

Learn about Water Issues in San Francisco, California and Around the World

Water – California

Righter, Robert W., *The Battle over Hetch Hetchy: America's Most Controversial Dam and the Birth of Modern Environmentalism*

Righter chronicles the transformation of Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley from the pristine Sierra Nevada refuge to a modern-day reservoir, describing the fight for a water supply for San Francisco and the many people involved.
363.6109 R4493b

Simpson, John Warfield, *Dam! Water, Power, Politics, and Preservation in Hetch Hetchy and Yosemite National Park*

This study of America's first environmental battle describes the controversies and intrigues that led to the construction of the Hetch Hetchy Dam and Reservoir within Yosemite National Park.
363.6109 Si585d

Water

Clover, Charles, *The End of the Line: How Overfishing Is Changing The World And What We Eat*

Clover demonstrates how fishing with modern technology has put us close to destroying entire ocean ecosystems. According to one study, 90% of the large fish in the ocean in 1950 have disappeared.
333.9561 C6259e 2008

Earle, Sylvia A., *The World Is Blue: How Our Fate and the Ocean's are One*

Explorer-in-residence at the National Geographic Society, oceanographer Earle explains the importance of the earth's ocean to the health of all life. She explains how the ocean is suffering from biodiversity loss, drilling, mining, shipping, spilling and changing climate and discusses opportunities for reversing this damage.
551.46 Ea75w

Eggers, Dave, *Zeitoun*

One City One Book: San Francisco Reads selection for 2010!

When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a prosperous Syrian-American and father of four, chose to stay through the storm to protect his house and contracting business. In the days after, he traveled the flooded streets in a secondhand canoe, passing on supplies and helping those he could. But, on September 6, 2005, Zeitoun abruptly disappeared. Eggers's riveting nonfiction book, three years in the making, explores the surreal atmosphere (in New Orleans and the United States generally) in which what happened to Zeitoun became possible.
976.335 Eg33z

Fishbone, Aaron (ed.), *The Struggle for Water: Increasing Demands on a Vital Resource*

Fishbone assembles 26 articles and source documents on the issues and controversies over water ownership and freshwater privatization. Coverage includes an overview of the state of the world's freshwater, articles supporting and opposing privatization, cooperation and conflict over water resources, international trade in water and the role of dams.
333.91 St897

Heller, Peter, *The Whale Warriors: The Battle at the Bottom of the World to Save the Planet's Largest Mammals*

Heller takes us on a journey with a crew on their mission to stop illegal Japanese whaling—hunting of endangered whales in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary, off the shores of Antarctica, in violation of several international laws.
333.9595 H3677w

Hoare, Philip, *The Whale: In Search of the Giants of the Deep*

Hoare has captured a wide range of historical and scientific facts about whales, presented through the literary imagination. The result is a moving and thought-provoking biography of the planet's toughest, yet most vulnerable of prehistoric survivors.
599.5 H6514w 2010

Hyerdahl, Thor, *Kon-Tiki*

In 1947, Hyerdahl and five others journeyed on a raft in search of the path taken by people from South America to Polynesia in pre-Columbian times.
910.4 H514k 1973

Matsen, Bradford, *Jacques Cousteau: the Sea King*

This biography of the famous oceanographer Jacques Cousteau covers his incredible life, from his birth in 1911 to his life and career as an explorer, inventor, environmentalist and filmmaker.
B C836ma

Midkiff, Ken, *Not a Drop to Drink: America's Water Crisis (And What You Can Do)*

Midkiff, a former director of the Sierra Club's clean water campaign, believes that conservation is the most viable path to sustaining water supplies.
363.6109 M5847n

Whitty, Julia, *The Fragile Edge: Diving and Other Adventures in the South Pacific*

The author paints a compelling and scientifically rich portrait of rich coral reefs off Rangiroa in French Polynesia.
578.7789 W6196f

Adult Summer Reading

This year, it's not just for kids!

June 4-July 31, 2010



Dive Into a Good Book!

Water Related Reading List



San Francisco Public Library

sfpl.org

Dive into a Good Novel! Water-Related Fiction

Adrian, Chris, *The Children’s Hospital*

A hospital is preserved, afloat, after the Earth is flooded beneath seven miles of water. Inside, assailed by mysterious forces, doctors and patients are left to remember the world they’ve lost and to imagine one to come.
SF Adrian

Clarke, Arthur C., *The Songs of Distant Earth*

Thalassa was a paradise above the earth. Its beauty and vast resources seduce its inhabitants into a feeling of perfection. But then the Magellan arrives, carrying with it one million refugees from the last mad days of earth.
SF Clarke A

Conrad, Joseph, *Heart of Darkness**

This classic tale is not simply a critique of colonialism in the Congo; it is an examination of the human tendency toward self-endangering corruptibility.
F Conrad J

Cooper, James Fenimore, *Sea Tales*

This collection contains “The Pilot” (1824), “The Red Rover” (1827) and many more classic stories that take place at sea.
F Cooper

Egan, Timothy, *The Winemaker’s Daughter*

While Brunella Cartolano is trying to protect the Seattle waterfront from development, she also finds her father’s vineyard east of the Cascade Mountains enduring the worst drought in history. Water is the base ingredient of winemaking, and for people who believe in the transformative power of wine, water has become the new petroleum.
F Egan Tim

Hemingway, Ernest, *Old Man and the Sea**

The story of an old Cuban fisherman, who hasn’t caught a fish in 84 days and goes out in his small skiff one more time. This time he hooks a huge marlin. He faces long days of hunger and exhaustion during his voyage but his courage is never flagging.
F Hemingway

Hiaasen, Carl, *Skinny Dip**

Chaz Perrone doctors water samples so that an agribusiness tycoon can continue illegally dumping fertilizer into the endangered Everglades. When Chaz suspects that his wife, Joey, has figured out his scam, he pushes her overboard from a cruise liner into the night-dark Atlantic. Clinging blindly to a bale of Jamaican pot, Joey Perrone is plucked from the ocean by former cop and current loner Mick Stranahan.
F Hiaasen

Johnson, Charles, *Middle Passage*

Rutherford Calhoun, a newly freed slave, travels to New Orleans only to discover that nothing but misery awaits him in the big city so he boards the first available ship that sets sail. Soon he learns that he has boarded a slave ship enroute to Africa to collect members of a legendary tribe.
F Johnson

Keegan, Nicola, *Swimming**

After conquering all of the competition in her small Midwest town, Pip competes at her first state swim meet. Dazzling scouts, she is selected to represent the U.S. at the upcoming Olympics.
F Keegan N

Lencek, Lena & Gideon Bosker,

Sail Away: Stories of Escaping to Sea

Collects twenty-one short stories and narratives about traveling on the sea, from sailing to surfing, including pieces by Jules Verne, Thor Heyerdahl, Virginia Woolf, and Inoue Yasushi.
SHOTRSTY S880:2748

Melville, Herman, *Billy Budd**

Story of an innocent sailor tormented by his superior. When he accidentally kills his tormenter, the ship’s captain is forced to hang him.
F Melville

Melville, Herman, *Moby Dick**

Captain Ahab relentlessly pursues the white whale who disfigured him on a previous voyage.
F Melville

Murdoch, Iris, *The Sea, the Sea*

Charles Arrowby, leading light of England’s theatrical set, retires from glittering London to an isolated home by the sea. His memoir evolves into a riveting chronicle of the strange events and unexpected visitors.
F Murdoch

Oates, Joyce Carol, *The Falls**

Set against the mythic-historic backdrop of Niagara Falls in the mid-20th century, Oates explores the American family in crisis.
F Oates Jo

Porter, Katherine Anne, *Ship of Fools**

Presents an allegory that describes the passengers on board a ship sailing from Mexico to Germany in 1931.
F Porter K

Ryan, Shawna Yang, *Water Ghosts**

A mesmerizing story of a community of Chinese immigrants in a small California town in 1928, *Water Ghosts* weaves history with mythology around the lives of the townspeople and the ghosts who haunt them.
F Ryan Sha

Stevenson, Robert Louis, *Treasure Island**

While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate’s fortune.
F Stevenson

Verne, Jules, *20,000 Leagues under the Sea**

Captain Nemo and Nautilus, the futuristic submarine, explore the dangers of the underwater world.
F Verne

White, Karen, *The Memory of Water*

On the night their mother drowns, sisters Marnie and Diana Maitland discover there is more than one kind of death. There is the death of innocence, of love and of hope. Each sister harbors a secret about that night—secrets that will erode their lives as they grow into adulthood.
F White Ka

*Audiobook available at SFPL



Learn about Water Issues in San Francisco, California and Around the World

Water - Classics

Carson, Rachel, *Silent Spring*

This environmental classic alerted the world to the dangers of the overuse of pesticides and other chemicals and prompted changes in the laws affecting our environment.
632.9 C239s

Carson, Rachel, *The Sea Around Us*

Originally published in 1951, this book is one of the most successful books ever written about the natural world. Rachel Carson combined scientific insight with poetic prose.
551.46 C239s 2003

Reisner, Marc P., *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water*

This classic is a history of the struggle to discover and control water in the American West. It is a tale of rivers diverted and damned, political corruption and intrigue, billion-dollar battles over water rights, and economic and ecological disaster.
333.91 R277c 1993

Stegner, Wallace, *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian: John Wesley Powell and the Second Opening of the West*

Stegner relates the successes and frustrations of John Wesley Powell, (1834–1902), the ethnologist and geologist who explored the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon, and the homeland of Indian tribes of the American Southwest. Powell warned of the dangers economic exploitation would pose to the West and spent a good deal of his life fighting Washington politics in getting his message across.
B P8713s 1992

Boyle, Robert H., John Graves, and T.H Watkins, *The Water Hustlers*

Each of the authors describe a case study in water hustling—from west Texas to Los Angeles and New York City.
333.91 B697w

Water – San Francisco & the Bay Area Anderson, Dennis E., *Hidden Treasures of San Francisco Bay*

Anderson takes the reader on a photographic journey that explores the diversity of life in and around the San Francisco Bay.
508.3164 An2338h

Hart, John and David Sanger, *San Francisco Bay: Portrait of an Estuary*

This book takes a look at the San Francisco Bay, one of the largest estuaries in the Americas. The authors trace its history from the native inhabitants to the urban present and a hopeful future.
979.46 H2515s

LaBounty, Woody, *Carville-by-the-Sea*

Charming book with old postcard pictures of discarded horse drawn streetcars converted into beachside cottages on the empty ocean sand dunes of 1890’s San Francisco.
979.461 L1141c

Martin, James A., *The Islands of San Francisco Bay*

Includes information about all the islands of San Francisco Bay with a collection of over 400 images showing dramatic nature scenery with information on the many species of birds’ migrations, nesting and history.
979.461 M3642i

Olmstead, Nancy, *The Ferry Building: Witness to a Century of Change, 1898-1998*

In this photographic tribute to the Ferry Building’s first hundred years, the author discusses the history of this important building.
979.461 OL45f

Olmstead, Nancy, *Vanished Waters: A History of San Francisco’s Mission Bay*

A history of the people who settled the San Francisco Bay and slowly changed the land by filling in the waters of the Mission Bay.
REF 979.461 OL45v

Pickelhaupt, Bill, *Shanghaied in San Francisco*

The true story of shanghaïing—kidnapping men for a voyage at sea after they were slipped drugged liquor—and the politicians who let it happen in San Francisco for over sixty years.
979.461 P585s 2007

White, Peter, *The Farallon Islands*

A history of the Farallon Islands from the earliest recorded visits by Europeans to successive waves of settlers and entrepreneurs to the important present day seabird, seal, sea lion and shark sanctuary.
979.461 W585f