

# ECO-EXPLORERS: THE ECHO



**K-2: HABITATS & BIOMES**

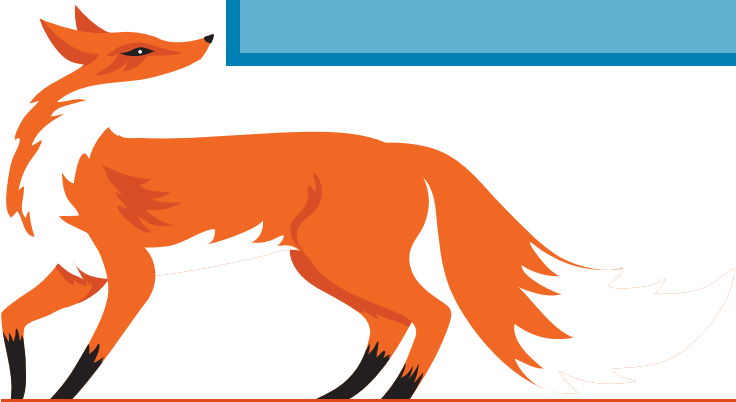
## UPCOMING EVENTS AT IRVINE:

**May 11:** Kidstock  
hosted by Baltimore Magazine  
(10AM - 12PM)

**May 18:** Stream Searchin'  
(10AM - 12PM)

**May 19:** Hoot-enanny!  
Spring Family Fling  
(1PM - 3 PM)

Students at Cedarmere Elementary learn about Maryland's stream habitats and participate in Project Clean Stream! Picking up trash around the school allowed students to feel accomplished and have hope that they can make a difference and keep trash from heading into the Chesapeake Bay.



Students at Westowne Elementary learn about wetlands through an interactive game called Web of Life. Each student is given a different animal and must make connections within the wetland food web. This activity helps students understand the importance of each species.



**3-5: WETLANDS**

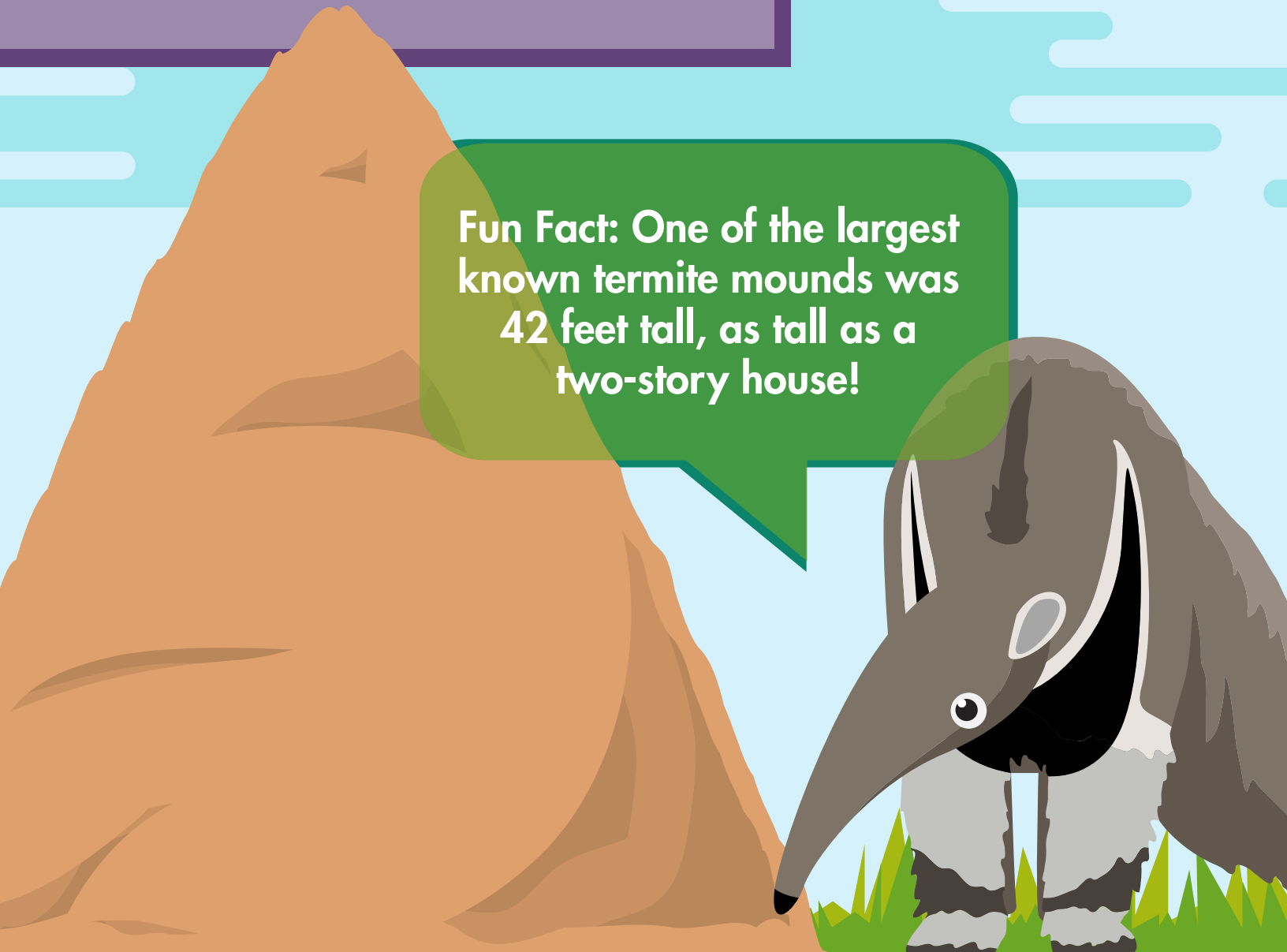
# LEARN MORE ABOUT IRVINE'S FAMILY PROGRAMS!

## Ask Your Child....

**Q:** What is the difference between a habitat and a biome?

**A:** A habitat is the natural environment of a plant or an animal. A biome describes the world's major communities of living things. An example of a habitat would be a burrow, and an example of a biome would be The Desert.

**Fun Fact:** One of the largest known termite mounds was 42 feet tall, as tall as a two-story house!



## ANIMAL SPOTLIGHT

The North American Millipede is a slow-moving arthropod with many legs that loves to bury itself in the safety of leaf litter and mulch. Millipedes are detritivores and like to feed on dead and decomposing matter. They can be found consuming sticks, fallen leaves, mulch, small insects, and decomposing animal matter. Millipedes are essential for decomposition of the forest floor. They help create nutrient rich soil alongside worms and other decomposers.

Millipedes closely resemble centipedes, but have a few distinct differences. Millipedes have two pairs of legs per body segment, while centipedes have only one. Millipedes are also more rounded in body shape and centipedes have a flatter shaped body. Centipedes are also carnivores, while millipedes are mostly detritivores. Overall, millipedes are fascinating critters that are awesome decomposers!

## GO OUTSIDE!

Looking for animal habitats is a fun and easy outdoor activity in the spring! Here's how:

1. Take a hike outside in a wooded area
2. Bring binoculars or magnified glass
3. Look for nests, tree cavities, and turn over logs.
4. How many habitats can you find?  
What kind of critters live there?

