

Homeschool Herald

The Newsletter Created By and For Homeschoolers

The place to share your creative creations.



We hope you enjoyed the past issues of the *Homeschool Herald*. The February issue is here, so read on! The homeschoolers have worked hard this month, and they never cease to amaze with their wealth of creativity. Included in this issue are their articles, original artwork, stories, recipes, and more. Enjoy!

Send us your creative creations!
We want it all! Everyone is welcome

to share, and we would be delighted to publish your contributions!

You are invited to join our monthly Herald planning meetings, held in Pickens County. Visit Homeschool Excursions' Calendar Of Events for dates and times.

Submissions may also be sent via e-mail or snail mail.

Please contact us with any questions, comments, ideas, or suggestions.

Welcome!

Homeschool Excursions hopes you enjoy the February issue of the *Homeschool Herald*.

Homeschool Excursions is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to provide a valuable resource to homeschool families in Georgia. The *Homeschool Herald* will serve to build community and support since it's available to all families.

Our homeschoolers possess a wealth of creativity, and we hope this newsletter provides an accessible outlet for their expression. All contributions are welcome including pictures, stories, articles, and more. We invite everyone to share ideas, suggestions, and creations.

-Vered Kleinberger
Program Coordinator



Artist: Sage Gilleland, age 10

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Cats have over 100 vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.

THE MONSTER UNDER THE BED

Once upon a time, there was a family with two kids. The kid's names were Johnny and Mindy. The two parent's names were Margie and Jacob. This Family lived in South Dakota. They stayed in this cozy little house by a creek. Margie and Mindy stayed home cooking and cleaning, while Johnny and Jacob went out hunting for the evening's meal. When the boys returned, they saw that Mindy and Margie were not preparing for dinner like always. They were gone. Johnny was frightened but Jacob went to look for them. He asked his neighbors if they had seen them leave the house. They asked everyone on the block but no one had seen them. They went back in the house to look for them They looked everywhere in the house except Johnny's room. When they went to his room, they saw Margie and Mindy's aprons on the floor next to the bed. There was something under the bed. Jacob looked under the bed. There was bright yellow eyes that gleamed like fire. After that second, the monster pulled Jacob under the bed with a great tug of his claws. Johnny screamed! He ran to the neighbor's house to tell them what had happened to his family. He knocked on the door but no one answered. The neighbors had already heard Johnny's scream. Johnny ran to their house and ran to his room but it was already too late. The monster under the bed had already taken five victims in its clutches. Johnny ran to his dad's drawers and pulled out his sharpest knife. He was going to kill the monster under the bed. However, he was to powerful and Johnny failed. No one knows what happened to them and what got them but still, in that very room lurks the monster under the bed.

Written by Maggie Jones, age 9

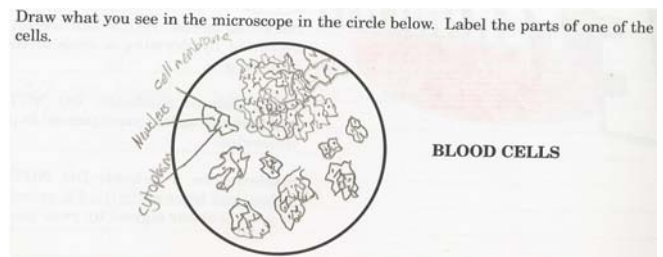


Artist: Sage Gilleland, age 10

NATURE JOURNALS

Nature journals are a very educational and fun way to observe God's creation. The first thing you should know about nature journaling is that this is your nature book. You can do it any way you like. You can draw sketches and write anything you want in it (that's nature related of course). Some creative things you can put in your journal are some poetry you write about what you see. Poems can make things you describe in your nature journal become real. You can also put songs in that tell about the things you see. You can go back when you're older and re-read what you wrote and share it with your children and your grand children. My nature journal is a big hard back notebook with blank pages inside. You can make you own journal or buy it. The more you nature journal the better you get so get started. Spring is just around the corner which is a great time to start.

By Abbie Jones, age 11



Artist: Ali Lemons, age

MARCH OF THE PENGUINS

There is a movie that came out in theaters last year that is now on D.V.D, it is called "March of the Penguins". It is the story of the life cycle of the Emperor penguin. This colony of penguins goes through a rigorous hike through the frozen tundra on the continent of "Antarctica". The penguins have to endure harsh colds, an empty stomach , and sometimes even the loss of a loved one, but it all pays off in the end when the egg hatches and a new chick is born. After I saw the movie, for the first time, I wanted to know more about penguins; my thought led me to believe that penguins only lived in icy, snowy places, but I was wrong. Some penguins like the Snares Island penguin like to live in warm, muddy climates, as opposed to cold, icy ones. This movie was very interesting to me and I think you would like it too; so slide, hop, waddle, or run to your local movie rental store or any place were you can get movies, and see this natural marvel.

Reviewed my movie expert, Trevor Sparrow

AMAZING SEA LIONS

Sea lions are great and wonderful animals!
Sea lions are part of an animal group called Pinnipeds!

California Sea lions live off the coast of California in the Pacific Ocean!

Sea lions are so cute to see! They have pointed ears! Sea lions can be up to 8ft in length and weigh 1,100 pounds!

If you look at a female sea lion next to a male sea lion you could tell the difference between a female from a male! Boy sea lions have a bump on their forehead it is called a crest! A boy sea lion is called a bull, and a girl sea lion is called a cow!

A bull's territory is usually the size of a school bus!

A bull lets a female sea lion in its territory but not another bull.

Cows have their babies in late spring or early summer!



Sea lion babies are called pups!

When a pup is first born it can be up to 3 feet in length and weigh 35 pounds!

When pups are first born they can't swim, they just splash in the water and watch their mom swim!

When the pups are 2 weeks old they start to try to swim!

When a pup is 6 weeks old it can swim pretty good and when they 4 months they can swim as good as its mom!

When a pup is 1 year they go off on its own!

As pups grow up they can hold their breath for a long time but, they have to come up to the top for air. Did you know that California sea lions can swim up to 15-25 miles an hour! On average, they can dive down 387 meters! The dive duration is 23 minutes, plus the surface time is 2.916 minutes! Pinnipeds use their heads in the water to steer!

Even sea lions get hot a lot of times! When a sea lion gets hot it will lift up one flipper to cool itself. If it is still hot it will lift up its head and flipper or just its head. If that doesn't cool it off, it will dive in the water and try to cool off! When a sea lion pulls himself out of the water it is called hauling out!

Who eats who? Sharks and killer whales hunt and eat sea lions.

Sea lions usually eat fish or squid, ooh!!!! Squids can get to be 50 ft in length! Here is a picture of a squid so you can have a look at what it looks like!

Overall they are so cute but recently, in Newport Beach they sunk a yacht when they decided to jump on it! They have cost one man 2 years of work and 30,000 dollars in damage. Well, they are marine animals but, we never thought that they would be sleeping and jumping on boats in a marina!

But, since they are endangered no one can kill or hurt them so, this could be a very hard problem to solve!

I love sea lions because they are so cute, and they are some of God's animals!!!!

To see some pictures and videos of some California Sea lions

[go to SeeMorewildlife.com]

Researched and reported by Elizabeth, Age 10,

HOW DO THEY PRINT THE "M&M" ON M&M'S CHOCOLATE CANDIES?

While doing the radio promotional blitz for the first volume of *Imponderables*, we were inundated by questions about M&M's. Don't Americans have something less fattening to worry about?

We contacted the consumer affairs division of Mars Incorporated, and although they were as helpful and friendly as could be, mere flattery, bribery, and appeals to humanitarian instincts were not sufficient to pry away a definitive answer.

Despite wild theories to the contrary, the "M&M" is printed on each candy by machine, but the process is proprietary. The "M&M" insignia separates the Mars product from present and future knock-offs, so the company is understandably sensitive about guarding its technological secrets. Mars did reveal that the process is similar to offset printing, from which one could infer that the stamper does not strike the sugar coating of the candy directly. Many pill manufacturers print their logos with a similar offset technique.

Feldman, David. *Why Do Clocks Run Clockwise? and other Imponderables*. Perennial Library, 1988. page 227-8.

WEEDS? WHATWEEDS?

You may not think of this month's plant as a weed, but I sometimes do. I am speaking of Pine Trees. Living in the south, they seem to be everywhere! I know that I tend to eliminate any saplings I see growing in my yard for several reasons, mainly because I would prefer hardwoods. Their root structures are much weaker than hardwoods', and those who have lived in Georgia for a while are familiar with tornado season. A pine is much more likely to fall! Especially if it has been infested with the deadly pine beetle.

But, these trees have many wonderful uses! For centuries they have served as food sources, building materials, medicinal sources, and more. There are several different kinds of pines that live in this region, namely the shortleaf, the longleaf, and the white.

Here are a few of your options:

- The tender new shoots, stripped of their needles and peeled, can be made into an acceptable candy.
- In an emergency, the firm young male cones can be boiled, and the inner bark can be made into flour. It's piney flavored, but highly nutritious.
- Chopped fine and steeped in hot water, the fresh needles make an aromatic tea rich in vitamins A and C. The light green needles from the spring shoots make the best tea, but older needles can be used as well.

- Use the resin to waterproof articles. Also use it as glue. Collect the resin from the tree. If there is not enough resin on the tree, cut a notch in the bark so more sap will seep out.



Put the resin in a container and heat it. The hot resin is your glue. Use it as is or add a small amount of ash dust to strengthen it. Use it immediately. You can use hardened pine resin as an emergency dental filling.

- The soft, moist, white inner bark, or cambium, found clinging to the dead, woody outer bark is edible and very high in vitamins A and C. It can be eaten in slices raw as a snack or dried and ground up into a powder for use as a thickener/flavoring in stews, soups, and other foods.
- The bunches of young green cones found at the ends of branches make a tasty, healthy hiking snack.

Shortleaf:

- American Indians used the inner bark in tea to induce vomiting. Cold tea of buds once used as a worm expellent. Pitch tea used as a laxative and for tuberculosis; also for kidney ailments causing backaches. May cause dermatitis to sensitive individuals.

Longleaf:

- Turpentine, derived from sap, formerly used for colic, chronic diarrhea, worms, and to arrest bleeding from tooth sockets. Also a folk remedy for stomach tumors. Considered potentially toxic.



White Pine:

- Used extensively by American Indians. Pitch poulticed to "draw out" boils and abscesses. Also used for rheumatism, broken bones, cuts, bruises, sores, felons, and inflammation.
- Twig tea used for kidney and lung ailments.
- Bark and/or leaf tea used for colds, coughs, grippe, sore throats, and lung ailments. Poulticed for headaches and backaches.
- Inner bark formerly used in cough syrups.

There is an abundance of information available about the uses of Pine Trees. The Peterson Field Guides are always a terrific source, particularly *Edible Wild Plants* and *Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants*. Please research all plants before using them, and NEVER pick and eat anything without first consulting an herbalist or a qualified plant guide. Always be aware of whether the area you are gathering from may have been sprayed with chemicals.

Index of images and information:

Peterson Field Guides

<http://www.wilderness-survival.net/Appb.php>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pine>

http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/dms/fapm/personnel/tom_b/2004-pine.jpg

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jul2002/2002-07-30-06.asp>

Think twice before you pull that weed! You may be throwing away a medicine chest's worth of resources. *Please consult your physician before making any medical or dietary decisions.*

Compiled by Plant Enthusiast, Vered Kleinberger



HOMESCHOOL EXCURSIONS UPCOMING EVENTS

Our calendar is always changing. Continue checking our website or join our e-mail list for updates.

- February 16 Monthly Climbing Day at Adrenaline in Suwanee
- March 9 Anne Frank in Gwinnett
- March 14 Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville
- March 16 Monthly Climbing Day at Adrenaline in Suwanee
- March 17 Broadway Jr at the Fox
- March 31 Tour the Georgia Dome in Atlanta
- April 4 Visit the Misty Mountain Railroad in Blairsville
- April 6 Visit the Carlos Museum at Emory University in Atlanta

LEGO MANIACS!!

Lego League is a team robotics event that engages kids in technology, science and team building activities with hands-on challenges about real world issues. Teams of up to 10 work to learn about a current issue. They identify a problem and present their own solutions just like real engineers. Teams also build and program robots using LEGO Mindstorms Technology that can maneuver through an obstacle course completing missions for points.

This past year our team - 20,000 LEGOs Under the Sea - competed for the first time. We



learned many things about the Oceans in the 2005 Ocean Odyssey Challenge. Our robot's obstacles were all ocean related as well. The robot had to complete tasks such as releasing a dolphin into the water, repairing a broken oil pipeline and deploying a submarine. We also learned how to work together as a team for a common goal.

Mark Wood, age 11 from Woodstock says, "It was good for me to learn to get over differences with friends and

teammates and learn to work together. Our coach encouraged us to do things we thought were really hard but the risks paid off. My favorite part of the season was learning how to figure out problems and make our robot work better. I liked it so much that I am going to do it again next year!"

Grady Nall, age 13 from Adairsville said, "We had a lot of fun. At the tournaments, it was neat to see how other teams went about solving the same challenges. We learned about all aspects of robotics but found our own individual strengths."



Dallin Hall, age 14 from Acworth described the year this way, "We found out that we all have different skills and ideas but we learned to work together as a team. Of all that we did, I liked the robot performance competitions the best!"

And Will Hudson, age 13 from Snellville said, "I learned in teams that you need to accept each other's ideas and work together."

We had a blast at the tournaments! Our team won 1st Place Robot Performance, 2nd Place Director's Award and 2nd Place Research Presentation at our Regional Qualifying Tournament. Then we went on to compete at the Georgia State Tournament held at Georgia Tech. There we placed 5th in Robot Performance out of 42 teams.

If you are interested in getting involved with LEGO League you can come and see the World Festival at the Georgia Dome, April 27-28 to see what it's like! It is free to visitors and you get to see the best teams from the USA and 30 other countries compete. You could even start a team with your friends.

Article dictated by Brandon Holt, age 10

For General Info visit www.firstlegoleague.org
To connect with Georgia Coaches and Mentors visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GAFLLSupport/>



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pickenshomeschooler@yahoogroups.com

See you soon!

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Homeschool Excursions wishes to thank the Pickens County Library for the continued use of their facilities as we develop the Homeschool Herald. Thank you!

Please call the library for a list of their exciting upcoming activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE PICKENS COUNTY LIBRARY AT (706) 692-5411

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Reach hundreds of homeschooling families monthly.

Please help support this newsletter and Homeschool Excursions. 100% of the income generated through advertising supplements program costs to make all activities affordable.

Contact Homeschool Excursions for more information



EDITOR'S NOTE

Many families have asked if their homeschoolers can submit contributions even if they can't attend the planning meetings in Pickens County. Of course they can! You are welcome to e-mail or snail mail their creative contributions to Homeschool Excursions.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO...

- All the homeschoolers who contributed to the production of this first issue. This couldn't have been done without you!
- The Pickens County Library for allowing us to use your facility for our meetings.
- The Ashbeck family for donating the paper on which to print the Herald.
- Janis Kleinberger for all her assistance and generosity.
- The Jones Family for their continued support.
- Michael Seay for assisting in editing the newsletter.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF IMAGES

Winter Logo drawn by Breanne Grover.
Pig on last page drawn by Maggie Jones.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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We gladly accept tax deductible donations to supplement program costs in an effort to make all of our exciting activities affordable for everyone.

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The February Issue

We hope your year is off to a wonderful start!

The Homeschool Herald is a monthly newsletter composed of materials created by homeschoolers from throughout Georgia. Submissions from kids of all ages are welcome, so send us your creative creations.

How do you spend your free time? Do you play sport or an

instrument? What books have you read recently? Share with us!

Let us know about your favorite activities.

The Herald is the place for you to get recognized for your achievements, talents, and



creativity!

Write, draw, or record and send it to be included in future issues!

We want your creative creations!

What's Inside?

Sea Lions?

Want to learn more? Look inside!

Weeds? What weeds?

Pine trees are everywhere, and have many wonderful uses. Read all about them...

Lego Maniacs!

A local team learns and competes. Hear what they have to say about their experience.

Songs, Poems, Pictures, Stories, Articles, and More

See what the homeschoolers have created this month. Each Herald is very different, so explore this issue, and we hope you enjoy the creativity of these homeschoolers!

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