

CODS POST-TRIP ACTIVITIES

What? There's more? We truly enjoy celebrating the songs, stories, and culture of the past. But it is our hope that our young forty-niners will return to their homes with the realization that they too impact the environment where they live. Students feel *empowered* at CODS and here are some ideas that will keep the momentum going at home.

- Y' **The First Californians:** Many students research California Native Americans in third grade. If you haven't done so already, find out which tribe lived in your area. Where are those people now? Is there any evidence of their culture in your area? A good place to start is <http://www.ceres.ca.gov/nahc/cna.html>
- Y' **Culture Day:** California's unique history has had a significant impact on the diverse population that exists here today. How many countries are represented in your classroom? Students can prepare to share about their culture(s) on an honorary day. Have students provide samples of food, wear a costume, share cultural music, etc.
- Y' **Coloma Assembly:** Some classrooms invite family members who did not attend CODS into the classroom for a CODS celebration☺. What a great way to let your students shine! Use PowerPoint to share photos, sing a song, create a skit, or share from a journal...
- Y' **Read All About It:** Have your students create a publication highlighting their experiences in Coloma. Include articles, letters, art, maps, poetry—the possibilities are endless! Don't forget to send us a copy.
- Y' **Wholly Habitat:** Draw a simplified landscape which has a variety of resources including mountains, water, and timber. Divide students into small groups. Cut up the drawing into sections so that each group receives one "piece" of land to design their city (city planners don't know pieces connect). Each town must include a dwelling, food source, water source, power source, and septic system. Now, connect the city plans and investigate how each neighbor is affecting the other. Any river dams? Sewage contamination? Air pollution? Can any of these problems be solved?
- Y' **Waste Watchers:** We found out how much food is wasted at CODS, but how about back at home? Weigh the waste at your school's cafeteria to see which meal is the heaviest. Can you come up with an alternative menu suggestion? How much waste would this save per year? How about in five years? How many people could this feed?
- Y' **Math Power:** Many students come up with creative ways to save energy at home and to clean our air. But just how much do each person's actions matter? Let's find out. Research how much electricity various appliances/electronics use and calculate the energy saved when appliances are unplugged. What about if everyone in the class unplugs? And the school?
- Y' **4th Grade Action!:** What earth-friendly actions are your students doing since their trip to CODS? Tell us about it! Send a letter, photograph, or any other materials documenting student environmental actions. In return, we will send you an autographed picture of our Sourdoughs! Check out the following resources:
 - California Department of Conservation: www.conservation.ca.gov
 - Recycling: www.bottlesandcans.com/index.html
 - California Integrated Waste Management Board: www.ciwmb.ca.gov
 - California Regional Environmental Education Community Network: www.creec.org
 - Environmental Protection Agency: <http://epa.gov/kids/>
 - Leave No Trace: <http://www.lnt.org/programs/peak/index.html>
 - Natural Resources Defense Council: www.nrdc.org/greensquad/
 - The Big Green Box: <http://www.biggreenbox.com>
 - Kids Recycling Challenge: www.kidsrecyclingchallenge.com/
 - Empties4Cash: <http://empties4cash.com/>
 - Jonsteen Tree Company, order Saplings <http://www.jonsteen.com>