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THE GLOBAL THINKER

A print and online newsletter for the GlobalThink community

Our First Summer Camp

GlobalThink is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation whose mission is to promote an awareness and understanding about our world and its people. We believe that, if fulfilled, this mission is the foundation for a more peaceful, responsible and informed society.

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"We will be known forever by the tracks we leave."
— Native American (Dakota)

GlobalThink conducted its first summer camp for 8-12 year olds last month. It was held at the Ektaa Center in Irvine (Orange County, CA) and we were generously provided with free use of the facility for the entire week!

We were somewhat apprehensive going into the camp. Would these kids be interested, curious, engaged? What about the curriculum? Were there too many boys and not enough girls? This was our first run and we truly



The "Nature Mandala" made by everyone on the last day of camp.

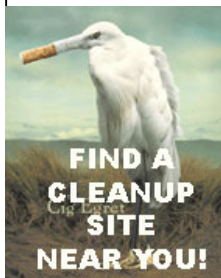
did not know what to expect. To our surprise and delight, the kids threw themselves into the camp from the moment they walked in and did not lose momentum until it was all over a week later... We were also very lucky to have two hard-working, reliable, and enthusiastic teenage volunteers who contributed to the program every single day.

The kids were evaluated at the beginning and end of the camp. They said they were much more curious than before the camp about other cultures and environmental issues and reported being "excited about making changes that will make the world a better place." All in all, the camp was a success!



EVENTS/THINGS TO DO

Coastal Cleanup Day



Sept 15, 2007,
9 – Noon

A great way for families, students, community groups, and neighbors to join together and take care of our fragile marine environment. There are over 700 cleanup sites statewide.

www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd2.html

UNICEF World Heroes Game:

Learn about how UNICEF helps kids worldwide by playing the World Heroes Game. You will be in charge of delivering UNICEF supplies.

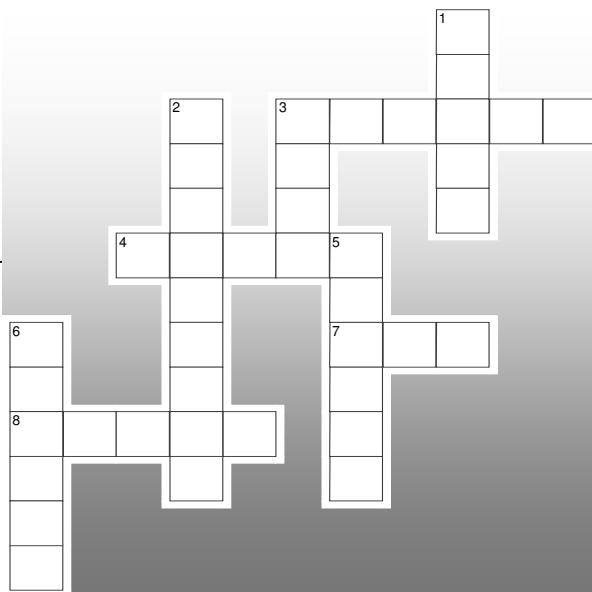
www.unicefgames.org/

UN International Day of Peace

Sept 21, 2007

Try to spend one minute praying, meditating or visualizing a world of peace shared by all. Light a candle for peace.

GlobalThink Crossword



Women, Water and Wells: Photographs of West Africa

Sept 9-Nov 25, 2007

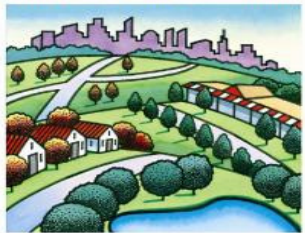
Fifty-eight black and white photographs by Gil Garcetti that expose the link between water and human health in West Africa.



Fowler Museum at UCLA.

www.fowler.ucla.edu

BRING LIFE TO YOUR COMMUNITY



PLANT TREES

The Great Clean Air Tree Planting Project: Oct. 27, 2007

On "Make a Difference Day," 5000 trees will be planted at over 30 sites in Southern California. To help plant a tree, contact Mary Mahoney at 714.639.3610 or mary@wcisa.net.

<http://www.unitedvoices.org>

Putumayo World Music. Fun upbeat music from around the world. www.putumayo.com/en/putumayo_kids.htm

Across

3. _____ is the most widely played sport in the world today.
4. If you want to learn about climate change and global warming, you should read *An Inconvenient* _____.
7. You might want to carry your own ___ to the store when you go shopping.
8. The world's tallest mountain is in _____.

Down

1. Ancient Mayans, Toltecs and Aztecs used the _____ bean as currency.
2. Don't use that _____ cup! It might hurt the ozone layer.
3. In Ancient Mali, the mineral _____ was considered to be as valuable as gold.
5. A _____ car is one that uses both gas and electric power.
6. One of the first leaders to teach and practice non-violence was _____.

ACTIVITIES

Discovering Mudcloth

Bogolanfini (“Bo-ho-lahn-fee-nee”), which translates as “mudcloth” is a type of clothing used in central Mali. The mudcloth is hand woven and dyed with various plant juices, teas, and mud. The symbols, arrangements, and color of the mudcloth have special meaning and the

mudcloth is also used to express a person’s social status. The website of the Smithsonian Museum lets you design your own *Bogolanfini* and then print it out

on paper. So put together your patterns and have fun!

www.mnh.si.edu/africanvoices/mudcloth/index_flash.html



Nicaragua is Central America’s largest country, between Honduras and the Gulf of Fonseca in the north and Costa Rica in the south, the Caribbean Sea to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Go find Nicaragua on a map.

A traditional Nicaraguan meal is called *Nacatamal* and it is made by preparing a mixture of cornmeal, potatoes, green peppers, onions, and garlic. You place this mixture inside (inedible) banana leaves, then use straw to tie the leaves so that the filling stays intact. Traditionally it is cooked outdoors on heated rocks for several hours.

The banana plant is not a tree but a giant herb and a member of the lily family. It is the largest plant on earth without a woody stem, and grows as high as 25 feet in one year. Did you know that bananas are mentioned in ancient Chinese, Greek, and Roman literature? It is said that Alexander the Great found people eating bananas in India as far back as 327 B.C.!

Recipe from Nicaragua

Maduro En Gloria: Heavenly Bananas from Nicaragua.

(Adapted from *Multicultural Cookbook for Students* by Carole L. Albyn & Lois S. Webb, Oryx Press, 1993.)

Note: You need adult help for this recipe.

Ingredients:

- 6 bananas, peeled and cut in half lengthwise
- 4 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 cup cream cheese (at room temperature)
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup coconut milk



Recipe (Serves 4-6 people):

Preheat oven to 350F

Put half the banana slices, cut side up, side-by-side in shallow 9 inch baking pan, and pour melted butter over them.

Put cream cheese, sugar, and cinnamon in bowl and blend together using mixing spoon or in food processor.

Spread half the mixture over the cut side of bananas in the pan, and then layer each banana half with a remaining banana slice, sandwich-fashion. Spread remaining mixture over bananas and cover with coconut milk.

Bake in oven for 20 minutes or until top is lightly browned and bubbly. Don’t overcook. Serve warm for dessert directly from baking pan.

We would like to recognize the following people who participated so fully in our first Summer Camp:

Instructors:

Sravani Jandhyala
Rena Brar Prayaga

Volunteers:

Lekha Jandhyala
Anupama Tadanki

Ambassadors:

Amin Afshar
Sheila Balaji
Arjun Diddee
Dakshin Jandhyala
Gyan Prayaga
Jeev Prayaga
Alisha Sarakki
Preethi Seshadri
Mahesh Vashishtha
Gopal Vashishtha
Vineel Yarlagadda

Book Review

True Green: 100 Ways you Can Contribute to a Healthier Planet
by Kim McKay and Jenny Bonnin



True Green has many tips on how to make small changes in the way you live in order to help the environment. It covers the home, the garden, at work, shopping, travel, and in the community. In each chapter there are different ideas to help the planet, one idea per page. At the end of the book there is a list of web resources for conservation and sustainability. I enjoyed reading this book and recommend it for ages 8 and older.

-Reviewed by Gyan Prayaga, Age 9

If you would like to share a book with us, please write a short review (5-6 sentences) and email it to rena@globalthink.org. We would love to hear from you! Of course, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to publish your book review.

Letter from Rena

Dear Readers,

This is the first issue of *The Global Thinker* and we hope to publish the newsletter in print and on the web four to six times a year. We recently received our 501(c)(3) status and we are now officially recognized as a nonprofit corporation by the IRS. In other words, any donations to GlobalThink are tax deductible! We have also designed our very own T-shirts and wristbands and they can be viewed and purchased on our website at www.globalthink.org. Our first Board meeting will be held later this year and we will be discussing about strategies, priorities, and future projects. In addition to board meetings, we might invite others from time to time to join us for informal discussions. We know we have much to learn and could benefit tremendously from your feedback and ideas! I look forward to the future of GlobalThink with a spirit of optimism and great anticipation and I thank all of you for becoming a part of this community.

Rena Brar Prayaga



Please write to us with your questions, comments, thoughts, ideas, book/music/film reviews, suggested resources and/or links, or anything else you want to share with the GlobalThink community. We welcome your contributions and want to publish your letters. You can email us at rena@globalthink.org or info@globalthink.org or write to us at GlobalThink, 21815 Martinez Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91364.