

TRAIL Website Storyboard

Main Components of Website:

- Homepage
- For Kids
- Parents
- Educators
- About the Author
- Contact
- Resources
- Site Map

Contents of Each Website Component:

- **Homepage**
(index.html)

Welcome to TRAILS (H1)

This website is designed to provide information relating to environmental education and outdoor recreation to the following audiences (p)

- Kids
- Parents or Guardians
- Educators
- All who are interested in environmental education and the promotion of responsible outdoor recreation

Purpose (H1)

TRAILS is an online resource created to identify, promote, and inspire responsible outdoor recreation and activity through the use of interactive activity sites and lessons employable by students, parents, and educators.

Through the incorporation of hands-on activities and lessons, students learn the irreplaceable value of keeping lands beautiful and leaving no trace. (p)

If you have any questions or comments regarding any aspect of this site, please feel free to email TRAILS (link). (p)

- **For Kids (5 pages total)**
(forkids.html)

TRAILS for Kids! (H1)

Hey kids, this page is designed just for you! Here, you will learn more about our environment and some of the problems that we all are facing right now. Did you know that there is a lot that you can do to help? You have the power to change the entire future of the whole entire world! (Now that's pretty cool!) Look over the following links and read the news provided to find out what you can do!

Why is it Important to Me? (H1)

How would you feel if someone that you didn't know came by your house and just took something away from you? You'd probably feel pretty bad! Well, that is exactly what is happening to the Earth every single day. People are taking things from it that do not belong to them. Even the smallest thing, like a rock or a leaf, can have a big impact! (p)

Let's think about this together. When you are out on the playground or in the woods and pick up a rock, you might be taking some poor creature's home. You may even be taking an insect's hiding place! By taking just a single rock, you may allow that poor creature to be found by his very worst enemies! (p)

Now imagine if every person in your class took something! That leaves a lot of homeless creatures! In the following websites, you can read about some very simple things that you and your friends can do to help preserve the environment. You will also find some links to some cool sites and fun games! (p)

TRAILS For Kids: Page 2 of 5: Exploring the Great Outdoors ([explore.html](#))

Exploring the Great Outdoors (H1)

Did you notice the paw prints that run across the top of your computer screen? What do you notice about them? They are red; they are fast; there are only four toes; but what else? The paw prints do not leave any marks behind them! In other words, if you didn't see the prints running across your computer screen, you would have never known they were there! (p)

This is something that you should always remember when exploring and enjoying the great outdoors. No one should ever be able to tell that you were outside hiking or running, biking or camping, or even fishing! The idea of not making any lasting mark outside is called "leave no trace" (link to a definition of the word trace). (p)

Always remember this: leave things just as you found them - or make it better than when you got there! What this saying means is, when you are outside with your friends and family, don't leave trash. And, if you see trash, pick it up to make the land better than when you were there! Imagine if every single person in your school did just one thing each and every day to keep the Earth looking beautiful (link to a definition of the word beautiful). Things would start looking a lot better very quickly! (p)

Next time you are outside, try finding something to do to help the environment. You have to be careful about the types of things that you pick up though. Keep reading to learn about some tips! (p)

TRAILS For Kids: Page 3 of 5: Making a Difference ([difference.html](#))

Making a Difference (H1)

Making a difference means not making a mark on the land. Just as the footprints at the top of the page leave no mark, you don't want to either. There are lots of ways, both big and small, that you can work to make a positive ([link to definition of the word positive](#)) difference. The first thing that you have to do is decide that you want to help! Then, keep reading! (p)

YOU can Make a Difference (H1)

One way that YOU can make a BIG DIFFERENCE is to pick up at least one piece of trash every single day! Be careful about what you pick up though! Stay away from all sharp objects (like broken glass). Also, always try to use gloves or a paper towel to pick up the garbage with! If you do not have either of these things, ALWAYS wash your hands as soon as you can! If you are not sure about the piece of trash, get an adult. (p)

Always be responsible for yourself! If you bring something outside with you, always take it back with you. That means food, paper, even used tissue paper! Think about how you would feel if someone came into your house and left it a mess! That is how the animals and insects feel when you leave things in their home - outdoors! (p)

Another thing that you can do to help is spread the message. Think of what could happen if every single person in your class picked up just one thing everyday. Let's pretend that there are 20 people in your class. If each person picks up one thing, that is 20 pieces of trash a day! If everyone picked up one thing for an entire week (20 people x 7 pieces of trash), that would be 140 pieces of trash that are not littering the environment anymore! Now, imagine what could happen if an ENTIRE SCHOOL decided to help! (p)

Make Smart Choices (H1)

If you are out with your family or friends, be sure that you all stay on the paths that are marked. You don't want to wander off and get lost! Plus, there may be things like growing trees or flowers that you will stomp on if you go down a trail that is not marked. (p)

There may also be some animals down an unmarked path that you do not need to get close to! True, animals such as deer and bears are really beautiful animals, but it is VERY important not to get very close to them. Many wild animals do not understand who you are and why you are around them. A smart choice to avoid any dangerous ([link to definition of the word dangerous](#)) situations is to stay on trails and keep with a group of people. (p)

TRAILS For Kids: Page 4 of 5: Leave No Trace **(kidsInt.html)**

Leave No Trace (H1)

There is an entire program designed just for teaching people how to take care of the land! The program, called Leave No Trace, was created to teach people

just like you how to take care of the environment. If we keep treating the land the way that we are right now, there may be nothing left! But, by following these 7 ideas, YOU can help make the world a better place! (p)

1. Plan ahead and be prepared (H2)

This means that you should know before you go! Most everywhere has rules! Before you go somewhere, have a parent or other adult check to see what is and is not allowed. Planning also means being prepared! Have equipment with you for all kinds of different situations. You never know what can happen outdoors! Also, ALWAYS travel in groups with supplies! (p)

2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces (H2)

Always choose the right path! If there is not a marked trail, do not try to walk on it. There may be a very important reason that park rangers and other outdoor recreation professionals do not want you and your family and friends in a certain area. Never question why there is not a trail, just don't get off of the one that you are on. Also, pay attention to rock, branches, ice, and other unstable surfaces that you may be walking or hiking on. (p)

3. Dispose of waste properly (H2)

Trash your trash! A good rule is that if you bring it in, you must also take it out! Always take left-over food with you - don't leave it for the wild animals. The animals are not used to human food. Don't ever leave trash behind. Also, if you just have to go to the restroom while you are outdoors, always dig a hole, and cover it up! When washing your hands or something else, always be sure that you stay at least 200 feet (that's close to an entire football field) away from rivers, streams, lakes, or ponds. These areas are where local animals go and get water to drink, or it might be where some animals live - so, you don't want to harm them by adding soap to their water! Imagine going to a stream after a nice long hike and taking a sip of soapy, bubbly water! Yuck! (p)

4. Leave What you Find (H2)

Even if you find the coolest rock or leaf or shell ever - you should leave it on the trail! That way, the next person can also see how cool it is! Also, that rock might be the home (or hiding place) of some insect or creature! Now, you don't want to take that away, do you? (p)

Also, try not to touch things that may look really old. Sometimes, just touching it can harm it. If you just remember one simple rule when on the trails, look but DON'T touch! (p)

5. Minimize Camp Fire Impacts (H2)

Be careful around fires! Always try to take something like a camping stove with you if you need to cook food. For light, use flashlights or a lantern. If you have to build a fire, make sure that it is far away from trees and other materials that may easily burn. Be sure that when you are finished, you put the fire out

completely AND take the time and wait on the ashes to cool. This may take a while, but you want to make sure that the fire will not come back after you are gone! (p)

6. Respect Wildlife (H2)

Respect means to value something a lot! Some things that you should always respect are your parents, your friends, your teachers, and other people's feelings. You also want to be sure to respect wildlife. Even if you see the coolest animal in the whole wide world, stay back away from it. It may be scared by you! Also, don't try to feed animals your food! Most all animals eat different kinds of food than we do and feeding them our food may harm them - or even kill them. (p)

7. Be Considerate of Other People Outside (H2)

Respect people by being friendly when you come near them outside. Also, let nature speak for itself. The sounds of the environment are beautiful - even without your voice! (p)

TRAILS For Kids: Page 5 of 5: More to Read and Games to Play (kidsmore.html)

More to Read (H1)

If you want to find out more about how to take care of the environment or how to get involved, take a look at some of these websites (with your parent's/guardian's or teacher's permission)! (p)

Environmental Protection Agency for Kids (H3)

<http://www.epa.gov/kids/>

This site is just for kids ages 4-10! Created by the Environmental Protection Agency, this site has so much great information about taking care of the air, the water, and the plants and animals. It is filled with games and activities. Check it out! (p)

Environmental Protection Agency for Grades 5-8 (H3)

<http://www.epa.gov/students/>

This site is just for students grades 5-8! Created by the Environmental Protection Agency, this site has so much great information about many of the environmental basics. As an added bonus, there is information about clubs and organizations, and scholarships! It is filled with games and activities. You have to check this out! (p)

Leave No Trace (H3)

<http://www.lnt.org/programs/lnt7/index.html>

This link will take you to more information about the Leave No Trace Organization and the steps to follow to help make the world a better place!

Games to Play (H1)

Clean Up Your World(H3)

<http://games.funschool.com/game.php?g=1030>

This is an interactive link that will take you to a game. Help clean up the environment by finding all of the trash and then sorting it into bins. (p)

Free the Beach (H3)

<http://games.funschool.com/game.php?g=1072>

Help clean up the beach! Find all of the trash and sort it in different bins.

Recycling Puzzle (H3)

http://games.zeeks.com/game_recycling_puzzle.html?g=1362&category=0&level=0

Can you help the dinosaurs recycle their coconuts? Go to this site and find out how! (p)

WWF Virtual House (H3)

<http://www.virtualhouse.org/game.cgi>

This website, supported by the World Wildlife Fund, houses links to several different games designed to teach you about things around your house. What are certain items made of? Check it out. (p)

Acid Rain: Students Site (H3)

http://www.epa.gov/acidrain/site_students/index.html

This is a great site provided by the Environmental Protection Agency. Learn about what acid rain is; why it is harmful; and what you can do. Also, there are links to animations and games! (p)

- **Parents (5 pages total)**

(parents.html)

TRAILS for Parents! (H1)

Undeniably, humans are having a significant impact on the natural environment. As the global population continues to rise, humans place more and more pressure on our limited resources. The best way to promote awareness for environmental issues and promote environmentally responsible behaviors is to model responsible behaviors for our children! (p)

This does mean that you have to spend every last waking minute preaching about environmentally responsible behavior! Rather, spend time with children outdoors. Outdoor recreational activities are not only a great way to promote environmentally responsible behavior, but also to spend quality time as a family. (p)

Perhaps you had a favorite trail to go down as you were growing up. Share that memory. Or, maybe you have a love for biking that you could share. Whatever the method for getting outdoors to enjoy and take part in what is there, the better. Continue reading to find out exactly what you can do! (p)

TRAILS For Parents: Page 2 of 5: Model Responsible Behavior (model.html)

Model What You Mean (H1)

Children are very impressionable. Consequently, what you do can have a BIG impact on what they will eventually do. This is why it is so important to model responsible outdoor behavior. (p)

Almost all of us, at some point, have picked up a pine cone or rock, ventured off of a marked trail to explore further or dodge mud, been too curious about wildlife, or tossed the remnants of our picnic lunch into the woods for the animals to take care of. Although these actions may seem harmless, until we learn to reduce the impressions that we leave on our surrounding environment, the quality of our outdoor experiences and the recreational resources we enjoy are in danger of destruction. It really comes down to destroying the very resources and areas that our children would have to enjoy. (p)

The key is for education about these impacts to catch up with the behavior. Modeling responsible behavior to your children is where this education begins and where it continues. Learn to leave the outdoors as unchanged as possible by our presence, or better yet, improve it! (p)

Go for a family walk together. Teach an appreciation of the environment to its future keepers. (p)

TRAILS For Parents: Page 3 of 5: Outdoor Time = Family Time (familytime.html)

Time Together (H1)

Outdoor recreation and activity is great for kids of all ages. Not only do children learn to analyze, question, and examine from exploring the outdoor environment, they also get in some much-needed physical activity. Many forms of outdoor recreation can be done as a family, so get the entire family together and explore the outdoors! (p)

Don't really have the time to pack up and go somewhere for the afternoon. Explore your own backyard. Play games together outside. There are a lot of activities that can be done together. The following list provides only a small sampling of outdoor activities: (p)

- Go for an "after-meal" walk together
- Ride bikes
- Go swimming
- Day hike
- Play outside (hide-and-seek, football, tennis, volleyball, soccer, etc.)
- Take the family pets for a walk (or run!)

Ideas for Planning Family Time (H1)

Want to make the whole family happy, but you are still not quite sure what to do? Check out some of the sites below that are specifically targeted at promoting family outdoor time. (p)

What Works: Backyard Games (H3)

<http://www.familyeducation.com/whatworks/item/nogroup-index/0,3002,1-16406,00.html>

This site lists a multitude of different backyard games that can be set up for family enjoyment. (p)

What Works: Family –Friendly Day Trips

<http://www.familyeducation.com/whatworks/item/group-index/0,2554,1-15920,00.html>

Plan a mini-vacation for the entire family! This site has a list of small day-trips that you and your whole family will enjoy. The wonderful thing about this site is that the activities and trips are categorized by state! (p)

TRAILS For Parents: Page 4 of 5: Why Now?

(whynow.html)

Why Now? (H1)

The impact of human activity on the environment is continually digressing. If we continue to treat the Earth as property rather than privilege, our children might not have the opportunity to enjoy some of the most simplistic things - a hike through the woods or a swim in a local lake. (p)

This video provides a powerful illustration of the enjoyment nature has brought to cultures for centuries. It illustrates the everyday opportunities that we take to partake in or enjoy some aspect of nature. Towards the end of the clip, it also provides a sobering illustration of what it is becoming. Go to the following site and click on "Outdoor Education and The New World Montage".

<http://www.wilderdom.com/research.html> (p)

TRAILS For Parents: Page 5 of 5: More

(pmore.html)

More Information for Parents (H1)

NWF Parent Suggestions (H3)

<http://www.nwf.org/kidzone/kzPage.cfm?siteId=3&departmentId=93>

The National Wildlife Federation extends a wonderful resource to parents through this site. Sign up to receive "The Caregiver's Corner" - a free electronic newsletter just for parents. (p)

Family Outings on the Water (H3)

<http://www.nwf.org/water/waterParentsTeachers.cfm>

Going on a family outing to a lake or river? Include some educational information about the environment while you are at it. (p)

Outdoor Recreation (H3)

<http://fun.familyeducation.com/outdoor-activities/outdoor-recreation/33332.html>

Need some ideas on how to make the most of your outdoor time with your family? This site has some wonderful links to a lot of different ideas! (p)

- **Educators**

(educators.html)

TRAILS for Educators! (H1)

As humans continue to have significant impacts on the environment and its resources, education remains the best tool for providing the future with an understanding of the ramifications of their actions and behaviors.

Environmental education seeks to increase sensitivity, promote concern, and provide examples for helping with environmental issues. Moreover, it seeks to provide students with the opportunities to think critically and act responsibly. (p)

Educator's Mission (H1)

The mission of educators is to increase environmental awareness through educational activities. Your students will eventually have to bear the responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of our environment and passing on their knowledge to future generations. Learning now will ensure the preservation in the future. (p)

TRAILS For Educators: Page 2 of 5: What is Environmental Education?

(whatisit.html)

What is Outdoor Education? (H1)

While there are many different versions of what outdoor education entails, the common theme among all of them is that, in addition to gaining knowledge and skills, attitude is addressed. A strict knowledge of outdoor, or environmental education, is static. The incorporation of attitudes about the environment, however, is dynamic. (p)

Outdoor education gives students the power to make a difference. Not only does it promote critical thinking, teamwork, and involvement, but it also provides motivation. Motivation to make a positive contribution that will last for years. (p)

To see some definitions of outdoor/environmental education (and related articles) check out <http://www.wilderdom.com/definitions/definitions.html#ls>.

Environmental Literacy (H1)

The main focus of environmental education should target the concept or environmental "literacy." This concept focuses on learning about and caring for the environment as a whole, understanding human interactions with nature, and developing critical-thinking skills to empower change and resolve environmental issues. (p)

TRAILS For Educators: Page 3 of 5: Importance (importance.html)

Why Environmental Education? (H1)

True, with increasing importance on high-stakes testing and accountability, it is difficult to find time to teach all of the things that you would like. Environmental education, however, is vital. Did you know that there were 40 percent less species in the world as a whole in 2000 than in 1970? This includes 30 percent less species living on land, 50 percent less species in rivers, lakes and streams, and 30 percent less species in the oceans. It is time to teach students about what they can do to make a difference! It is time to allow students the opportunity to act on their knowledge, utilize critical thinking skills, and make a change. (p)

Higher Test Scores (H1)

Recent studies by the State Education and Environment Roundtable have shown that schools with strong environmental education programs produce: (p)

- Higher test scores and increased academic performance
- Better attendance rates
- Fewer behavioral problems and more time for teaching

Higher-Order Thinking Skills (H1)

Through environmental education activities and programs, students gain valuable analytical skills. Summatively, environmental education provides the workforce with better-educated employees who are prepared to think creatively and critically and work cooperatively to draw conclusions. In effect, environmental education creates better citizens and a better world. (p)

TRAILS For Educators: Page 4 of 5: Lesson Plans (lplans.html)

Educator's List Lesson Plans (H1)

Lesson Plans (H3)

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/compostfacility/les.htm>

Want to teach about re-use and recycling? Check out the lesson plans at this site.

Acid Rain Learning Activities (H1)

<http://www.epa.gov/airmarkets/acidrain/activities.html>

Teaching about the water cycle? Want to take it a step further to include information about the adverse effects of acid rain? Check out this site for some ideas.

BLM Learning Landscapes Teachers Home (H1)

<http://www.blm.gov/education/LearningLandscapes/teachers.html>

The Bureau of Land Management has some great resources and ideas to look at.

TRAILS For Educators: Page 5 of 5: More Information **(edmore.html)**

More Sites for Educators (H1)

EPA Teaching Center (H3)

<http://www.epa.gov/teachers/>

Do you need information about a specific topic? View a wealth of curriculum resources, lesson plans, or order FREE Environmental Protection Agency publications - all from this site! Also, find out about available grants and awards programs for your students and your classroom! You can also ORDER free resources and have them sent directly to you!

Journey to Planet Earth (H3)

<http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/>

This educational program from PBS explores the fragile relationship between humans and the world that we inhabit. The link includes videos, teaching guides and internet resource links.

Ranger Rick (H3)

<http://www.nwf.org/kidzone/kzPage.cfm?siteId=3&departmentId=92>

Need more reliable and updated resources? Check out the National Wildlife Federation's Ranger Rick® Educator's Guide.

Why Should You Create a Schoolyard Habitats Site? (H3)

<http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/downbytheschoolyard.cfm>

Want some ideas of how to kick-start an environmental education program at your school or within your class? Check out this article for some good ideas.

Access Nature (H3)

<http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/accessnature.cfm>

More than 60 hours of hands-on, habitat based activities can be accessed here - for free!

International Outdoor Education (H3)

<http://www.wilderdom.com/OEinternational/index.htm#Map>

Make your class' mark on a world map. Go here and see what organizations and other classes are doing to make a difference. Go ahead and show your class their mark on the world!

Earth Force (H3)

<http://www.earthforce.org/>

Interested in how you can get some training in environmental education? Check out this site!

- **About the Author**
(about.html)

Thank you for taking the time to view my site! (p)

My name is Elizabeth Peters and I am a certified teacher, K-8 licensure. A recent graduate of The University of Tennessee at Martin, I am currently pursuing a Master's Degree of Instructional Technology and Educational Studies from The University of Tennessee Knoxville. In fact, the idea for this site stemmed from a course requirement. (p)

The idea for this site followed the closing of some of my favorite trails near my hometown. Due to reckless and irresponsible behavior on the part of some, one of my favorite pastimes - hiking - is no longer an option in that particular area. It never ceases to amaze me how the behaviors of few can alter the abilities and actions of others.

Through this site, I hope to promote the upkeep of the environment and responsible behaviors so that fewer areas are closed to humans and more chances for enjoying nature are possible.

- **Contact**

([contacts.html](#))

This site will be a form where feedback can be left and an automatic email goes out. Also, I have an automatic reply set up to let users know that I have received their emails.)

- **Resources**

Still Want More Information About Environmental Issues? (H1)

Click on any of the links below to take you to great information about environmental news, the latest topics, education, and more. (p)

[Green Teacher Magazine](#) (H3)

Green Teacher is a magazine created for educators by educators. It contains information about environmental education, lesson planning, integrating curricula, and much more. Click on the link below or on the image of the magazine to view the latest issue online. (p)

[Center for Environmental Education](#) (H3)

This is a great resource containing an online curriculum library which grants you free access to a multitude of online environmental education ideas. (p)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services: Endangered Animals](#) (H3)

Are endangered or threatened species your focus? If so, this site has some great information and resources for you to check out. (p)

[WISE](#) (H3)

The Web-based Inquiry Science Environment is a wonderful site where students analyze real-world evidence and examine scientific controversies.