

The Haven Community

"Unified in Building Each Other Up"



Love Our Environment April



April Issue, 2022

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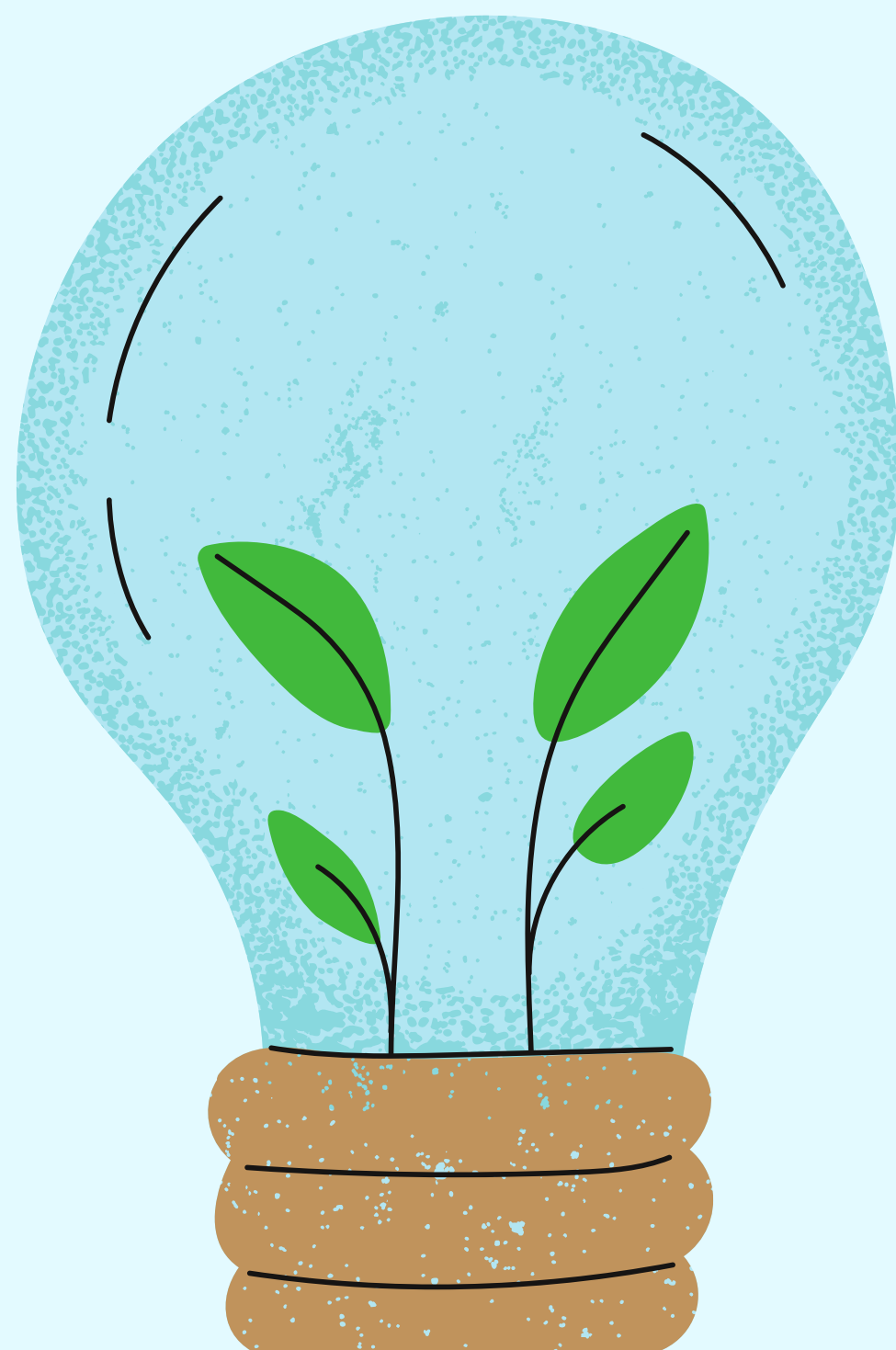
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Meet This Issue's Staff!



Katelyn Villon, President of The Haven Community, wants to comfort others by conveying her stories through her artworks. She wants to be able to help others by showing them they're not alone in this world, that there's someone who understands what they may be going through. She finds peace in piano pieces and gains inspiration in serene settings.



Sienna You, Senior Vice President of Writing and Composition, enjoys playing volleyball, hanging out with friends & family, and listening to BTS. As a part of The Haven Community, she hopes to express her feelings and provide support for other teenagers.



Claire Green, Senior Vice President of Editing, enjoys listening to and playing music, reading, and spending time with friends. Her dream is to be able to live in London. She joined the Haven Community as a way to connect with others.



August Oh, Senior Vice President of Design and Media, is someone who loves to implement her creativity into everyday life. She believes that in the teenage community, it is very important to be healthy, physically and mentally, and to be able to reach out to others. Through visual art, she hopes to communicate positive messages to those in need.

Meet This Issue's Staff!



Sophia May, writer at The Haven Community, believes that if you really want to share how you're feeling but you don't want your message to get lost in a knot of thoughts, writing is your best friend. Successful living cannot be achieved without growth, and emotional growth cannot be achieved without self confrontation. Because, it's only after you've made yourself happy that you can you spread the positivity to others.



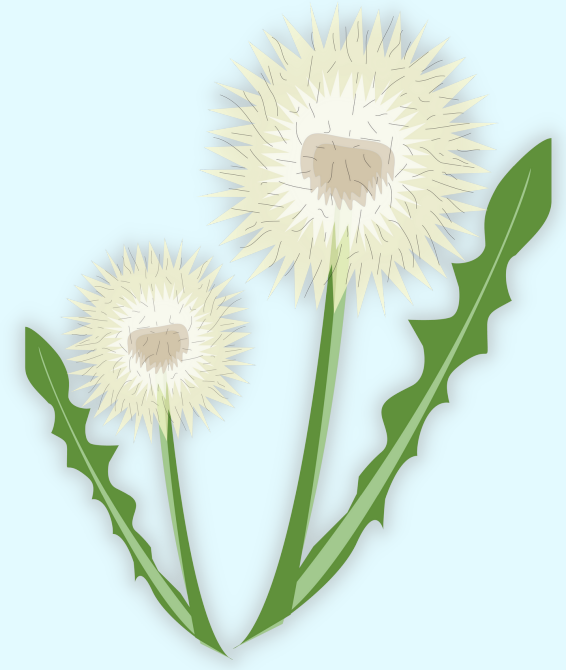
Celeste Cortez, writer at The Haven Community enjoys writing because she believes that it is a great opportunity to express herself and is what she's truly passionate about. She admires how you can see a person's personality and character by their writing. She hopes readers can get a glimpse of who she is and what she loves. Other than writing, she enjoys learning about science, especially anatomy and biology.



Kevin Wu is a writer at The Haven Community.

"Dandelions"

by Sophia May



When I was younger, I used to go to the park a lot with my dad and three older brothers. While my brothers would either be playing basketball or soccer, I would be hiding under the slide or sitting in the grass. I was a very antisocial kid, so I never played out in the open or with any of the kids around me. And I wasn't interested in getting hit by the ball that my brothers were either throwing or kicking.

However, my dad would share his time between my brothers and I. And when he hung out with me, he'd tell me some of the better memories from his childhood. My favorite one includes looking for "blue-bellied lizards." I now know he was really talking about the Western fence lizard, native to our state. But he also told me other random information, like how tortoises can eat dandelions.

I genuinely took that information to heart, so much that I still remember it after ten years. And as a kid, I'd make sure to grab a handful of dandelions before leaving the park, because back at home, we actually had a tortoise. He was a pretty calm pet, and the last time I saw him he hadn't reached his expected height. I remember jumping out of the car, straight into the room where we kept him. I'd lay the dandelions down for him and wait for him to come out of hiding, so that I could watch him eat.

Eventually, the dandelions I would bring home started to become too much. Quite a few were actually left in my dad's car, where they would wilt away. But because of those memories, I always look at dandelions with nostalgia. They are the part of nature that I find the most special, even if they are just weeds.

"Our Wonderful Biomes"

by Kevin Wu



There's a saying that goes...

"We should make every day a little less ordinary." While this quote can be applied to life, it can also be applied to a plethora of other matters – such as nature! Let's start with an "ordinary" biome and progress into biomes that are more and more weird as the days progress.

Monday - Tropical Rainforest

Tropical rainforests might very well be what you might associate with the word "forest". Hot, humid, and full of life, tropical rainforests are surely never a sight for sore eyes. The trees are tall, the sloths are sleeping, and the birds are singing. With distinct layers, all with their own species, from the howler monkeys on the canopy layer to the scorpions on the forest floor layer, it's insane to think that tropical rainforests only occupy 6% of the land on Earth, despite housing most of the species that we know. This is because their climate comes from the equator to sustain the heat needed to generate moisture, giving tropical rainforests a narrow niche of environmental factors to survive in.

Tuesday - Grassland

Grass. Something we've all seen. Something we've all touched. There's really not much separating from the grass we see at places, like parks, except for the part that grasslands can be massive. They can also vary in factors like colors or animal species depending on the area of the world they're in – in North America, you'd expect to see species like prairie dogs, but in Asia, there are Przewalski's horses, an unfortunately endangered species that are one of the only species of horse that aren't domesticated. Given that we've all experienced grass at some point in our lives, there's no surprise that grass is on every continent of the world, except Antarctica (it would be surprising if there were grasslands here).

Wednesday - Freshwater

Fresh water! Another thing we've all experienced in some form in our lives. Ever drank water? It's more likely freshwater. It's characterized by their lack of salt, separating it from their...saltier...counterpart...saltwater. Although we're so familiar with freshwater, the amount of freshwater in the world is vastly outnumbered by the amount of saltwater in the world, with the most notable presence of such liquid being found in the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes are actually bigger than some states, which is insane to think about! Lake Erie also allegedly has a monster called Bessie. I will never confirm nor deny that such a creature exists.

Thursday - Temperate Rainforest

Temperate forests are, in a sense, the Goldilocks of forests. Not as humid as tropical rainforests, not as cold as boreal forests. They also experience all of the 4 seasons, with leaves of lush green, vibrant red, or bright white. Pretty! They're also home to many familiar animals that we know and love, such as bears, red wolves, and deer. These animals all have different ways of adapting to their circumstances - after all, a winter that's not as cold is still cold. Bobcats, deers, and bears have warm fur coats while other animals just choose to leave the forest entirely until it becomes more habitable.

Friday - Savanna

Just like temperate rainforests, savannas also change by the seasons - but in a different way. Their climates depend on the amount of moisture that's present in their environment, since savannas the temperatures of savannas are pretty consistent throughout the year. It's pretty hot in January, it's pretty hot in November. The more moisture there is, the more plants can thrive. The less moisture there is, the less plants can thrive. With these, animals and plants alike have to adapt to these circumstances, and adapt they do. There's not many land animals that are more hardy than the African elephant.

Saturday - Taiga

One word to describe Taigas would be cold. Very cold. Also known as Boreal forests, snow is abundant and nutrients not. Far from the equator, meaning receiving less solar energy as opposed to a fellow rainforest, the tropical rainforest, one might expect very different animals living in this harsh climate. Beavers, for instance, have handy little huts in dams that shield them from the

dangers of the outdoors. These dams can also prevent floods by slowing the flow of water. Thanks, beavers! Other animals, however, don't have dams and huts, and resort to hibernation during the wintertime. If it works, it works.

Sunday - Desert

Dangerously hot. Camels everywhere. Cacti. Dangerously cold. Penguins. Lakes. Wait...they're all of these are characteristics of deserts? Deserts, rather than being characterized by their temperature, are defined by their moisture, or lack thereof. Hot or cold, no desert on earth is suitable for most species, as there's next to nothing to protect the animals and plants from the sweltering sun or harsh cold. Camels can go long periods of time without water because of the water in their humps. The structure of the penguins' feathers make them nearly waterproof and coldproof, making them ideal candidates for hunting fish underwater and staying (relatively) warm and toasty above water.

Monday - Marine

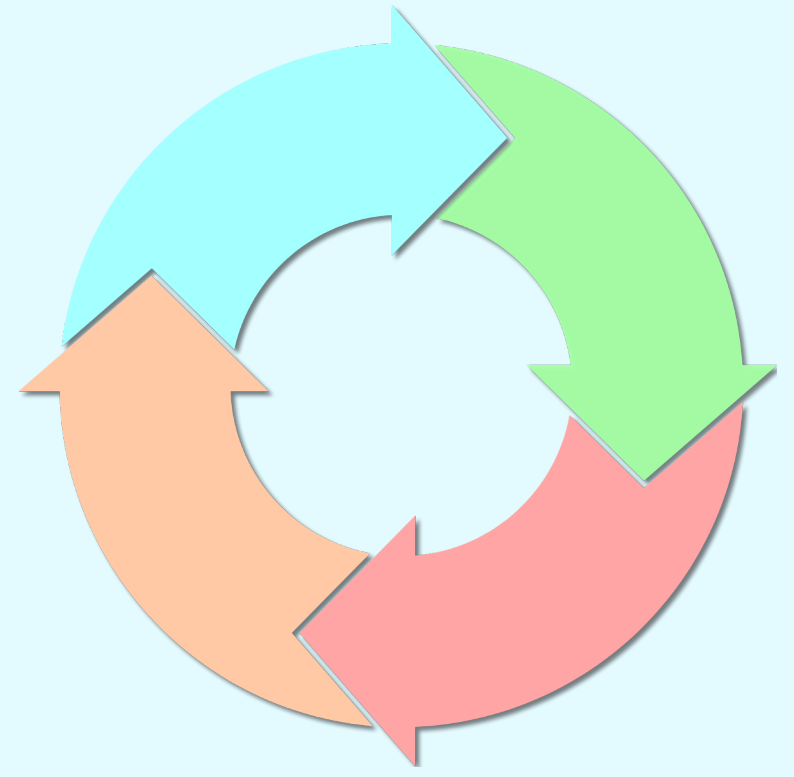
We started the list with a moist environment, so let's end our list with one. The ocean is massive, covering more than 70% of the earth's surface. One might think we know about the ocean, since it's so accessible. We've only discovered about 20% of the ocean. We know even more about extraterrestrial planets like Mars! Water pressure is a huge pain to deal with, which is why we can't dive too deep into water to explore everything underneath the surface. Even strong machines can get crushed like tin cans. Who knows? Maybe Bessie is hiding in the dark depths of the ocean.

Conclusion

Although these biomes are so different from each other, from temperature to wildlife, what do they all have in common? They need to be protected. Let's not overmine in tropical rainforests. Let's be more mindful of overstripping grasslands of their nutrients. Let's stop emptying our freshwater reserves. Let's help combat the wildfires in temperate rainforests. Let's not turn savannas into deserts via overgrazing. Let's not deforest the taigas. Let's not expand our territories into deserts. Let's not pollute the ocean. By protecting the environments around the world, we can keep the animals happy and the world sustainable.

"Making an Impact"

by Celeste Cortez



Joining A Club

Starting my sophomore year of high school was pretty hectic to say the least. Sophomore year of high school was completely online due to COVID. I was so worried that I would not be able to get the high school experience of joining clubs and extracurriculars at my school. Thankfully, my high school made it work via Zoom. I remember seeing a list on a Google document of all the clubs that I would be available to join virtually. After skimming through the list, one club truly stood out to me.

Youth Climate Action Coalition

The Youth Climate Action Coalition, also known as Love Our Environment, was a new club that my school was offering that year and one that I did not hesitate to join. Our first meeting started the next week after school and I was very excited to see what the club was all about. The Youth Climate Action Coalition is a worldwide organization that strives to shrink our carbon footprint. Not only does this club look at our carbon footprint, but also our overall ecological footprint. The Youth Climate Action Coalition works to take action on our climate change crisis.

Being a Member

While I was now a member of this club, I was very confused as to what was my role in their mission. Before I knew it, the club started to inform us of various opportunities that I could take part in to help our environment. I began constantly recycling items in my house as well as discovering ways to reuse items such as making an empty water bottle a flower pot. The Youth Climate Action Coalition also shared various organizations with us that we can volunteer in and advocate for the protection of animals. Overall, this club opened my eyes to the large impact we can have to our environment.

What You Can Do

Everyone can play a significant role in helping our environment. You can create your own club at school, such as the Youth Climate Action Coalition/Love Our Environment, that works to make our environment and planet clean. If you do not feel like joining or creating a club, you can also be an advocate for environmental problems in your community. You can also upgrade to more energy-friendly apparatus, consume less meat, conserve electricity, use electric cars, conserve water, and so much more.



Thank You!

Contact or Visit Us At:

www.thehavencommunity.net

contact@thehavencommunity.net



Our Mission:

Promote emotional strength
Build teenage society
Repeat.