



watersong
WILD SPACE

SURROUNDED BY SCIENCE

**Volunteering at
Watersong**

Meet the team



Kari Warden
kari@watersong.org
Early Education Director

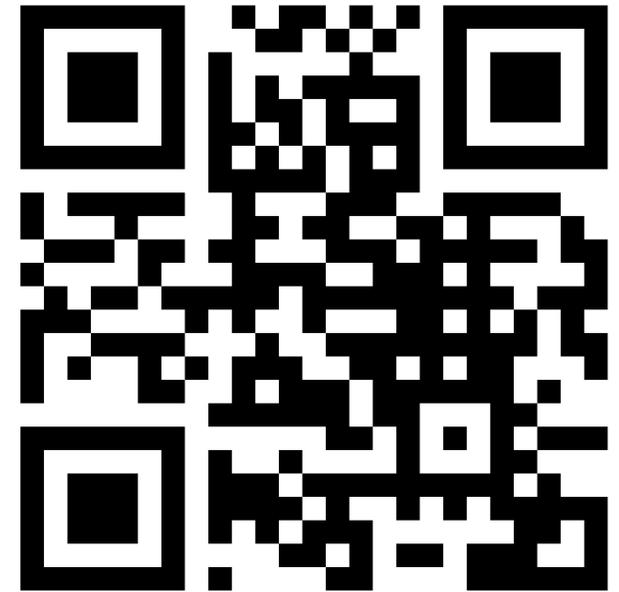


Evelyn Guerrero
evelyn@watersong.org
Education Coordinator



Jaxon McAndrew
jaxon@watersong.org
Conservation Land Manager

www.watersong.org



Our Story



Our Story



Our Mission

To ensure that Midland's community has a wild space that connects them to nature, and opens them up to education, conservation, habitat preservation, and research.

Our vision

Be the place that inspires people across our community to become stewards of the natural world and all that it offers to our health, minds, and purpose.

Our Values

- **Commitment** to Science Education
- **Collaboration** with our Community
- **Wellness** and Resilience from Access to Nature
- **Stewardship** and Sustainability of Wild Spaces
- **Curiosity**, Exploration, and Learning

 Facebook

 Website

Ways to Get Involved



Land
Management

Education

Land Management Opportunities



Help Watersong manage the almost 100 acres of wild space.

Possible Tasks

- Trail maintenance
- Pruning
- Litter pick up
- Planting seeds
- Invasive plant removal
- Butterfly garden maintenance
- Outdoor classroom maintenance



Land Management Opportunities



Education Opportunities



Help Watersong educate West Texas students about nature, history, and conservation in our outdoor classroom.

Possible Tasks

- Supervising students
- Welcoming guests
- Walking with students on the trail
- Teaching a station
- Leading an activity



Education Opportunities



Early Education

- WILD at Watersong
 - Teachers aide
 - General volunteer
- Playtime at the Playa
 - General volunteer



K-2 Program

Vaya to the Playa

K-2 Vaya to the Playa

build a foundation in ecological thinking



watersong
WILD SPACE

This program can be tailored by grade.

- Kindergarten: Patterns in Nature
- Grade 1: Cycles
- Grade 2: Relationships in Ecosystems



The experience features a 2.5-hour immersive visit to Watersong, interactive stations, and a scavenger hunt.

- TEKS covering grades K-2: (1C, 1F, 12A)



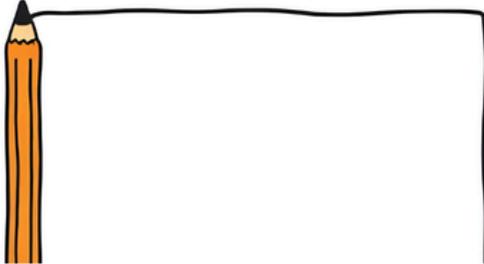
Kindergarten - Vaya to the Playa

Patterns in Nature

- Kindergarten: Patterns in Nature

Watersong's Story

Our playa is a special lake that only fills when the rains come. In dry West Texas, water is rare—so every drop is important! Stretch, move, and act out the story of how the playa was formed. Then, draw your own picture of our playa's beginning!



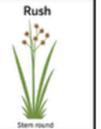
WORDS WITH ACTIONS TO HELP ME TELL THE STORY:

 TREE	 PLAYA	 WIND	 RAIN
 CRACKS	 LOOK	 LISTEN	 SMELL

Water Song

Vaya to the Playa

Feast your eyes on the image boxes and put your detective skills to the test! Spot the quirky patterns that set each picture apart. Take the wings, for instance—those on a butterfly and a dragonfly play the game of "spot the difference" quite well!

 Red-shoulder patch	 Orange bill and feet
 Broad wings, held upright	 Long, slender
 Short body and legs	 Long body and tail
 Leaves flat	 Stems round
 Rounded toes	 Three toes pointing forward

Reed vs. Rush
Redwing Blackbird vs. Duck
Butterfly vs. Dragonfly
Mammal Track vs. Bird Track
Frog vs. Lizard
Ready, set, identify!

SCAN ME

Online Story : A read aloud from Mrs. Kari Vaya to the Playa by Emmy Ulmsneider



1st grade- Vaya to the Playa

Cycles in the Playa

Name _____ Date _____

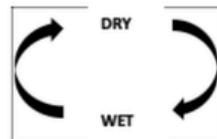
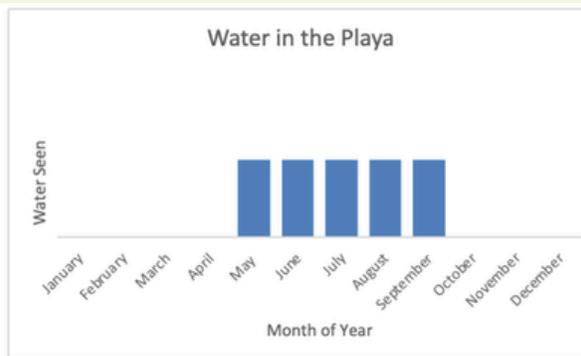
Vaya To the Playa

explore the environmental concepts of the Permian Basin



Cycles in the Playa

First Grade



Cycles
No beginning....
No end.....
Parts repeat!

The Playa Cycle: An Endless Adventure

Rain pays a visit, drenching the playa wet!
The water then pulls a disappearing act, either vanishing into the air or sinking into the ground, leaving the playa dry.
And just like clockwork, the rain makes a comeback, and the cycle starts its pattern all over again!

wet

dry

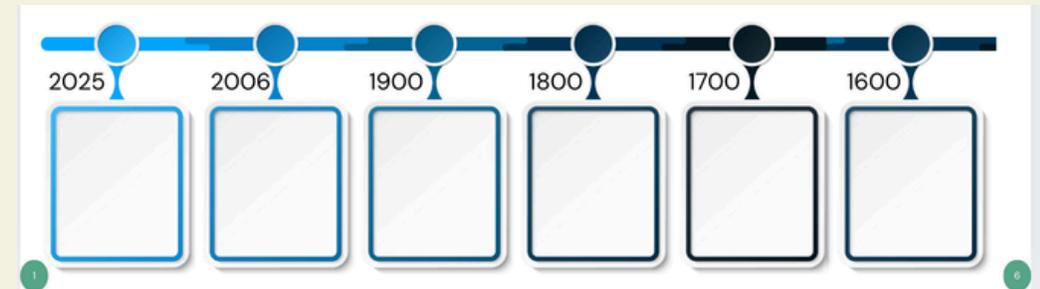


2nd grade- Vaya to the Playa

Relationships: People and the Land

Vocabulary words:

- Biotic ■ Abiotic
- History ■ Connection
- Ephemeral ■ wetland
- Aquifer



Extension Activity

A Playa Jar



watersong
WILD SPACE



Predaceous Diving Beetle

Order Coleoptera Family Dytiscidae Smooth black or brown color often with yellow stripes or dots. Hind legs with big flat segments fringed with long hairs for swimming. Flat oval body



Water Flea

Subphylum Crustacea Class Cladocera Tiny oval-shaped and transparent. Long "arms" that flick rapidly for clumsy or jerky swimming motion



Left-Handed

Class Gastropoda Family Physidae Shell opening will be on left-side when spire pointed up. Dark brown with light speckles, glides over surfaces leaving sticky trail



Bloodworm Midge

Order Diptera Family Chironomidae Bright red and wiggles to swim. Looks like a short, tiny bright red worm



Classroom Playa Jar: A tool to continue observations.



Minnow Mayfly

Order Ephemeroptera Family Baetidae 3 hair-like tails, Tiny gills on abdomen. Swim in straight, fast bursts of speed



Ram's-horn Snail

Class Gastropoda Family Planorbidae Disk-like spiral like a ram's horn. Dark brown, slowly glide over surfaces leaving sticky trail



Flatworm

Phylum Platyhelminthes Class Turbellaria Soft, flat, arrow-shaped body. Two eyespots on head, small feeding tube on belly. Glide slowly on surfaces leaving a sticky trail.



3rd - 7th Program

Ecosystem Interactions

3rd - 7th

Ecosystem Interactions



*Students explore ecosystems like scientists - observing, recording, and analyzing real-world data.
Hands-on stations help students connect classroom learning to the living world.*

- **Pre and Post test**
- **Classroom visit**
- **Highly flexible**
- **Student journal**
- **Educators select stations**
 - Human Interactions, Abiotic & Biotic Factors, Importance of Water, Adaptations, Food Chains, Ecosystem Interactions

TEKS covering grades 3-7: (1D, 3B, 3C, 5B, 5F, 5G)



8th - 12th Program

Resource Management Exercise

8th - 12th

Resource Management Exercise



- **Pre and Post Test**
- **Classroom visit**
- **Collaborative learning**
- **Authentic student product**
- **Outside evaluation**

1

Pre-Visit

2

In-class Prep

3

Watersong Visit

4

Presentations

TEKS covering grades 8-12:

(1A, 1B, 1C, 1G, 2B, 2D, 3A, 3C, 4A, 4B)

Stage 3: Watersong Visit

Students work through 4 stations and complete a nature walk.

Stations:

- *Abiotic & Biotic Factors*
- *Importance of Water*
- *Biodiversity & Ecosystem Interactions*
- *Human Interactions*



Human Interactions

Watersong Playa History

- navigation aids and water for Native Americans and early settlers
- cattle stop on railroad
- flood control
- caliche mining
- oil and gas drilling
- garbage dump
- wildlife preserve
- education and research center

1. Compare the aerial photographs of the I-20 playa from 1940 to now. List five changes that you see.
2. Which of the human uses of the I-20 playa have affected its resiliency negatively? Positively?

Negatively	Positively

Stage 4: Student Presentations



The following slides will showcase a student's presentation from Legacy High School

- Each group has 10 minutes to present and defend their management strategies
- Watersong staff visit the classroom to help evaluate students using the consultation rubric

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1	Teacher Column
Quality					
Content	Covers topic in-depth with details and examples. Subject knowledge is excellent.	Includes essential knowledge about the topic. Subject knowledge appears to be good.	Includes essential information about the topic but there are 1-2 factual errors.	Content is minimal OR there are several factual errors.	
Requirements	All requirements are met and exceeded.	All requirements are met.	One requirement was not completely met.	More than one requirement was not completely met.	
Presentation	Great information, concisely presented informative shows thought and organization	Good information, coherently presented informative shows thought and organization	Average information, inconsistently presented information shows little thought or organization	Little information incoherently presented, informative shows no thought and organization	
Creativity					
Originality	Solutions show considerable originality and inventiveness; content and ideas are presented in a unique and interesting way.	Solutions show some originality and inventiveness. The content and ideas are presented in an interesting way.	Solutions show little originality and inventiveness. The content and ideas are presented in an adequate way.	Solutions show no originality and inventiveness. The content and ideas are poorly presented	
Effectiveness	Project includes all material needed to gain a comfortable understanding of the topic. Highly effective.	Project includes most material needed to gain a comfortable understanding of the material. Adequate	Project includes a bare outline and needs clarification.	Project is lacking several key elements and has inaccuracies. Needs substantial clarification.	
Perseverance					
Focus on the task	Group consistently stays focused on the task and shares work equally. Very self-directed.	Group focuses on the task and what needs to be done most of the time. Works cooperatively.	Group focuses on the task and what needs to be done some of the time. Little cooperation among group members.	Group rarely focuses on the task and what needs to be done. One member predominates	
Working with Consultant	Pays attention to consultant, asks good questions, is polite.	Pays some attention to speaker is polite.	Pays attention to speaker but is not polite.	Pays no attention to speaker and is not polite.	

How to Sign Up



1. Type in: www.watersong.org
2. Click “Support”
3. Click “Volunteer Sign Up”

How to Sign Up



The I-20 Wildlife Preserve is now Watersong Wild Space - [learn more about our new name](#)

×



[About](#) [Tune In](#) [Education Programs](#) [Science & Conservation](#) [Support](#)



How to Sign Up



SignUpGenius

Features

Pricing

Collect Money

Watersong Wild Space

Volunteer Sign Up



Evelyn Guerrero



Contact

Already signed up?

[Change my sign up](#)

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up.

If you have any questions, please contact evelyn@watersong.org.

Thank you for supporting Watersong

Location Watersong Wild Space
2201 S. Midland Dr.
Midland, TX 79702

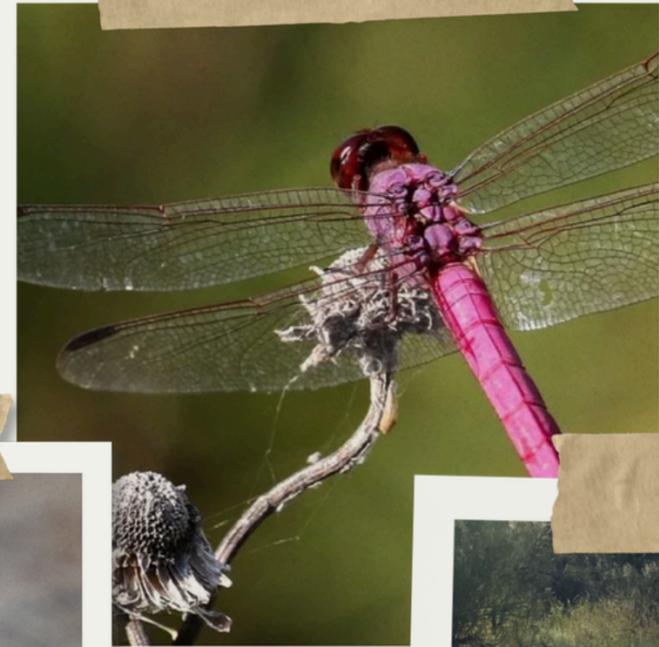
Share



Volunteer Page



The Benefits





watersong
WILD SPACE



kari@watersong.org
evelyn@watersong.org
jaxon@watersong.org

watersong.org