



CREATIVITY : HERITAGE : EDUCATION



Help Protect the Cayman Islands Environment and the Earth

Everything on the Earth is connected in fascinating ways and we all need one another! Learn how the Cayman Islands is doing its part and how you can do your part, both at home and at school. Inspire your family and classmates to think about our planet in new ways and help keep it beautiful and healthy for a long, long time.

Use these stickers to remind everybody in your family about how each person can help around the house and in your neighbourhood. Cut them out and stick them where they can easily be seen, using clear tape on the back of each sticker. Encourage each person and yourself to begin new habits and practice saving the earth every day.



GREEN SQUAD

Kids Taking Action for Greener, Healthier Schools

Switch off computer monitors!

More than half the energy that goes into a computer is wasted. Instead of helping you do your work, it turns into heat! Schools have lots of equipment, from fax machines to copiers to printers, that waste energy when they're not used right.



What to do: Monitors use a lot of energy, so switching them off when they're not in use makes a big difference. Using less energy means cutting down on pollution.



Turn off that faucet!

It's easy to rush out of the bathroom without turning the water off all the way. But a leaky faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day – enough to fill more than 200 soda cans!

What to do: Make a point of giving faucets a good twist to help prevent water waste at your school. You can do this at home, too.

Help your school avoid pesticides!

You don't want bugs inside your school but to keep them out, school workers use pesticides, which can harm the environment and make people sick.

What to do: The best way to fight bugs is to keep them out in the first place. To do that, keep your school clean. Pay special attention to sandwich crumbs, snack wrappers and empty cans of soda, since food-related waste can attract roaches, ants and other insects. If you help your school to find other ways to keep bugs away, you'll help protect the environment and yourself!



Source: The Green Squad - Natural Resources Defense Council

DID YOU KNOW?

The Cayman Islands does its part to help the Earth! Yes! Ocean Conversion (Cayman) Limited does this for the Water Authority Cayman at four locations in Grand Cayman. Its large desalination facility, located in North Side, has the capacity to make 2.4 million gallons per day of clean drinking water from raw sea water!

Why not ask your teacher to arrange a field trip for your class to visit this amazing place?

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE CAYMAN ISLANDS MANGROVE RANGERS?

Mangrove forests are one of the most valuable coastal ecosystems on earth, offering many natural services that protect all of humanity's best interests. However, these ecosystems are depleting rapidly due to over development and climate change. Grand Cayman has lost over 3,900 acres of pristine mangrove forests in the western areas of the island.

The Mangrove Rangers are a team of passionate Caymanians working to protect Cayman mangroves. They believe that all of us must protect what mangroves we have left. That is what a Mangrove Ranger does. For more information, contact www.marvellousmangroves.org.



ART ACTIVITY

Directions: Colour this page and ask your parents to take you on a boat ride to Cayman's mangrove forest!





Xavier Cortada, "Our Community (is like a Mangrove Forest)"

Miami-based artist Xavier Cortada painted mangroves to depict Miami residents' interconnectedness as a community. According to Cortada, "We all come from different places to make Miami our home, much like a mangrove seedling that washes up on a Florida sandbar set roots, grows and helps to build an ecosystem that nurtures life. By reaching out to others we build a stronger community, much like mangrove "walking feet" do to build intricate root systems that protect our shores from erosion during a storm."

Do you think this mural of mangrove roots is like your community of family and friends?

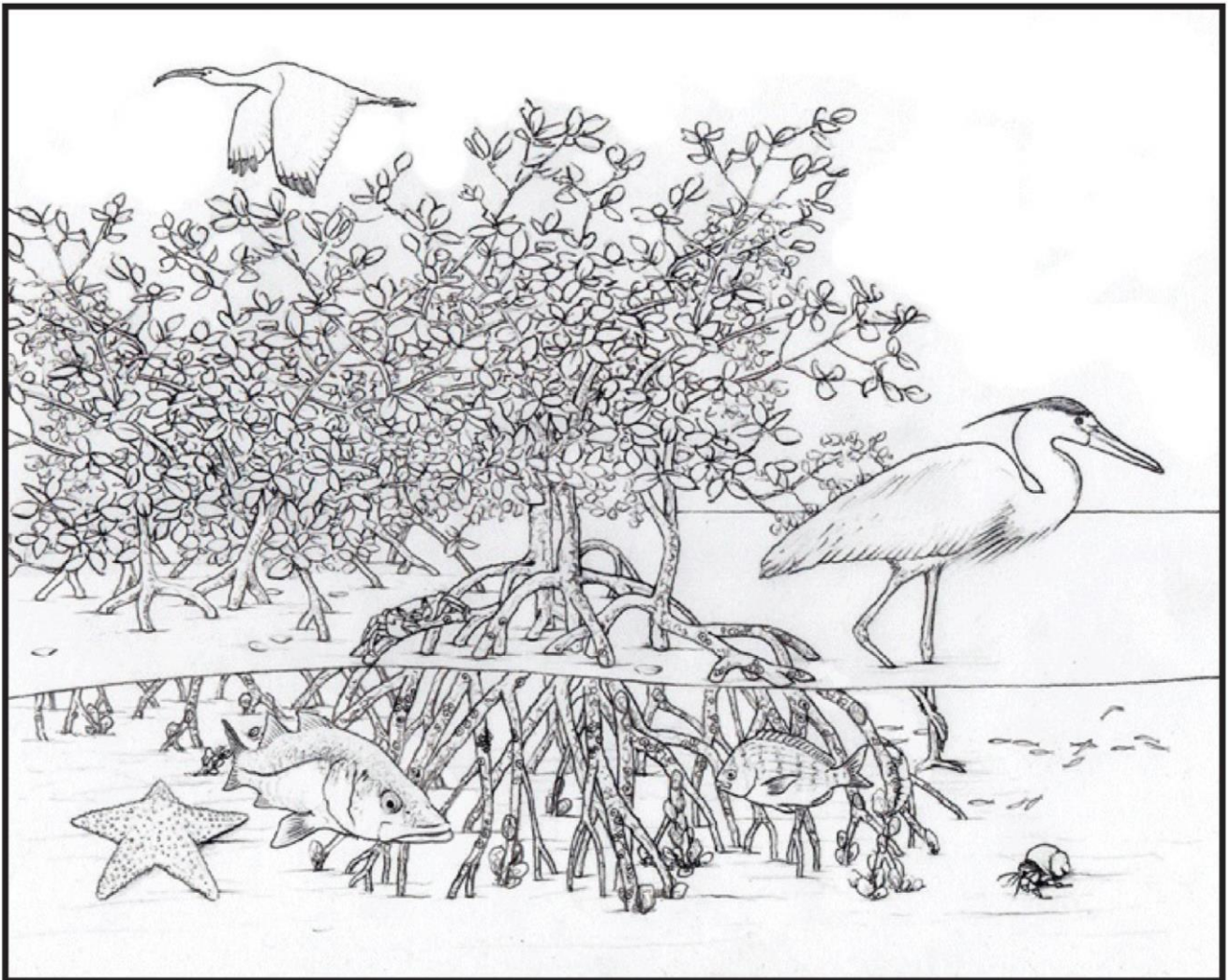
Mangrove Mural Classroom Art Activity

Directions: Why don't you ask your teacher and your classmates to help you draw a mangrove mural on a wall at your school?

A mural is a picture or design painted directly onto a wall. Your teacher can get a roll of white craft paper and spread it over some desks lined up next to each other in a row. Then everybody in the class can use their colored pencils, crayons, markers or paints to draw some mangrove roots on their section of the mural.

Hang this extra long mural on a wall in your classroom, in your school library, in a corridor or somewhere where everyone will get the message that your school community is like a mangrove forest.

Mangrove Ecosystem



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Drama Activity

The Metamorphosis of a Little Fiddler Crab – A Play (China)

This drama was created by Chinese teachers at the July 2015 Marvellous Mangroves teachers workshop held in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, in conjunction with the Chinese Mangrove Conservation Network (CMCN), the Shenzhen Mangrove Conservation Foundation (SMC), and SEEDS, the environmental education NGO. Translation by Jessica Sun of CMCN.

Cast:

- Little C ('Little Zhao'), a male Fiddler crab
- Mother, a female Fiddler crab
- Grandma T, a wise old female Sea Turtle
- Miss Black, a juvenile female Black Faced Spoonbill
- Brother F, a male Mud-Skipper Fish
- Mrs. M, a Mangrove Tree

Location: The action takes place in and around a mangrove wetland.

Little C is a fiddler crab, who has a fertile imagination and rich sense of fantasy. One day when a strange idea popped into his head he immediately asked for his mother.

Little C: Mom, Mom!

Mother: What's wrong?

Little C: I am very, very upset.

Mother: Why?

Little C: My two claws, one is so big but why is the other so small? I believe they should both be the same large size.

Mother: It's quite normal, it would be abnormal if they were both large.

Little C: But why do you have two small claws that are the same?

Mother: Because among us fiddler crabs all the females have two small claws, and all the males have two different claws.

Little C: But I want to have two big claws! Can you help me to do that?

Mother: Alas, it's really a problem. Maybe you should turn to wise old Grandma Turtle in the mangroves. Only she can help you.

Little C: So how can I find Grandma Turtle?

Mother: OK, now remember this. Here's the way: go out of the house, turn left, go straight on, then turn right, next turn left, and finally left again. There you will find a mangrove tree branch on which is carved 'Home of Grandma Turtle.' Then you've found the right place.

Little C: Thank you, Mom, I'm off to find Grandma Turtle!

Mother: Off you go – and be careful.

Little C makes his way towards the home of Grandma Turtle.

Little C (calling out): Grandma Turtle, Grandma Turtle. Aha, found it – this must be her home! Grandma T, Grandma T.

Grandma T: Who is it?

Little C: It's me, young fiddler crab.

Grandma T: Ha, it is you, boy. What new trick have you come here to play today?

Little C: Grandma T, I want to ask you for help today.

Grandma T: What's the problem?

Little C: I want to have two big claws. Can you help me to get that?

Grandma T: Two big claws? All of the other male fiddler crabs in the family have one large and one small. Girls have two tiny claws. Why do you want two big claws?

Little C: Because I think that to be a man we should stand up and be indomitable. With two big claws, I would be able to protect my mother better! Please help me, grandma.

Grandma T: All right, for your filial piety grandma will help you. I need to check if my magic book has a method of growing two big claws.

She reads and reads, and then finally stops.

Grandma T (reading): Aha, found it! 'If fiddler crabs want to have two big claws, you need the feather of juvenile black faced spoonbill, the propagule seed of a red mangrove, and the whisker of a great blue spotted mud skipper – found on its dorsal fin. Then we can make the magic potion.

Little C: The feather of a juvenile black faced spoonbill, a propagule of the red mangrove, and the whisker of a mudskipper found on its dorsal fin. Yeah, I got it. Thank you, Grandma.

Little C goes off searching for his magic ingredients.

Little C: Hello Miss ... Miss Black, Miss Black.

Miss Black: Oh, that was you.

Little C: Miss Spoonbill, what happened to your feathers? they're all dirty!

Miss Black: Don't talk about it. Look around here. This place is full of rubbish and it dirties my feathers – and they were once very bright and white.

Little C: Oh, I see. Miss Black. Actually, I need your help now.

Miss Black: What's up?

Little C: Could you do me a favour to give me one of your feathers?

Miss Black: What do you want to use it for?

Little C: Grandma Turtle told me of a magic potion that would give me TWO big claws. The potion was made of your feathers and some other things. So please, Miss Black, please help me.

Miss Black: Hmmmm ... in exchange for my feather ... could you help me to clean up the rubbish around here?

Little C: Deal! I will do my best!

Little C and Miss Black proceed to clean up all the garbage in the mangroves.

Little C: OK. Next is Brother F. I wonder if he will help me. Hey, hey, Brother F.

Brother F: Hey there, buddy.

Little C: OK, Brother F, I have something I need to talk to you about.

Brother F: Uhuh. What's the problem?

Little C: Could you give me a whisker from your dorsal fin?

Brother F: A whisker? Why do you need one of my whiskers?

Little C: I am eager to conjure up two big claws, but I must have your whisker to do it.

Brother F: Let me see. I would give my palp to you. But look around here: there's junk everywhere. I cannot feed myself with clean food. If you need my whisker, first you must help me to clean up the rubbish here.

Little C: OK. It's a deal!

Brother F: A promise is a promise!

Together they clean up the garbage.

Little C: There's just one thing left to find. Dear Mrs M. You look unhappy, why?

Mrs M: Little fiddler crab, look at the things around my body. They are really stifling me! I feel so sick.

Little C: White plastic rubbish bag, yellow plastic rubbish bag, green plastic rubbish bag. Why is all this rubbish here?

Mrs M: It's always like this. They floated onto me from the sea and hung on my roots and branches.

Little C: Disgusting! I shall clean up all these today. Let me help you. (*Cleaning*)

Mrs M: Thank you! I'm tidy and beautiful now. How can I help you?

Little C: Could you give me a propagule, please?

Mrs M: No problem. Here you are.

Little C: Thank you, dear Mangrove.

Brother F: Well done, Little C. Here is my whisker. Take care!

Miss Black: Ha! How clean! Here is my feather.

Little C: Great! Now I've got all I need. I must find Grandma T as fast as possible.

He rushes off to find the old turtle.

Little C: Grandma T, Grandma T, I've got all you need for the potion. Please help make both my claws bigger.

Grandma T: I'm surprised that you've done such a good job! Now watch carefully, I am doing magic – conjuring up a magic potion. Your claws will get bigger after you finish the potion.

Little C (*drinking the potion*): Oh! I have two big claws now. I must tell Mom about this.

Grandma T: I wish you happiness. You've been out for a whole day, so go home for supper now.

Little C: Look, Mom, I've got two big claws now! (*sitting down to have his supper*) Why is it that I can't eat? Mom, my claws are too big to eat with.

Mother: This is why we have one big and one small claw: We need to use the smaller claw when eating. Now that both your claws are big, it's no wonder that you can't eat.

Little C: Then what can I do? I don't want to starve!

Mother: Go and find Grandma Turtle, see if she can help you.

Little C: Grandma T! Grandma T!

Grandma T: What's wrong?

Little C: Grandma, can you help me go back to my prototype? It's cool to have two big claws, but I can't eat with them. I don't want to starve myself anymore.

Grandma T: I have told you before that you need to accept yourself. No matter what you look like there is true meaning behind your existence. But anyway, I knew you will change your mind. Look (*taking out another bottle*). This is the recovery medicine. After drinking it, you will go back to your prototype.

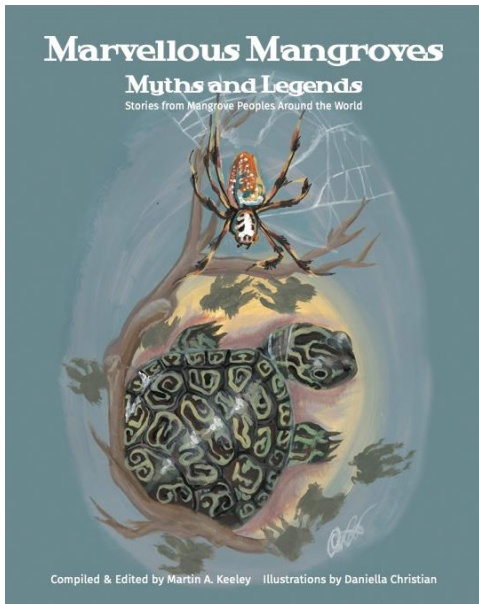
Little C (*drinking the medicine*): Great! I have changed back again! I feel better like this! Thank you, Grandma!



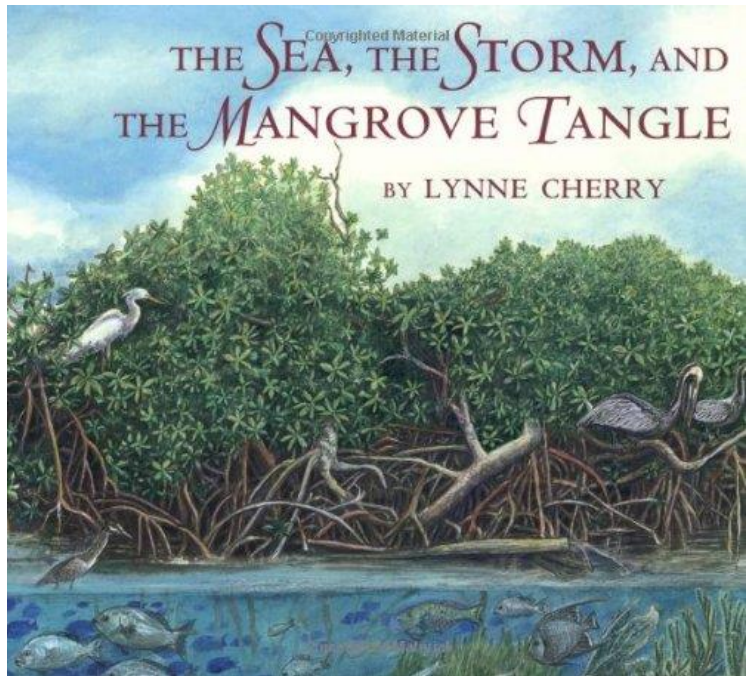
Little C reaches for the magic mangrove seed.

SOURCE: *Marvellous Mangroves: Myths and Legends*
compiled & edited by Martin Keeley

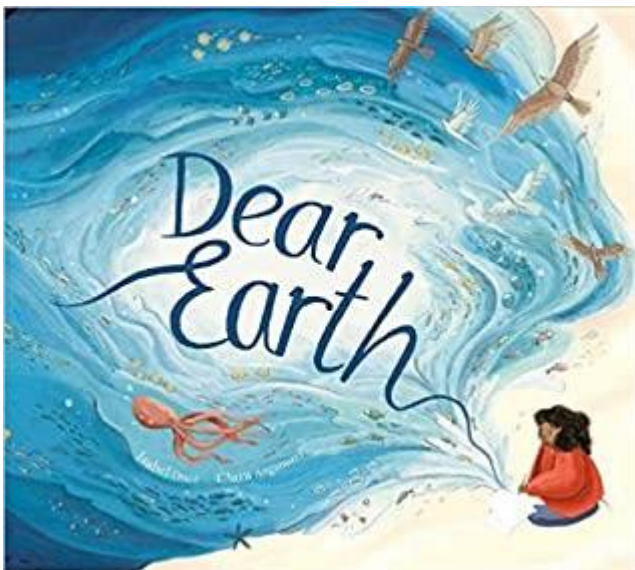
Great Reads



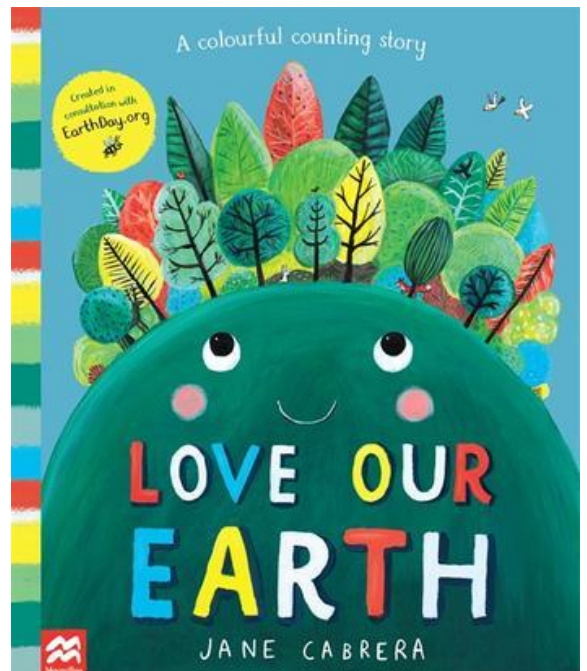
Compiled and edited by Martin A. Keeley, Illustrations by Daniella Christian. Wonderful legends and stories from mangrove peoples around the world.



Written by Lynne Cherry. A look into a unique ecosystem, one that is endangered in many places



Written by Isabel Otter. When Tessa writes a love letter to the Earth, it's the beginning of a glorious adventure



Written by Jane Cabrera. A young and playful picture book about caring for our Earth.