur fossils (prizes).
- **Dinosaur Party Activities** Make plaster of Paris dinosaur (or human) footprints or handprints. Mix Plaster of Paris according to directions. Pour into small pie pans - one for each child. While still wet let the Dinosaur party guests make handprints or footprints in the plaster. Also leaves twigs make interesting impressions. Add jewels or other embellishments while still wet. Set up to dry and let the guests take them home as a party favor.

- **Dinosaur Party Food Ideas** - Sandwiches cut with a dinosaur cookie cutter, brownies or Rice Krispie treats cut into dinosaur shapes, dinosaur shaped crackers with cheese

- **Dinosaur Party Favors** - Carnivore teeth - (plastic vampire type teeth), dinosaur figures, dinosaur stickers

- **Goody / Loot Bags** - Camouflage bandanas to wrap up the party favors, green paper bags with dinosaur stickers, brown paper bags with stencils of dinosaur tracks on the front and back

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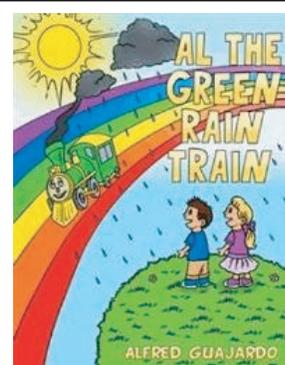


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