



# **Water Storytelling for Earth Science Week**

A toolkit for sharing stories through  
stop-motion animation

# Facilitator Introductions

Brigitta Rongstad

We are Water Program Manager

CIRES

Annamarie Schaecher

We are Water Community Engagement Coordinator

CIRES

Claire Ratcliffe Adams

Education Associate and We are Water PI

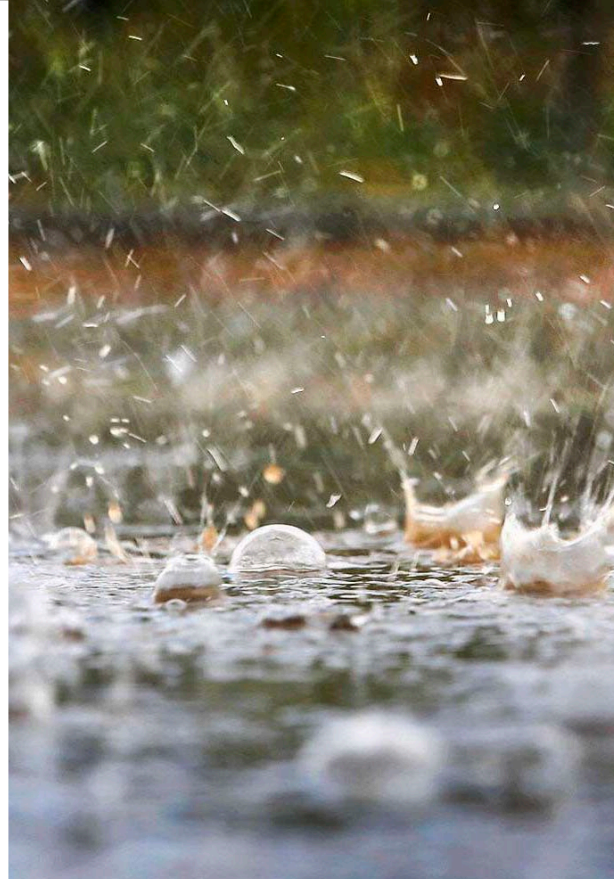
Space Science Institute



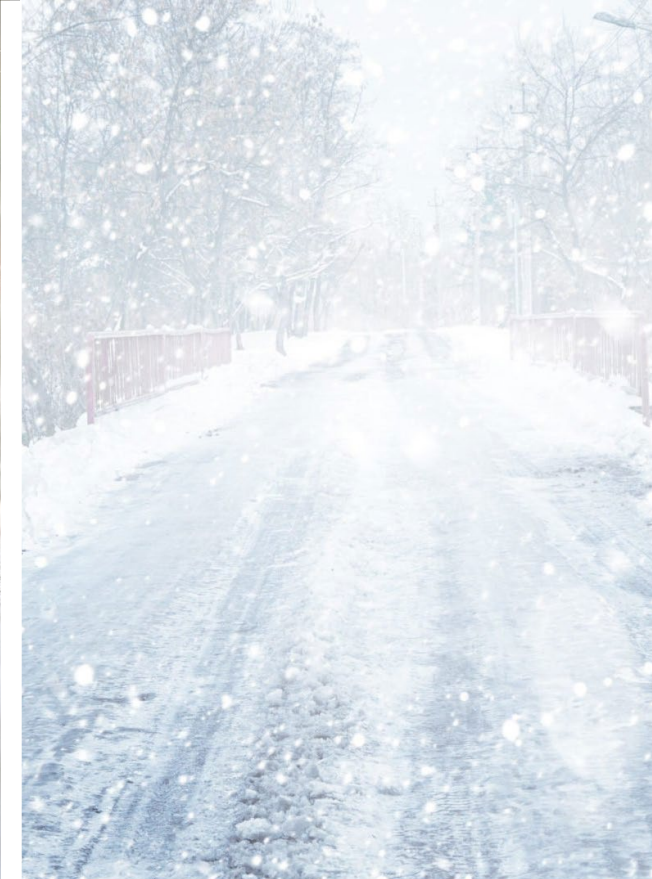
Dry Thunderstorm  
Full of energy  
Flashy



Drought  
Waiting for relief  
In need of some Jergens



Flash Flood  
Fast acting  
Enriching to your  
environment



Winter Storm  
Cool  
Preparing for the future

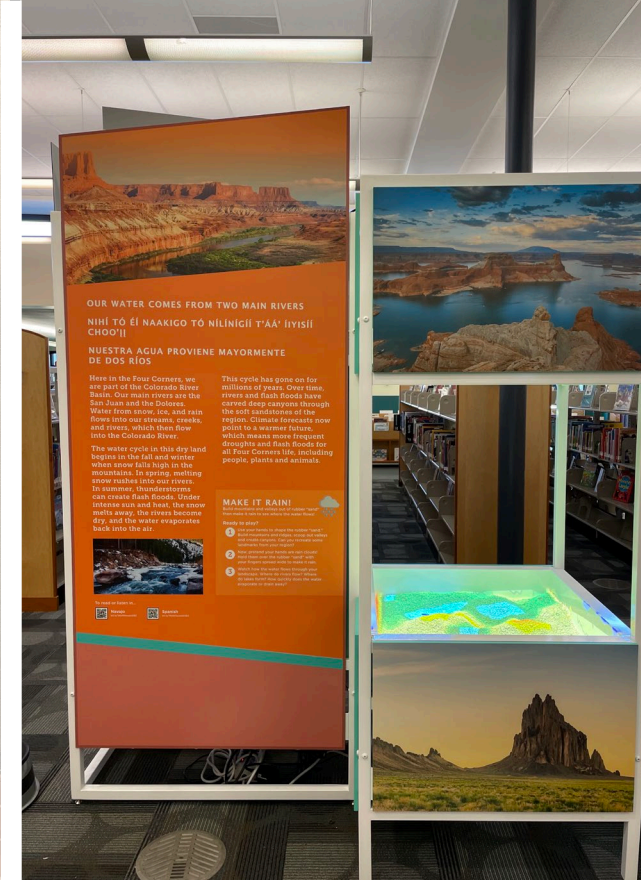
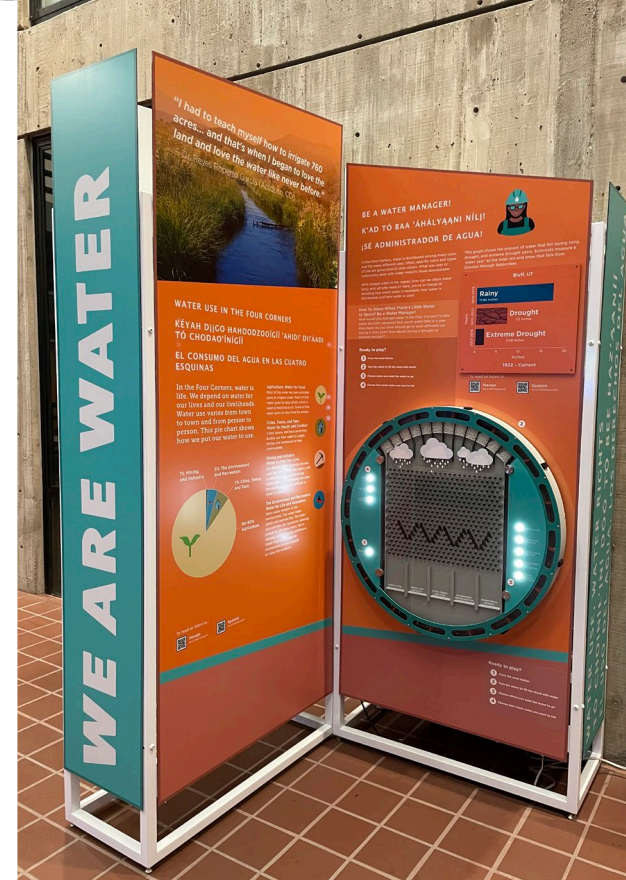
Icebreaker: What Four Corners weather are you today?



# We are Water

connecting communities

Connecting Communities. Sharing Stories. Sharing Place.



## We are Water

- Public and Tribal libraries in the Four Corners Region
- Serving Indigenous, Latinx, and rural communities
- Connecting communities through conversations and explorations about water
- Multicultural traveling exhibit in Navajo, Spanish, English, and Ute languages

October 9-15



**EARTH  
SCIENCE  
WEEK**

- Started in 1998 by the American Geosciences Institute
- Gain a better understanding and appreciation for Earth Sciences
- Encourage stewardship of the Earth
- 2022 Theme: "Earth Science for a Sustainable World"
  - Contests
  - Events
  - Activities
  - So much more!

**[www.earthscienceweek.org](http://www.earthscienceweek.org)**

# Stop-Motion Animation



# Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

**Goal:** to create a short (<1 minute) stop-motion animation of a story about water.

**Ages:** 6-8 with adult support, 9 and up

**Time:** two 1-1.5 hour sessions

## **Materials:**

- Smart phone or tablet w/ camera
- Free Stop Motion application (or pro, paid version)
- Art supplies—felt, construction paper, foam shapes, etc.



# Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

## Step-by-Step Instructor Guide for a Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

written by Emily Fairfax, PhD ([www.emilyfairfaxscience.com](http://www.emilyfairfaxscience.com))

### Goal

To create a short (<1 minute) stop-motion animation of a story. Workshop is designed to be completed in two days or two sessions. Each portion is about 1.5 – 2 hours long. You may want to leave time between sessions for people to make their pieces. Depending on how intricate their story is, they may need more time for cutting out shapes, making "characters," etc.

Note: you can watch the 27 min it took to film the demo animation described in this workshop guide [here \(speed up a lot so this video is only 1.5 minutes\)](#). Note that the video does not include time spent coming up with the story, sketching, or making my pieces.



Hi! I am Dr. Fairfax, and I will be teaching you how to make a stop-motion animation of a water story today!

## Participant Handout for Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

written by Emily Fairfax, PhD ([www.emilyfairfaxscience.com](http://www.emilyfairfaxscience.com))

### Goal

To create a short (<1 minute) stop-motion animation of a story.

### Part 1: Tell me a story about water!

I want you to tell me a story about water! This can be a story from your own life, or a made-up story. Remember, good stories usually have some sort of take-home message or point to them.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- o Do you have a story about an activity you swimming, boating, etc.? What do you see?
- o Have you experienced a time when there you? A drought? A flood? A fire?
- o Do you have a garden, a potted plant, or happens if it gets too much or too little water?

Use the space below to write out a short story about 2 paragraphs long.

## Materials List for Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

written by Emily Fairfax, PhD ([www.emilyfairfaxscience.com](http://www.emilyfairfaxscience.com))

### Goal

To create a short (<1 minute) stop-motion animation of a story.

### Technology and Filming

- Smartphone or Tablet with camera, or a standalone digital camera
- Stop Motion Pro app (\$4.99 in [iOS app store](#) or [Google Play Store](#)) - free version is okay too, just has a few less features for adding sounds. You can link external cameras to the app with the paid version as well.
- Tripod or DIY camera holding set up (I used a [small flexi-tripod](#), a plank of wood, and a [C-clamp](#) in place of a tripod, pictured below. You can also stack a bunch of books up and tie/tape your phone in place on top of them, or DIY another way to hold the camera still while "filming." There is no right or wrong way to do this – the only goal is to get your filming area centered in the frame and to hold your phone or camera very still.)

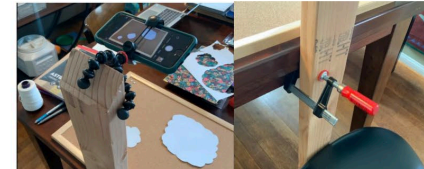


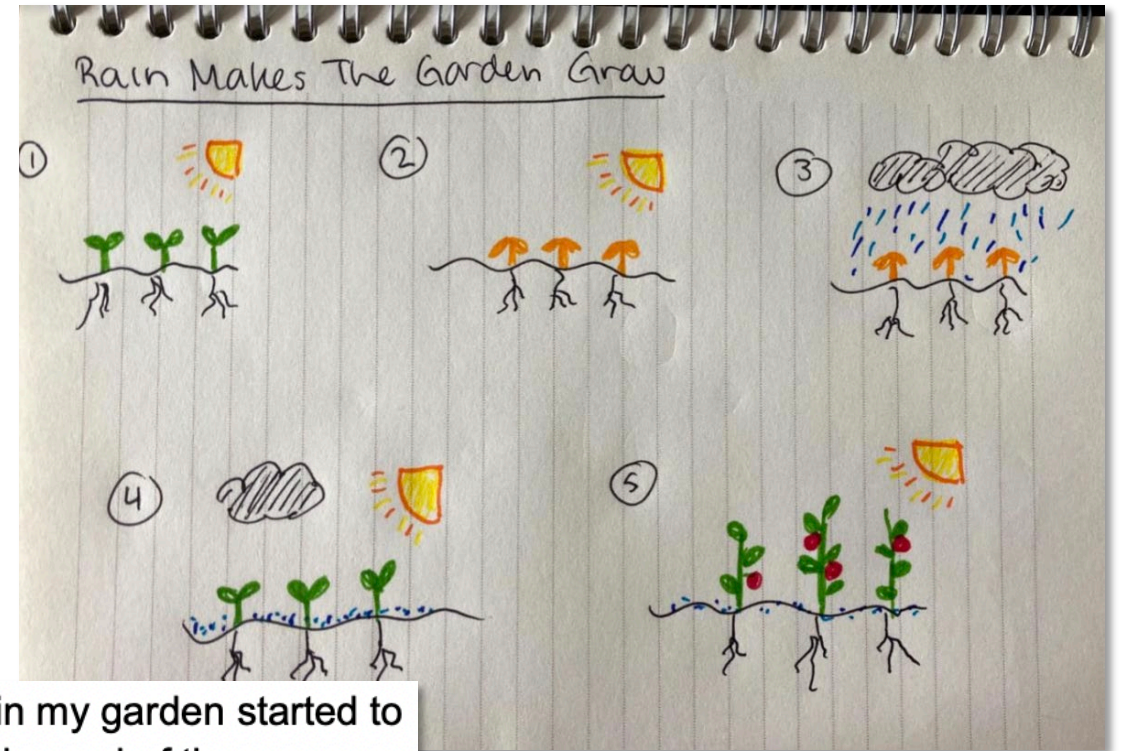
Figure 1: Left, flexi-tripod gripping wooden plank. Right, clamp holding plank to my table to get the phone camera at the right height.

Emily Fairfax: [emily.fairfax@csuci.edu](mailto:emily.fairfax@csuci.edu)

# Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

## Start with the story

1. Think of a story about water
2. Narrow it down to 1 sentence
3. Sketch it out!



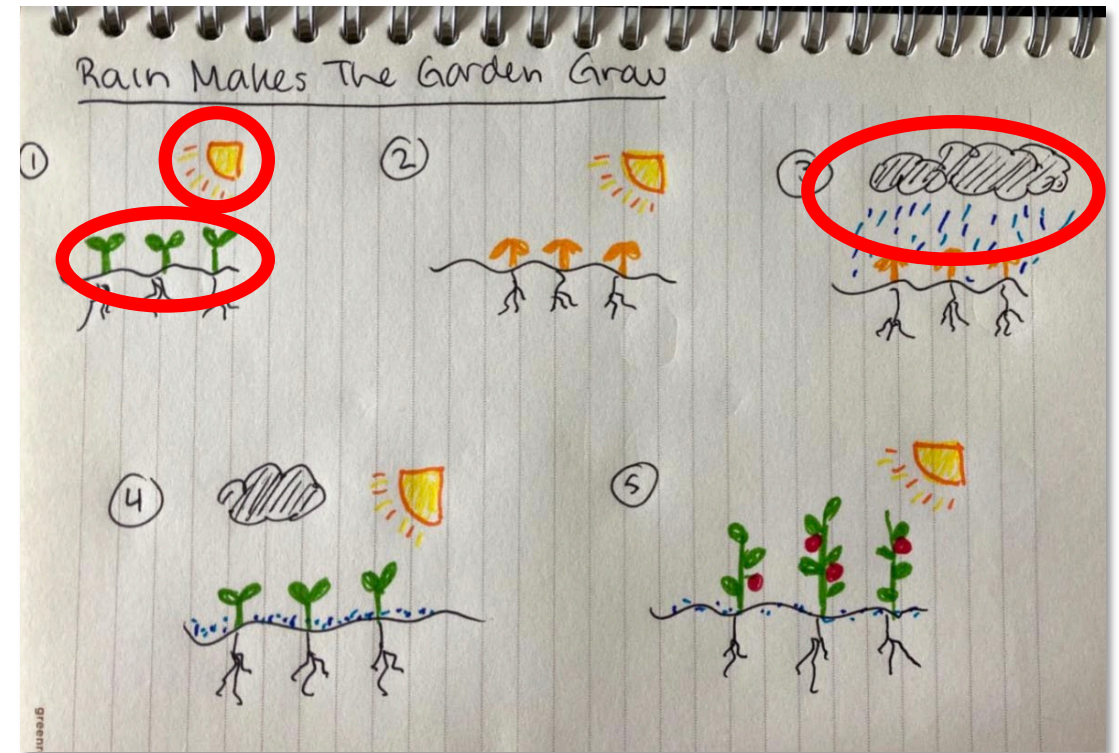
**Full story:** when it was sunny and dry last summer, all the plants in my garden started to wilt. But then it rained on them and they started to grow again. At the end of the summer those plants had tomatoes! We ate them in salsa. The plants wouldn't have grown if they didn't get watered by the rain.

**One Sentence Story:** rain makes the garden grow.

# Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

## Identify the key elements

- Who/what are the main characters?
  - These will be the “moving” parts
    - Sun, plants, clouds/rain
- What should be in the background?
  - These will be the “fixed” parts
    - Sky, soil/ground



# Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

## Craft away!

Provide a range of materials

- Construction paper
- Felt
- Pre-cut shapes
- Pipe cleaners (can be shaped into anything!)
- Markers, pens, pencils
- Glue, scissors

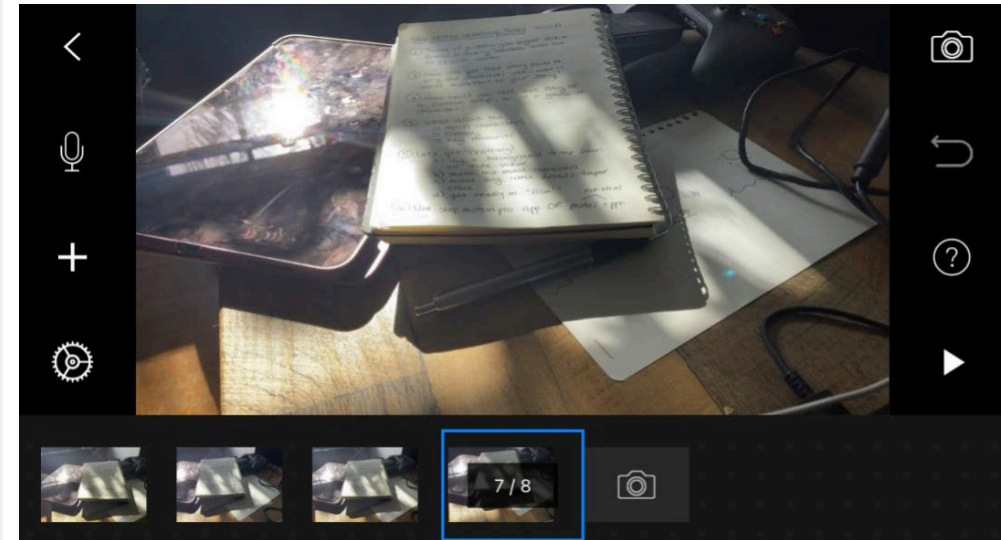
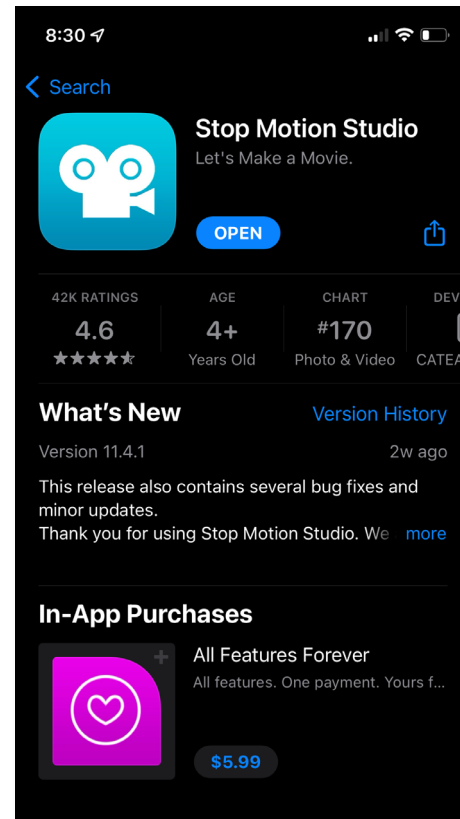
\*\*Make sure the main characters (moving parts) are not glued to the background (fixed part)!



# Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

## Lights, camera, action!

- Stop Motion Studio—free app for smartphones, tablets
- Stop Motion Studio Pro—\$5.99, enables extra features
- Step-by-step instructions in the instructor guide



# Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

## Guess the story

- Work with a partner to view and re-tell each other's stories

## Revisit and revise

- Was anything confusing or unclear?
- Was anything missing?

## Film your story again (optional)



# Stop-motion Animation Contest

- Invite your patrons to submit entries.
- See the link in the link bank for more information.



## **STOP-MOTION ANIMATION STORY**

Tell us a story about water! Submit a short (<1 minute) stop-motion animation about water for the chance to win one of ten \$25 gift cards and a We are Water prize pack.

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## **ORAL HISTORY**

Share your own water story with us! Submit an oral history recording for the chance to win one of ten \$25 gift cards and a We are Water prize pack.

# BE A WATER HISTORIAN!

Created for ages 13 and up



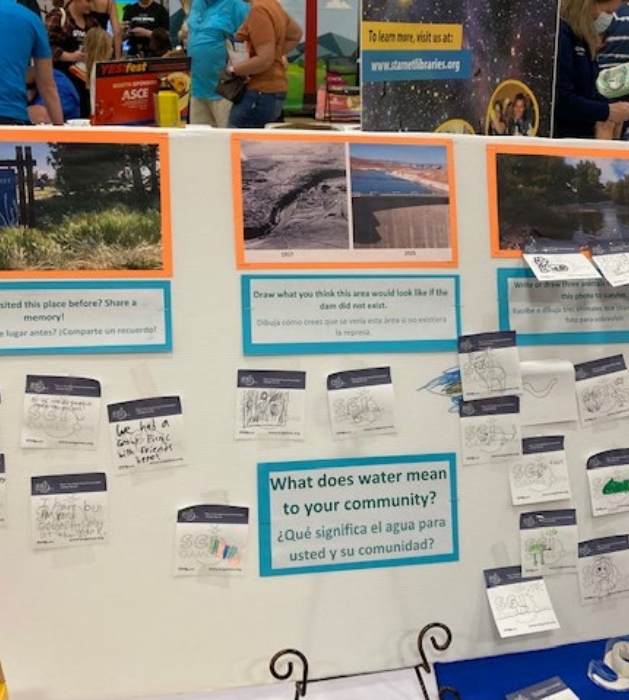
Brought to you in partnership with your local library  
[www.wearewater.colorado.edu](http://www.wearewater.colorado.edu)

## Water-related Hands-on Activities

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- Be a Water Historian
  - In this activity, participants will learn how to be a good interviewer, from identifying the person to be interviewed, to writing effective interview questions.
  - Participants will be able to share recorded stories with people in the community and elsewhere in the Four Corners region through the We are Water project.
  - Downloadable PDF available on the We Are Water website. A link is also in the link bank.





Credit: Charlotte Mecklenbu

# A Walk Through Time

- Libraries display historical photos of the community that relate to water and compare them with contemporary photos of the same areas.
- The activity can be an outdoor "history walk," a virtual photo gallery, or a display in the library.



1957



2005

# Other ways to participate

- Photo Contest
  - We are Water is hosting a photo contest to showcase water and communities in the Four Corners Region.
  - We hope that these images will highlight how plants, animals, landforms, weather events, and their connections to water all play an important role in shaping what people see in the environment and how people interact with and learn from the natural world.



# Next FREE Webinar

World Water Day:  
Celebrate the Building  
Block of Life

October 27 at 1 pm  
Mountain Time



Register: <https://www.starnetlibraries.org/development/webinars/>



# Questions & Answers

Emily Fairfax: [emily.fairfax@csuci.edu](mailto:emily.fairfax@csuci.edu)

We are Water team: [wearewater@colorado.edu](mailto:wearewater@colorado.edu)

# We are Water Project Partnership

## **Southern Ute Indian Tribe Cultural Preservation Department**

Lorelei Cloud  
Shelly Thompson  
Ute elders

## **Navajo Nation Educators and Elders**

Vikki Tomas  
Lorraine Redday

## **Science Advisors**

Jeff Lukas  
Water Education Colorado

## **Library Partners**

High Plains Library District  
Diné College Library  
Aztec Public Library  
Bayfield Public Library  
San Juan Library District

## **Library Advisors**

Association of Rural and Small  
Libraries  
Arizona State Library  
New Mexico State Library  
Utah State Library  
Colorado State Library

