



The Bathroom Sensation That's Sweeping the Nation

It's been awhile since the upcoming events chart got so full...and I can't say I miss it, but it is an exciting catalogue of sports games for the week! Good luck to the athletes starting their competitive leg of the season! Go, Cougars!

Fish Facts

Since I did planet facts for my friend, I'll do fish facts for myself! I'm going to put my three encyclopedias to use!

- Dolphins, orcas, whales, and porpoises are all classified as cetaceans, and are further separated into odontocetes (toothed cetaceans), monodontids, mysticetes (baleen whales). All cetaceans have a stream-lined body shapes, lack external hindfins and the forefins have become flippers, and they have no vestiges of nails.
- The Yangtze dolphin, or the baiji, is the first dolphin species believed to be driven to extinction because of human interference. The last confirmed baiji died in 2002, and was named Qiqi (chi-chi).
- The Yangtze dolphin was a goddess of protection for fishermen and boatmen on the Yangtze River.
- In December 2023, a Stanford study mapped out the body regions of a starfish using it's gene expression. A starfish's head is located both at it's center and distributed over all of it's limbs!
- Recently, researchers found new foraging locations for leatherback sea turtles, allowing them to plan for conservation efforts.

There are over 72,500 species of algae on the planet, and they all account for half of all the oxygen produced in the world. Alongside phytoplankton, algae is also part of the base of the aquatic food chain, being fed on by grazers and so forth. But algae are a fascinating species, so here's some more about them.

Algae can be classified in two different ways: microalgae and macroalgae. Microalgae is comprised of either a single cell or a string of cells, while macroalgae have a solid body and look like complex vascular plants.

Algae can live in a variety of environments, like ponds, icy waters, and so on. One of these species that lives on ice, *chlamydomonas nivalis* (a microalgae), is green, but produces a red pigment known as a carotenoid, which acts as a sunscreen! This phenonemon is referred to as watermelon snow, but honestly, it looks a little like blood...

Algae are responsible for many of the vivid colors found in coral reefs. Zooxanthellae provides coral oxygen and flushes out waste through photosynthesis. Coral bleaching occurs when the coral becomes stressed and expells the zooxanthellae, causing it to lose pigment and also lose it's waste system. If the zooxanthellae don't return to the coral, the coral dies.

Algae and phytoplankton filter carbon dioxide from our atmosphere, so the ocean is a major filter for our atmosphere.

Algae, The Trees of The Water

Upcoming Events

Monday 3/4	Tuesday 3/5	Wednesday 3/6	Thursday 3/7	Friday 3/8	Saturday 3/9
Lunch LinkUP @ Room 212 (both lunches) Staff Meeting (3:15pm) Boys JV & Varsity Volleyball v Thomas MacLaren @ Thomas MacLaren (4:30pm)	Girls JV Tennis v Discovery Canyon @ Home (3:45pm) Girls Varsity Tennis v Discovery Canyon @ Discovery Canyon (3:45pm)	Orchestra Concert (7pm) Boys JV & Varsity Volleyball v Canyon City @ Home (4pm)	Varsity Baseball v Pueblo South @ Home (4pm) Girls JV & Varsity Soccer v Fountain Fort-Carson @ Home (5pm)	Vision & Hearing Screening (8am) Track & Field Varsity Terror Frosh/Soph Invite v Palmer @ Garry Barry (11am) Girls JV & Varsity Tennis v Lewis-Palmer @ Lewis-Palmer (4pm) Boys JV & Varsity Volleyball v Colorado Springs Christian @ Home (4pm)	Track & Field Varsity Invitational @ CSU-Pueblo

Want to read more? Find more on our website, cougardaily.org or on Instagram @ [thecougardaily/](https://www.instagram.com/thecougardaily/)