



SplashFlash

Teacher to Teacher

Here's what local teachers are saying about Splash:

"I love teaching Splash! The field trip to the vernal pools is the best fifth grade experience in the Sacramento region, and my students always love it!"

—Robla Elementary

"What a great educational experience – the students dove right into this high quality curriculum and absorbed not only facts, but a true understanding of a local ecosystem."

—Golden Empire Elementary

This is a great [way] to encourage students to be involved in their community. A super program. All my parents were excited. What could be better?

—Earl Legette Elementary

Splash is an excellent way to promote content literacy and [to] integrate the science standards with the language arts standards.

—Gold River DC

Every aspect of the program has been outstanding. Everything was so beautifully presented...so organized and simple that even I, with limited science experience felt I...[could] teach the curriculum.

—Albert Schweitzer Elementary

Well organized, fun, educational.

—Caleb Greenwood Elementary

Contact Information

For more information, please:

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What is Splash?

Splash is a place-based, environmental education program offered to teachers at schools within Sacramento County. Both the elementary and the high school Splash curricula draw connections between aquatic life, water quality and the way we live in our watersheds. By studying the life in the vernal pools or streams of Sacramento, students meet myriad small creatures who depend on clean water for life. Their connection to this intricate web of life empowers students to become involved in community efforts to protect water and habitat where they live.



Photo courtesy David Rosen

Primed by their classroom studies, students explore life in a vernal pool with their Splash guides.

The Splash Elementary Program

The elementary school curriculum, *Life in Our Watershed: Investigating Vernal Pools*, brings students to life, as they become enchanted with life in vernal pools – seasonal wetlands that are rare and unique to California. With Splash you don't need a science background to provide relevant, hands-on science; Splash invites you to dive right in with your students.

A four-hour workshop provides all the guidance necessary to use the logical, cohesive and teacher-friendly curriculum, which includes a:

- 10-minute introductory video, "The Mystery of Vernal Pools"
- Teacher's Manual with 13 lessons, including color overheads that bring the beauty of vernal pools to the classroom
- Critter Catalog and Flower Facts binders, with laminated fact sheets for use by students

The entire curriculum is also available on CD, as well as on the website at www.sacsplash.org.

Most teachers begin the program in early January or February. At least eight hours of class time are required to fully prepare a class for their free field trip to the vernal pools in February, March or April. Each year highly trained Splash guides escort 60 to 70 classes through the Splash Resource Center and the vernal pools at Mather Field. Other classes visit vernal pools close to their schools.

Standards Alignment: The Splash curriculum is aligned with the California science standards. It also integrates standards for language arts, social studies, and math. The Teacher's Manual lists the standards covered in each lesson. The curriculum is best suited for Grade 4 and 5.