



Connecting children and families to nature

Homeschool

SCIENCE SERIES

2026 SEMESTER: JANUARY 14 TO MAY 13

January 14: Discovering Geology in Makiki Valley

January 21: Hawai'i's Volcanic Stories

January 28: Have a Blast at Lē'ahi: Secondary Eruptions (FIELD TRIP)

February 4: Exploring the Ring of Fire

February 11: Estuary Ecology

February 18: Estuary Restoration at He'eia (FIELD TRIP)

February 25: Stream Explorations

March 4: Wild Wetlands & Changing Climate

March 11: Forest Foundations

April 1: Lepo Lovers

April 8: Planting Seeds of Change

April 15: Forest Restoration and Collaboration (FIELD TRIP)

April 22: Mo'olelo at Mauiola (FIELD TRIP)

April 29: Coral Restoration

May 6: Deep Sea

May 13: Semester Shellabrations

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Unit 1: Discovering Geology

January 14 : Discovering Geology in Makiki Valley. Welcome to Makiki Valley – where we foster relationships with the natural world and new friends. As we get to know one another, we'll introduce the the geological forces that made Makiki Valley such a special place to call home base.

January 21: Hawai'i's Volcanic Stories. Discover mo'olelo about the formation of the Hawaiian Islands, hotspots and current eruptions. From Pele to tectonic plates, we'll tie together how modern science mirrors the mo'olelo of the islands origin.

January 28: Have a blast at Lē'ahi: Secondary Eruptions (FIELD TRIP). Explore Lē'ahi and secondary eruptions at Diamond Head State Monument. Our hosts from the Division of State Parks will share with us about the origins of this iconic place and how we can mālama 'āina.

February 4: Exploring the Ring of Fire. Investigate the wonders of the Pacific Plate as we journey around the Ring of Fire. From volcanoes to fault lines, we'll learn about the geological forces that shape the edges of our ocean.

Unit 2: Wonderous Wetlands & Estuaries

February 11: Estuary Ecology. Learn about the magic of estuary ecosystems – where saltwater and freshwater meet. Full of amazing animals and plants, we'll study these unique environments and the biodiversity they hold within.

February 18: Estuary Restoration at He'eia (FIELD TRIP). Join us at He'eia State Park as we investigate human impact on our estuaries and what's involved in restoring these special habitats. We'll have the opportunity to mālama the estuary with our hosts from the Division of State Parks while learning about its history and cultural significance.

February 25: Stream Explorations. Let's take a closer look at some of our favorite streams here in Makiki Valley by testing their water quality and learning about the ecology of the surrounding area. From high mountain tops to the depths of the valley, we'll learn how to keep freshwater clean for people, plants, and animals.

March 4: Wild Wetlands and the Changing Climate. Did you know wetlands can help protect us from storms? By absorbing wave energy, cleaning runoff, and being a buffer, we'll examine just how important these habitats are to keeping wildlife and communities resilient.

Unit 3: Healthy Soil & Forests

March 11: Forest Foundations. Learn about fantastic forests all around us and across the world. We'll take the day to appreciate how they provide essential resources to people and animals and act as a carbon sink.

April 1: Lepo Lovers. Listen to stories told by the 'āina through soil layers with Kristy Lam, a PhD in Soil Studies at UH Mānoa. We'll get our hands dirty as we learn how real-life soil scientists dig into the history and health of Hawai'i's lepo.

April 8: Planting Seeds of Change. We will learn about the importance of our native forest ecosystem as it relates to the watershed and how we can respect and restore our forests. Aloha Tree Alliance will visit to talk about important restoration work on Kuli'ou'ou Ridge Trail, and help us pot native seeds that will get planted on their Community Workdays.

April 15: Forest Restoration and Collaboration (FIELD TRIP). Today, we have the opportunity to outplant with Aloha Tree Alliance at Kuli'ou'ou Ridge Trail and learn about community collaboration – from mauka to makai. By practicing teamwork, we'll create active change in the Niu Valley watershed.

Unit 4: Oceans

April 22: Mo'olelo at Mauiola (FIELD TRIP). We jump into our final unit with Mauiola Ke'ehi as this wonderful organization shares mo'olelo of ocean ecosystems and tidal islands. Join us as we deepen our oceanic connections and experience how it contributes to our wellness and resiliency.

April 29: Coral Restoration. Our reefs are some of the most biodiverse ecosystems on earth but are increasingly threatened by human activity. We'll explore some of the amazing work to help protect and restore coral, both in our home waters and across the Pacific.

May 6: Deep Sea. Take deep dive through the layers of the ocean, exploring the many strange and amazing creatures along the way. While the ocean depths might feel far away, we'll learn how these incredible habitats are critical to healthy ecosystems from the shoreline to the open sea.

May 13: Semester Shellabrations. Learn how the tiny 'opihi plays a big role in tidal ecosystems. We'll reflect on everything learned this semester and look ahead to the positive change that we can create. Join us at the end of our final day to celebrate and share memories with our new friends.

