

The Homeschool Herald

The Newsletter Created By and For Homeschoolers

The place to share your creative creations!

Spring 2009



Create New Spring Traditions

Spring is a fun time of year! The cold of Winter is passing, new plants are peeking out of the soil... its the perfect time to create a new tradition in your family. Here are a few ideas:

Take a Nature Trip~ Spring is a wonderful time to be outdoors and watch the rebirth of nature. Take your family on hikes, bike rides, or even canoeing through a local park, county preserve, or state park. Talk to your kids about how during each spring, nature starts over and replenishes itself. Plants begin to grow again, animals come out of hibernation, and soon baby animals are born. See if you can spot any birds building a nest. Perhaps you will even see baby animals!

Plant a Garden~ Kids can have a lot of fun planting a garden. They can dig rows, plant seeds, water, and help weed – just make sure they know the difference between the baby garden plants and the weeds.

Star Gazing~ Spring is a good time for star gazing as daylight still ends early enough to be able to take the kids outdoors at night, but it's not as cold as the dark of winter. Have your kids check out astronomy books from the library and learn different constellations. Check your local newspaper or call an area planetarium to find out if there should be any meteor showers visible near you.

Spring Cleaning~ Take the idea of spring cleaning outdoors. Clean up any debris leftover from fall and winter. Plant flowers & explain how keeping the

outdoors clean is just as important to keeping the indoors clean. Plan a special activity to help clean up a park or some other nature area on Earth Day.

Help Out Wildlife~ Create a wildlife area in your back yard. Make sure you have a water supply, food supply, and shelter. This can be as simple as an on-the-ground bird bath (this way other animals can reach the water too), feeders with different kinds of seed and food, and bird houses or thick bushes. Do not mow this area of your yard. Let it grow wild and create a natural habitat for your backyard friends. Don't enter this area except for when refilling food and water. Kids will enjoy both "building" this area, and watching to see what comes to visit. Try to make sure your area is visible from a window, and if it's far away from the house, keep a pair of binoculars handy for little eyes to use.

We are always looking for submissions for the *Homeschool Herald*...Tell us about your new Spring Tradition! You can send us submissions via e-mail or snail mail. Please contact us with any questions, ideas, or suggestions. We look forward to publishing YOUR creative creations!

Enjoy the Spring 2009 issue of the *Homeschool Herald*!

Works Cited:

http://www.essortment.com/all/familytradition_ryek.htm

<https://www.abceeds.com/v/vspfiles/assets/images/macneil-kids-garden8-16-07.jpg>

<http://www.waterbottleweekends.com/Images/Walking%20on%20Log.JPG>

So... You Think You Know Everything?

- The poison arrow frogs of South and Central America are the most poisonous animals in the world.
- The human eye blinks an average of 4,200,000 times a year.

<http://www.hightechscience.org/funfacts.htm>

Sudoku

		6	3	8			4	2
								1
					9	8		5
	6				4		1	3
				2				
2	3		6				5	
6		5	4					
3								
9	8			3	2	4		

The numbers 1-9 must be in every column, row, & box

Fungi

By Cory Feig-Sandoval, age 14,
Atlanta, Georgia



Fungi are incredible. They have been shown in a number of experiments to be intelligent organisms that help the ecosystem. By helping the ecosystem, they help themselves, because the ecosystem returns the favor by assisting the fungi.

Fungi are an ancient group of organisms that comprise a kingdom of classification, which is obviously called Fungi. The part of fungi that we actually see is the fruiting

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A Time to Remember

By Tendal Mann, age 10,
Atlanta, Georgia

The Inauguration was very cool. I've never been to an Inauguration in my life, but this was a good first one. We were gone for almost a week, and in that week, we did a lot. We went to the Georgia Democratic Party Champagne Jazz



Brunch, which was very cool, and we got to meet Shirley Franklin and Andrew Young. We got to go on a special tour of the Capitol, and we got to

go down on the floor of the House and place a vote in honor of John Lewis, and we got to meet Nancy Pelosi. The day before was Inauguration Day. We got up at 3 in the morning so that we could go get in line. We waited in line for a long time. We would sometimes sleep while we were waiting for the line to move. When we finally got in to the Silver Ticket area, we got really good seats. While we were in DC, we got to go to lots of historic places and sites. We got to go to the Air and Space Museum which was very fun, and after the Inauguration, we went up and we got to walk on the Reflecting Pool which was frozen. I think that this Inauguration will be one of the best I will ever get to see in my life.



Bunny
created on a computer by
Sage Gilleland, age 13,
Rome, Georgia

Weeds? What Weeds?

Compiled By Vered Kleinberger,
Program Coordinator for
Homeschool Excursions

Now that Winter is nearing its end, we can start looking for Spring greens in the yard and forest. There are many delicious treats that will soon be growing, so pull out your edible wild foods guide and watch where you step so you don't crush a tasty goodie!



Ramps, or common Wild Leeks (*Allium tricoccum*), will soon be making their appearance. It is our best wild onion and a source of food and spiciness all year round.

Broad, smooth, light green leaves, often with deep purple or burgundy tints on the lower stems begin arriving in small troops in early Spring. Scallion-like bulbs are strongly rooted just beneath the surface of the soil. Finish off your identification by tearing a leaf or stem and taking a sniff of the strong and distinctive onion scent of the Leek.

Ramps, which are rich in vitamin C, were for many years the first potently nutritious edibles to rise up after the winter dearth. Historically the Native Americans made tonics. More recently, Southerners cured scurvy with them, built festivals around them, and foraged them

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Spring Has Spung!

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

Look for these words hidden in the letters above:

daffodil	flower	gardening	jacket
green	growth	melting	puddle
rainbow	raindrops	rubberboots	seeds
splash	springtime	sprout	sunshine
tulips	umbrella		

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com/spring/m-wordsearch.htm>

An Experience of a Lifetime

By Royce Mann, age 7,
Atlanta, Georgia

Performing as Tiny Tim in The Alliance Theatre's annual production of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol was a great experience for me. I learned discipline and I improved my acting skills. Even though I was not perfect, I did well. My brother was also in the play and I think it was great having him there since he had played Tiny Tim for three years before that and it was my first time. I also learned technical things. The rehearsal was great. I got to make lots of friends and I got to perform with wonderful actors from all over town. I think it pumped up the Christmas Spirit. Performing in front of hundreds of people isn't something everybody gets to do, and I think I learned a lot of things in those few weeks.



so thoroughly they nearly disappeared.

To early Native American and, later, the



white settlers, ramps were an important and welcome addition to the early spring menu. The fresh and tender-green ramp leaves with their strong onion-garlic taste

were an improvement on the bland winter fare of dried fruits, pickled vegetables, nuts, beans, and dried beef or salt pork; they were regarded as a spring tonic that cleansed the blood.

Modern science supports this folk tradition. Alliums are a good source of Vitamin C, a fleeting nutrient that was often lacking in winter diets, as well as prostaglandin A1, a fatty acid known to be therapeutic in the treatment of hypertension. Studies have linked the genus to increases in the production of high-density lipoproteins, which in turn are believed to combat heart disease by reducing blood serum levels of cholesterol.

So, by following their instincts and taste buds, these early mountain folk discovered a valuable nutritional supplement.

Native Americans knew ramps well. They used them in decoctions to treat coughs and colds, and they made a poultice from the juice of the strong summer bulbs to alleviate the pain and itching of bee stings.

Keep your eyes open for the delicious Ramps that will soon be making their appearance. There are many recipes available for this wild delicacy.... enjoy!

Think twice before pulling that weed! You may be throwing away something delicious and nutritious! *Please consult your physician before making any medical or dietary decisions.*

Images and Information:

<http://theforagerpress.com/fieldguide/aprilfd.htm>

<http://www.alicefeiring.com/articles/000115.html>

http://www.main.nc.us/yancey/Ramps/ramps_or_wild_leek.htm

http://www.slowfoodupderiva.org/images/ramps2_picciano.jpg

<http://georgiafaces.caes.uga.edu/graphicsfiles/ramp2.jpg>

Charity

By Megan Marcolesco,
Live Oak, California

November overtook the Ripley farm.

Mrs. Ripley sat milking the black cow in the flaccid shack which the Ripleys presumed to call a "barn." Evening wind whined dissonantly in the slivers between the blanched, wooden walls.

Mr. and Mrs. Ripley's meager stash of half dollars and dimes had done little in the relentless summer of drought. Iowa's rain-starved soil had puckered up and spat out all the laboring of the rough farmers. Winter fell upon them now, and the freeze struck, too, leaving no crops for selling or saving.

"Ain't dry yit. We ken still keep y', Crumpy," sighed the weathered woman to the cow, whose back sagged with age.

Tewksbury, the grandson, scuttled into the yard, carrying a suspicious, crisp envelope scribbled over by scads of post offices. "Gran'ma!" his teeth chattered. "Thir's a letter from New Yaark!"

"Land sakes. Can y' read the thing, Tukey?" Mrs. Ripley answered anxiously from within.

Tukey hopped over the scruffy piles of hay toward the biggest of many gaps in the wall to read the missive. Through the dim blue light, he eventually picked out, " 'Please oblige us the pleasure of sharing a Thanksgiving feast with you. We will provide all the food—we know you're hard-up these days; please accept our gift. We look forward to arriving in Cedarville on Tuesday and housing ourselves in town. Aunt Sally, Uncle Silas, Cousin Eliza-Jane, and the children.' " Then, with the sugary, naïve merriment of childhood, Tewksbury ran into

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the cottage to tell his grandfather.

Mrs. Ripley almost allowed herself to relish the news. But she refused to renounce the pride which had pacified her in the destitute months past. “Sharing a Thanksgivin’—real Christian of them. Pshaw. They’re up an’ testing our salt. But I won’t never accept no charity dinner.”

Like a door on rusty hinges, Crumpy rolled her great head down to “the intractably willful Mrs. Ripley,” who would fight to the death to foil anyone’s plans to donate their benevolence to her. But Crumpy would see to it that soon Mrs. Ripley would have no choice but to lay down her pride and welcome the compassion she desperately needed.

Possessed by a sudden bile of hatred, Mrs. Ripley seized Crumpy’s teats with shaking hands and furiously choked out the last of the evening’s milk.

“There!” she cried. “Least milk today than for three weeks, y’ fizzlin’ squatter. We jist won’t keep y’. Fact—we’ll sell y’! Use th’ money to take care o’ our own Thanksgivin’ victuals.”

Then, with alarming rashness—for she had frightfully exasperated herself—Mrs. Ripley slapped Crumpy across the rump, making the cow widen her docile nostrils and bellow desolately.

Ethan Ripley, a generally tame, even-tempered husband, jerked at the wicked racket, bashing his hoary head against the cellar door out of which he hunkered.

His wife hustled into the hovel with creaks and slams.

Mr. Ripley exclaimed, “Jane! Thunder an’ chestnuts, what’s upheavin’ the animal? An’ you!” he added at Mrs. Ripley’s entrance with the trifling little bucket of milk. “Aw—it’s that blissful news, ain’t it, Jane—’bout Thanksgivin’. Tukey done told me. I knew y’d be flusterin’.

Wal, nothing’s eatable in the cellar, effen that’s what y’r gittin’ at—jist lard an’ them ancient salt hams we been puttin’ off usin’.”

Mrs. Ripley fumed, “W’cain’t allow ‘em to condescend on us. I won’t admit that we’re wantin’ their pity. An’ we got nothin’ left to give ‘em. We’re a-sellin’ Crumpy at th’ orction.”

“Thunder! No, we ain’t.”

“Yes, we is,” jolted Mrs. Ripley with a dreadfully calm emphasis on is.

Mr. Ripley wrinkled his mouth, capitulated, and went to bed.

Next morning, Ethan Ripley rose early to rid the farm of Crumpy. Slow as the sun rises, he marched solemnly through the singular stillness—dead and frozen—pervading the air. When he trudged into the barn, he turned round to face the cow. At the sight of that dear creature, his leathered face contorted into an aspect of horrification and reverent assessment of the scene.

“Wal I’ll be. Jane!” he called. “Fraid y’ll haf to suffer th’ folks’ charity. Crumpy’s given you no choice now.”

Mrs. Ripley began stirring and shuffled stiffly out of the house to meet him. She noticed immediately how the barn had never looked so lovely in all its days. Her wrinkled fingers pushed the splintery barn door open and flew to her mouth in awe when she saw the cow on the hay of the stall.

Crumpy was dead.

Such gallant sacrifice humbles even the proudest of old mules. Defeated, Mrs. Ripley conceded, “She knew what she were about, Ripley—an’ she’s made her point.”

And on Thanksgiving, they savored “the folks’ charity dinner” of the worthiest New York spread those parts saw for a long while yet.

**In the spring, at the end of the day,
you should smell like dirt.**

Margaret Atwood

body, which produces spore, like seeds, which are blown away by the wind to germinate in the ground into new fungi. The other way fungi reproduce is by vegetation. If a piece a fungus snaps off from the rest, then it will grow into a complete new organism!

The coolest part of the fungi lies underground. This is its body, the mycelium. The mycelium, which is composed of long threads similar to plant's roots, is the largest part of the fungi, sometimes covering acres underground. Fungi have what is like an exterior stomach. The "roots" composing the mycelium grow into the fungi's food and absorb it. Fungi eat what is around them, rather than ingesting the food before consuming it. How smart and energy saving! Fungi do not photosynthesize like plants; that is they don't use light from the sun as energy to create food.

Fungi have been shown to help the ecosystem in amazing ways, as if they know that it will be better for them in the long run. For instance, a recent experiment by Suzanne W. Simard(1), a research author, showed that mushrooms' mycelia help saplings grow in forests where there are low light levels due to the shade the older, taller trees provide. The mycelia transfer energy and/or nutrients from trees that have excess, such as ones growing near a spring or water source, to the trees that are in need of nourishment, such as the shaded saplings. So, the mycelia act like nature's Internet, exchanging information and energy or nutrients. The mycelia even have something that prevents the whole mycelia from being shut down from damage just to a single point. This is quite similar to technology that has recently been developed for the Internet.

Mycelia also have been shown to help the environment by breaking down the hydrocarbon bonds found in oil. One revealing experiment(2) was performed on four piles of dirt containing extremely high concentrations of oil, concentrations about the same as those found on beaches after the Exxon Valdez oil

spill. The scientists left one pile untreated, inoculated the second with bacteria, treated the third with chemical enzymes, and planted the fourth pile with oyster-mushroom spawn. These piles were covered for four weeks. When they uncovered them, the first three piles were lifeless and stank like oil. The fourth pile, however, was populated with mushrooms. Not only was the pile full of life, but it no longer stank, and contained no detectable amount of petroleum residue. The primary byproducts of removing this toxic oil were nontoxic: water and carbon dioxide. Eventually plants began to grow on the pile. Mushrooms initiated this amazing transformation.

Fungi have may be an aid to national defense against chemical and biological warfare. Some fungi in controlled experiments(3) were shown to be able to break down harmful nerve gases used in chemical warfare. The fungi use the nerve gases as sources of nutrition, and break them down into harmless components in the process of consuming them. In another experiment, fungi found in old-growth forests have produced anti-smallpox compounds. These compounds could save thousands of lives in the event of a biological smallpox attack.

In addition to being aids to the environment and potentially to humans, fungi are extremely intelligent, as shown by one experiment(4) conducted by a group of Japanese researchers. In this experiment, the researchers placed a type of fungi, a slime mold, in a maze with five exits. Rewards, in the form of oats the fungi could eat, lay at two of the exits. At first, the slime



mold navigated equally in all directions until it reached the exits with the rewards. The interesting part, however, is when the same slime mold was

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reintroduced to the same maze. Instead of exploring equally in all directions as it had first done, it grew straight to where the rewards were in its first encounter with the maze. According to the researchers, this shows cellular intelligence. What a smart fungus!

Many fungi form symbiotic relationships with plants, benefiting both the fungi and the plant. These relationships, have been found to occur in at least 90% of plant families. These include associations found between a species of grass and a fungus of the genus *Curvularia*(6), and also between plants and fungi, which are known as lichens. Near hot springs at Yellowstone Park, scientists found grass that could survive contact with scalding water at temperatures of up to 160°F. Upon examination of the grass, they found it contained fungi of the genus *Culvularia*, which they originally thought was a contaminant. The scientists separated the fungi from the grass, but then the grass died when exposed to hot water at a lower temperature. After reintroducing the fungus to the grass, the grass once again survived the extremely hot water. After this, the scientists were able to prove that *Culvularia* can confer heat tolerance to some plants.

In another experiment(7), however, scientists tried to use *Culvularia* from cold storage at a culture bank to confer heat tolerance to tomatoes. But the tomatoes all died at 105°F. The scientists discovered that the cold storage had killed a virus that lives in *Culvularia*. When the scientists reintroduced the virus to the fungi and the fungi to the tomatoes, the tomatoes survived the heat. This is an example of a symbiotic relationship between a fungus, a plant, and a virus, which all work together to provide heat tolerance. This three-way relationship could be used in other plants such as wheat, rice, or corn to allow these crops to be grown in hot, dry climates.

Lichens are an example of another more common mycorrhizal relationship between a

plant and a fungus. The plant benefits because the fungus mobilizes nutrients by secreting



e n z y m e s that help to d e c o m p o s e the litter in the soil. Also, the fungus secretes antibiotics that can protect the plant against

diseases. The fungus benefits by absorbing chemicals and carbohydrates that constantly leak through the roots.

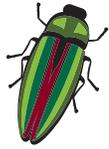
According to Paul Stamets, author of *Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save The World*, we humans evolved from fungi. We simply took the overground route, while fungi took the underground one. Paul Stamets says fungi “have ‘lungs’ because they are inhaling oxygen and exhaling carbon dioxide, just like we are.” (8)

Imagine life without fungi. New trees would be unable to grow in old forests, and grasses would die in the hot springs at Yellowstone Park. Fungi are ancient, and yet they are key to future technologies. In the future, fungi could naturally clean up oil spills by eating the oil, and thereby reducing it to benign elements. Fungi could save the day in the case of chemical or biological warfare. Fungi’s success may

have to do with their goodwill toward the ecosystem, which in turn probably helps the fungi. By following the example of fungi, we could help the planet’s ecosystem. We would indirectly help ourselves, as the fungi do.



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Upcoming Homeschool Excursions Programs

We have lots of exciting activities coming up! Here's a small sample of what's in our future...

- March 18 Energy Quest! at the Tellus Museum in Cartersville
- March 23 Solar Systems at the Fernbank Science Center
- April 7 Stellanuna at the Center for Puppetry Arts (with puppet workshop & backstage tour!!)
- May 1 Granite Explorations with Scott Jones at Stone Mountain Park
- May 4 Alien Expeditions at the Fernbank Science Center
- May 6 Gourd Crafts with Steven 'Snow Bear' Taylor



Our Spring calendar is constantly growing as new programs are added (*many* fun and unique events are currently being planned!), so check our web site often. Remember to refresh your pages!

We look forward to seeing you and your family soon!



Here are some photos from a few of our most recent adventures:

Duckbill Studios Demo and Paperweight Project

Fossiliferous at the Tellus Meseum

Paperworks! at the Robert C. Williams Paper Museum





We can't wait to see you on some of our upcoming adventures!



Seeing History

By Royce Mann, age 7,
Atlanta, Georgia



The Inauguration was a great experience for me. While we were there, history was made. We had a wonderful time. We had Silver Tickets for the ceremony, and on Inauguration Day I woke up at 3:30 a.m. We went to wait in line and while we were waiting in line, I got some rest to have a fresh start for a new Presidency. When we got to the Silver Ticket area, we found a place to lay out a mat and sit down to see history. When the ceremony started, they introduced former presidents. Then when Obama's turn came, his speech was amazing. And then after that, we went and we walked on the frozen Reflecting Pool, and then we went to the Air and Space Museum. It was cool. The next day, we got a special tour of the Capitol. We got to go to the floor of Congress to place a vote in honor of Congressman John Lewis, and we got to meet Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. A few days before that, we went to the Georgia Democratic Brunch. We got to meet Mayor Shirley Franklin and former Ambassador Andrew Young.



Seasons of Nature and Life

By Sonja Langford

Spring has come and so has life
Freeing the world from cold and strife
Babies born, new life abounds
The chirping birds newly found

Little green buds revealing leaves
The newly forming webs to weave
Dewy dewdrops cov'r the world
Life begins anew unfurled

Summer's arrived with heat and fun
Water fights, and water guns
The time's arrived to play in the pool
Times to forget the dreaded school

Barbeques to go to, movies to see
Fireflies to catch, places to be
But eventually the grand Summer is done
Leaving me with memories of tremendous fun

Colored leaves float through the air
Floating freely without a care
They seem to say Autumn's here
Autumn's come do not fear

Whistling, whirling wind of west
Blows through trees and old bird nests
The squirrels scurrying hastily to and fro
Autumn's gone, and Winter is here with gusto

Snow has come and so has ice
Jack Frost's wintery breath has enticed
Each delicate snowflake is unique
Winter's come with snowy peaks

Sweet snow falls ov'r the ground
Silently as without a sound
The next morning a world of white
A beautiful day full of joyful delight

Spring brings life and a new beginning,
Summer, a chance for playing and singing
Autumn an opportunity to enjoy your
schooldays

Winter, a time to reflect long past days

Flower Reflections

By Eileen Audette,
Seward, Alaska

Up at the top of a tall, tall tower
Way in the corner; there grew a flower.

Above it perched a scary bat,
Below it flew an annoying gnat.

In front there ran a perky dog;
Toward it hopped a jolly frog.

Around it flew a swarm of birds;
Behind it lay a pile of turds.

Inside the flower thought and thought,
What would happen if I was not

Here atop this tower tall;
Or even here alive at all!

“Would nature notice I was gone?
Or would it just keep going on.”

Would the bat say, “Where is the flower pretty?”
Would the gnat say, “Where is the blossom who
makes me giddy?”

Would the dog think, “Where is the bud that
stood in my way?”
Would the frog think, “Why did my sweet
petunia not stay?”

Would the swarm of birds fly all night to find a
flower just as fine?
Would the pile of turds think, “What happened
to our hiding vine?”

The flower laughed and said, “What’s this?”
“Why have I brought this trouble amiss?”

For I am here and it is clear,
That I will be here for most of a year.

I should not worry;
For if I hurry

I may say goodbye to all my friends
Before this blessed, good year ends.

And then in the spring,
When all things sing

I shall burst to life once more
And laugh and laugh in a joyous song, for

The gnat,
The bat,

The frog
The dog,

The bird, and
The turd,

Have all come alive too
Who knew, who knew?

Then all my lovely friends and I
Will say, “My, my!”

For there we’ll stand and will not fall
Up upon that tower tall.

**Life’s like a movie.
Write your own
ending....**

Kermit the Frog





Phoenix of Great Britain

By Breanna Balsam



Perfect in every detail, she shines as the pride of England. Westminster Palace sings out her history, blushes beneath her beauty, and cringes in memory of past danger. She hosted many kings and noblemen beneath her outstretched arches, such as King Edward VI in the novel *Prince and the Pauper*. More than once she felt the lick of hot flames at her skirts. Though threatened with gunpowder and humiliating dung, she nobly stood and braced herself against attack. Her white, delicate dress brings to mind the ancient Medieval Times when she first came to life.



Noble and sad alike, tales of old enrich this House of Parliament. Westminster Palace was established by St. Edward the Confessor and “strategically important during the Middle Ages, as it was located on the banks of the River Thames” (World Architecture Images). King William I and his son, William II, lived in the Palace as well, but the only the Great Hall and Westminster Hall of their time have survived to this day. First the Royal Council, then the Model Parliament assembled in the Palace buildings. Unfortunately, three different sets of fires threatened Westminster Palace. After the fire of 1512 destroyed a portion of the building, another accident happened in 1834, and both the House of Commons and the House of Lords drowned in the flames (World Architecture Images). During World War II, Germans soared in and set the newly-rebuilt House of Parliament alight with bombs. England worked hard yet again to replace the highly prized emblem, making sure that her architecture still mirrored her history.



Massive and majestic, her elegant arrangement adds to the glory of the Palace. She is wrapped in gardens and hallowed out with a thousand rooms. Inside the palace are libraries, committee quarters, bars, and even gymnasiums. Exactly one hundred stairways drape downward

throughout the interior. Contrasting with the white Gothic Revival architecture of the castle, the beautiful Cromwell Green, New Palace Yard, and Speaker’s Green skirt the edges of the palace walls. While Black Red’s Garden is only private property, tourists enjoy the Victoria Tower Gardens (World Architecture Images). Regally the actual building herself assumes a symmetrical appearance, with her towers stretching upward like the crown of a noble and aged queen. Although Westminster Palace remains peaceful on the outside, she has often shouldered some dreadful things within her walls.

Haunting memories of past deadly situations still lurk around the corridors of the Palace. Around the time of the first fire, livid Roman Catholics resented their Protestant King James and his upsetting beliefs. Determined to murder the King by means of explosion, Guy Fawkes prepared his gunpowder on the night of November fourth (The Gunpowder Plot: Parliament and Treason 1605). After a mysterious letter had been read urging a Catholic gentleman not to partake of the Westminster meeting, the suspicious court immediately discovered the traitor. Although no harm came about this conspiracy, a couple of other incidents led to shocking deaths. John Bellingham murdered the Prime Minister in 1812 with a bullet, and a famous politician was assassinated with a car bomb. According to World Architecture Images, a website, “both the Irish National Liberation Army and the Provisional IRA claimed responsibility for the murder.” Tear gas, dung, and flour bombs also invaded the royal Palace due to angry mobs on various occasions. Weary with attacks, the court placed a heavy coverage of security around the House of Parliament. Dear old Westminster Palace, though faced with bloody conditions, stood like a soldier who unwaveringly upheld her master, Great Britain.

England would not be as wonderful without the flowering emblem, Westminster Palace. Not a king or queen in history could match up

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to her dignity. Though many flames dragged her down, the country brought her up from the ashes and again mantled her with white robes of Gothic beauty. Wicked thoughts and deeds prowled around her gates and caused strife on the castle grounds. Nevertheless, the past does not affect her present state. Today she radiates like a noble lady, a noble seal, and an ancient phoenix of Great Britain.

Works Cited:
"Westminster Palace." World Architecture Images. 19 January 2009. <http://www.london-architecture.info/>

"Discovery and Flight." The Gunpowder Plot: Parliament and Treason 1605. 2005/2006. 19th January 2009. http://www.gunpowderplot.parliament.uk/adults_plot.htm

Best Friends Forever

By Faith Cheung

i thank my bffs.
i cannot live without them unless.
i find another perfect match.
which i daresay will never find another batch.

they are the best among people all.
they catch me when i trip and fall.
summer and sean are the BEST i say.
they make me laugh and feel gay when i'm gray.
sean and summer are just plain spiffy.
and we are cool in just a jiffy.

we are three peas in a pod.
and no i say that's not odd.
if there can be two.
why not three?
find one get one free.
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Welcome Spring!

By Emily Miser

Hello, Spring!

What a welcome friend!

Up from the south come the larks and wrens
The blue jays and robins, all singing a song
"Welcome spring!" they trill; it's been too long.
Outside, the flowers are blooming; just watch
them grow

Trees now awaken; they grew tired of snow.
The daisies and daffodils sway in the breeze
I hop, skip, and run on green grass in bare feet.

Welcome, Spring!

There are lawns to be mowed
The buds on the trees quickly bloom and grow
This miracle comes every year
One day it suddenly appears.

Every time I am surprised,
By the wondrous thing that is springtime.
It is beautiful; it is grand
It is taking long walks, hand in hand
Every year I'll be thankful for this brand new
beginning

Isn't it such a wonderful world we live in?

Fungi...

Continued from page 7

1 Derrick Jenson, "Going Underground: Paul Stamets On The Vast, Intelligent Network Beneath Our Feet," The Sun, Issue 386 (February 2008), p.11

2 Derrick Jenson, p.9

3 Derrick Jenson, p.9

5 Derrick Jenson, p.7-8

6 Derrick Jenson, p.6

7 Derrick Jenson, p.6

8 Derrick Jenson, p.7

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Jenson, Derrick. "Going Underground: Paul Stamets On The Vast, Intelligent Network Beneath Our Feet," The Sun, Issue 386 (February 2008).

Images:

http://www.edupic.net/Images/Fungi/slime_mold045.JPG

<http://blog.lindenlangdon.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/02/fungi.jpg>

<http://www.coey44.org/images/Close%20up%20of%20Moss%20or%20Lichen.JPG>

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The Spring 2009 Issue

Spring is in the air.... a time for shedding your Winter wear and getting ready for all the excitement that comes with the sunshine's glare. What is your favorite part of Spring? Do you plant a garden anew? Or does a new season of sports start for you? Let us know what you're up to!

This is a huge *Homeschool Herald* issue! Thank you to everyone who sent their creative creations! It's because of you that the Spring edition is so fantastic! We have poems, stories, articles, drawings, photos, and more!

We hope you enjoy reading the *Homeschool Herald*! And we look forward to including your creative contributions in future issues!

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