BC SRC 2020: Explore Our Universe!
Programs - Ages 5-8, Theme 2: Home Base! Planet Earth, Animals, the Environment
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INTRODUCTION: [5min]
Welcome to this week’s summer reading club program. Our theme today is “Home Base” so it’s all about planet earth, the animals and wildlife on our planet, the oceans and other habitats and how we can take care of this planet that is our home. Before we get started, let’s do a simple name game to get to know each other.

ICE BREAKER: NAME CHANT [5min]
Have each child introduce themselves. After each person says their name, everybody taps their hands on the table to the rhythm of their name said aloud three times, followed by a big “WOO!” as everyone raises their hands in the air. As you go around the circle, repeat the previous names and add them to the chant. At the end, you can try to do one last loop of the circle with everyone’s names really fast. (You may need to adapt and shorten for larger groups.)

e.g. My name is Jamie.” Everyone: “Jamie, Jamie, Jamie, WOO!”
“My name is Sabrina.” Everyone: “Sabrina, Sabrina, Sabrina, WOO! Jamie, Jamie, Jamie, WOO!”
“My name is Abigail.” Everyone: “Abigail, Abigail, Abigail, WOO! Sabrina, Sabrina, Sabrina, WOO! Jamie, Jamie...

PART ONE: ANIMALS IN OUR WORLD
Read Dolphin SOS by Roy Miki [10min]
Talk about how we share our home with different animals. The kids in the book share the place they live with Dolphins. What animals live in your city/town/area? In the next game we are going to play, we will be looking at animal tracks. Some of those animal tracks are from animals you might find in your back yard or a park near where you live and some of them are much more wild and rare.

Play Animal Tracks Guessing Game [15min]
Prep: Find images of animal tracks in Animal Tracks and Signs by Jinny Johnson. Photocopy and enlarge images without any text. Label image on the back with which animal it comes from. You can also trace or draw the animal tracks with puff paint so children can close their eyes and feel the tracks to add an extra level of difficulty. This will also make the activity more accessible for children with visual impairments.

- Have a stack of animal track images or lay them out on a book truck.
- Hold up the first image and have kids guess which animal it is.
- The first child to guess correctly can come up and choose the next image and show the group, have each child who guesses correctly come up to show the next image… or if you have a small group you can allow each child to take a turn choosing the image.
PART TWO: KIDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Booktalk the Following Books: [10min]

(See blurb below or write your own)

- Severn and the day she Silenced the World by Janet Wilson
- Our Future: How Kids are Taking Action by Janet Wilson
- Our House Is On Fire: Greta Thunberg’s Call to Save the Planet by Jeanette Winter

Most of you have probably heard of Fridays for Future and other youth led movements working to save the environment. Ever since scientists discovered climate change, kids and teenagers have been trying to help to save our planet. In 1992 Severn Suzuki (David Suzuki’s Daughter) spoke at Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to represent The Environmental Children’s Organization. You can read more about her story in Severn and the Day She Silenced the World by Janet Wilson. These days Climate activists like Greta Thunberg and Autumn Peltier are inspiring kids, teenagers, adults, governments and global organizations to take better care of our planet. Check out these great books to learn more: Our Future: How Kids are Taking Action by Janet Wilson and Our House Is on Fire: Greta Thunberg’s Call to Save the Planet by Jeanette Winter.

CRAFT: FISH OR JELLYFISH [15 min]

The next activities use recycled materials to make something beautiful and can also be used to raise awareness about pollution in our oceans.

Choose one of the following designs to make with program participants. See links for more details and pictures.

Plastic Bottle Fishes
https://rangerrick.org/crafts_activities/make-a-fish-from-a-recycled-plastic-bottle/

What You Need
- Plastic water or soda bottles
- Glue
- Google eyes
- Nail
- Acrylic paint (or use sharpies instead for a less messy version)
- Paintbrushes
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Fishing line or nylon thread

What You Do
1. **Clean and cut your bottle**
   Remove the cap and label from an empty, clean bottle. With an adult’s help, cut the bottom off the bottle.

2. **Create a way to hang up your fish (Optional)**
   Get an adult to help you punch a hole with a small nail in the top of the “head” of your fish. Poke a long piece of fishing line or nylon thread through the hole and tie a knot on the inside end.
3. **Shape your fish**
   Pinch the open end of the bottle so the two sides meet and staple them together in the middle. Cut out fins and a tail around the staples, as shown.

4. **Paint a design on your fish**
   Paint colorful fish patterns on the bottle. Once the paint has dried, glue on wiggly eyes. Now hang your fish up. Or make some more and turn them into a mobile!


**Plastic Bag Jellyfish**
https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/make-an-upcycled-jellyfish

**Materials**
- Plastic grocery bag
- Water bottle
- Thread or string
- Food colouring
- Scissors

**Directions**
1. Flatten the bag. Cut off the handles and the bottom. Cut along both sides to split the bag into two plastic sheets. You only need one of them so be sure to recycle the rest!

2. Gather the center of the plastic sheet into a tiny balloon to form the head. Secure the balloon with thread — not too tightly. Leave a small opening in order to pour some water into the “head.”

3. The remaining plastic, below the tied thread, will be the jellyfish's tentacles. Cut from the bottom edge up to the head to make about eight to ten tentacles. Cut each tentacle again into three or four smaller pieces. Trim to make some longer and shorter tentacles.

4. Fill the head with water — leaving a little air inside to allow the jellyfish to float — and then tighten the string.

5. Fill up your water bottle. Then put your jellyfish in the bottle head first, along with a few drops of blue food coloring. Screw on the cap and shake lightly. Make sure the cap is properly closed and tight before you give it to children!

6. Encourage your kids to turn the bottle upside down— they'll be surprised to see the jellyfish move every time they turn the bottle.

**Explore Further**
Talk about the physical similarities between a plastic bag and a jellyfish in water. What animals eat jellyfish for food? What might happen to a sea turtle who sees a plastic bag in the water and thinks it is a yummy jellyfish?

**OPTIONAL EXTENSION**
Make a display at your library with the crafts kids have made and relevant books to raise awareness around pollution in our oceans.