

Bulletin

Issue 5 • Spring 2021

for Educators

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) mission is to protect the environment and human health. IDEM ensures Indiana's land is safe to live on, air is safe to breathe, and water is safe to drink. IDEM's environmental educator is a resource for you!

Featured Program

Help the Hellbender and Promote Water Quality



Hellbender Salamander

This April, IDEM staff will be giving Earth Day school presentations virtually. To keep the presentations engaging they have been reworked to fit into a virtual format. One of the new additions includes teaching about one of Indiana's endangered amphibians – the Hellbender.

Amphibians are small vertebrates that need water, or a damp environment, to

survive. They can breathe and absorb water through their skin. Other species of amphibians include frogs, toads, and newts. Hellbenders are the largest salamanders in North America. On average, they grow to be 12-15 inches but have been found to grow over two feet in length and weigh up to four pounds.

Hellbenders are fully-aquatic salamanders that require clean rivers with cool, well-oxygenated water to breathe. Today in Indiana they are now only found in Southeast corner of the state. Populations have dropped drastically due to modification of stream habitats. The accumulation of silt, agricultural and industrial pollution, warming waters and habitat degradation have landed Hellbenders on Indiana's state endangered list.

Hellbenders unique look is a striking visual for audiences when discussing what can be done to help keep Indiana's water clean. To learn more about Hellbenders and water quality in Indiana [schedule an Earth Day presentation for your class!](#)

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Upcoming Events You Can Find Us At:

2021 Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc. (HASTI) Conference:
February 6–9, 2021

Earth Day Virtual Presentations:
April 5–30, 2021

Earth Day Indiana Festival:
June 5, 2021

Topics to Share



Nominations due for **2021 President's Environmental Student and Teacher Awards**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting nominations for two of their Environmental Education Presidential awards programs. The awards program for students recognizes outstanding environmental stewardship projects from grades K-12, by promoting environmental awareness and encouraging community involvement. The teacher award recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers who employ innovative approaches to environmental education.

The President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA) application and eligibility information is available on [EPA's PEYA page](#).

The Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators (PIAEE) application and eligibility information are available on [EPA's PIAEE page](#).

Applications for both awards programs are due no later than April 30, 2021.

Classroom Presentations

Free Virtual Earth Day Presentations



Earth Day 2021 will be virtual! IDEM's Environmental Education is offering virtual Earth Day Presentations are offered five times a day **Monday – Friday, April 5 - 30**. Each scheduled presentation last 30-45 minutes with a 15-minute buffer to allow time for connection. Virtual Earth Day presentations will consist of a discussion about the topic, activities, trivia and time for question and answers. Available topics include:

Air Quality ❖ **Land Quality**
Water Quality ❖ **Recycling Importance**

For questions about virtual Earth Day Presentations contact IDEM's [Environmental Educator](#).

Register your class for a [virtual Earth Day Presentation](#) today!

Craft Corner

Paper Beads

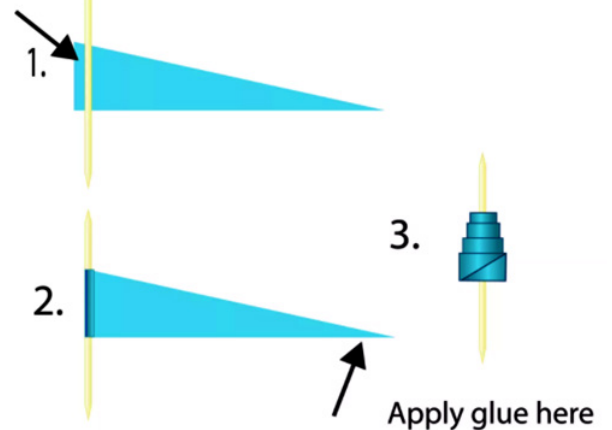
Supplies:

Colorful pages from old magazines, brochures and newspapers • Scissors • Glue Stick • Round pencil or crayon

Directions:

- STEP 1** Pick a colorful page out of a magazine or other paper product no longer being used.
- STEP 2** Cut across page at a slight angle to make long triangular strips.
- STEP 3** Place a triangle strip of paper flat and put pencil along wider edge of the paper strip. Roll the paper around the pencil.
- STEP 4** Apply glue on the unrolled part of the strip of paper.
- STEP 5** Tightly roll the rest of the paper strip around the pencil.
- STEP 6** Slide the rolled paper off the pencil.
- STEP 7** Thread finished beads on string to create a necklace or bracelet.

Apply glue here



Resources



INDIANAPOLIS ZOO

Indianapolis Zoo

The [Indianapolis Zoo](#) offers on-line resources for teachers and students. The following is a list of services available:

- Animal Webcams
- Education Kits
- Species Booklets
- Video Chats
- Wild Side Learning Newsletter

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Indiana Department of
Environmental Management