

CITY TO THE SEA

Just like following water through a watershed, Metro's Expo Line takes us from the headwaters to the sea. With each passing station, you'll receive a clue or question. You will be travelling through the Ballona Creek Watershed and embarking on a journey through time, so be observant and enjoy the ride.

7TH STREET/METRO CENTER

The City

Over the next 46 minutes you will travel 15.2 miles through 19 station stops, ending up 3 blocks from the Pacific Ocean. Which came first in Downtown LA - the buildings above or the train below? Why is this station underground?

JEFFERSON/USC STATION

LID

You are approaching the University of Southern California. Some of the 43,000 students that attend study Urban Design & Low Impact Development (LID)- a way of designing buildings to conserve and use natural features to protect the environment. Can you name two ways a building could have a lower impact on the surrounding environment?

Fun Fact: Heal the Bay works with the City of LA to protect the watershed by including LID in city plans.

PICO STATION

Los Angeles is constantly changing

Over time the landscape of LA has changed to suit a growing population (12 million in Greater LA est. 2016). As the train pulls out of this station, look to find murals covering the Los Angeles Technical Trade College. Can you find 3 trades featured in the murals that were used to build LA?

Fun Fact: Kanye West once taught a fashion and design class at LATTTC.

VERMONT STATION

Carbon Footprint Calculation

Estimate how many people are in your train car.

Imagine placing 2 of these people into a motor vehicle, how many vehicles would you need to transport the same number of people to the beach?

If the standard vehicle releases 10lbs of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) traveling to the sea, then how many lbs of CO₂ are the passengers saving by taking the train?

EXPO PARK/USC STATION

History

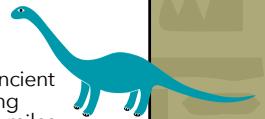
Can you spot LA's Natural History Museum? It was founded in 1913 and is the largest natural history museum in the Western US with over 35 million specimens in collection. Which two dinosaurs are fighting just outside the museum? (Circle two.)

Tyrannosaurus rex

Triceratops

Stegosaurus

Fun Fact: The La Brea Tar Pits are where ancient animals that once roamed LA are still being discovered in an active dig site (just a few miles from here).



FARMDALE STATION

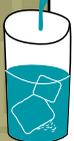
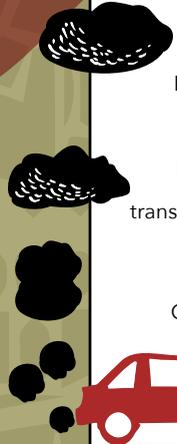
The Watershed

As the train flows down the Ballona Creek Watershed to the ocean, you'll view the area from both high and low stations. A watershed is an area of land that drains rain or snow from higher land to the lowest point (the ocean) through streams, rivers and creeks and supplies us with water for drinking, agriculture and recreation as well as habitat for many plants and animals. What do you think the difference is between a natural watershed and an urban watershed?

CRENSHAW STATION

Music

Historically this area was a massive wet meadow that stretched all the way to Culver City (4 stops away!). Can you picture Crenshaw Blvd. with farms and grazing cattle? As the neighborhood developed, a thriving music scene cropped up that began as a home for jazz and later Crenshaw is mentioned in hip-hop songs by artists Eminem, the Wu-Tang Clan, Dr. Dre and Kendrick Lamar.



HOLLYWOOD

CULVER CITY STATION

Hollywood

Look North as you arrive at this station to find the Hollywood sign. Built in 1923 to advertise a real estate development called "Hollywood Land," today it is the landmark for LA's entertainment industry. In the nine decades since it was constructed, millions of people have moved to LA. How much water do Angelenos use every day? (Circle one.)

- 50,000,000 gal/day
- 100,000,000 gal/day
- 330,000,000 gal/day

WESTWOOD / RANCHO PARK STATION

Green Space

Near this station, the train brings you by the Sara Berman Greenway. Mature trees line this green space that was built in 2001 along the path of the original train line that ran to the beach in the 1800s. These native trees not only use much less water to grow but also help to cool the city. How do green spaces cool cities?

Fun Fact: Green space within a city can improve air quality, reduce energy consumption by countering the warming effects of paved surfaces, recharge groundwater supplies and protect the ocean from polluted runoff.

26TH / BERGAMOT STATION

Art

Have you noticed the unique art decorating this station? Artist Constance Mallinson walked around Santa Monica, taking pictures of the sights and objects she encountered. She superimposed and layered those images, creating the dynamic installation you see here. This area of Santa Monica is a hub of art studios, galleries and gift shops that feature local artist as well as the famous Picasso, Dali and Andy Warhol to name a few.

17TH / SMC STATION

Climate Change

When you exit the train in Santa Monica, you'll likely notice a change in the weather from where you began your journey in Downtown LA. The ocean has a big influence on the climate here. Known as the marine layer, this temperature change comes from the warmer air mass meeting the cool surface waters of the Bay. What is the average temp of the water in the Santa Monica Bay? (Circle one.)

- 55 degrees - 65 degrees - 75 degrees

Fun Fact: Look North and see the Santa Monica Mountains, an important habitat for LA's native big cat - the mountain lion.

LA BREA STATION

The Flood

At this station, look South towards what's called the Baldwin Hills. On December 14th, 1963 the Baldwin Hills Reservoir burst and 250 million gallons of water raced down that hill right towards where you are now.

LA CIENEGA STATION

The Creek

Keep a careful eye out as you are about to cross Ballona Creek, for which the entire watershed is named. This creek is now in an urban watershed but what do you think it looked like 100 years ago?

Fun Fact: Heal the Bay is working to restore the wetlands of the Ballona Creek watershed to a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

PALMS STATION

NonNative vs Native

Only one of the iconic palm trees you've seen along the ride is actually native to LA. Native plants (plants that are original to this area) use far less water than many of the nonnative plants. What percentage of LA's clean water is used for gardens? (Circle one.)

- 25% 55% 75%

BUNDY STATION

Santa Monica

Santa Monica, its Bay, and surrounding mountains were named after springs that reminded early explorers of the "tears of Santa Monica." These springs were crucial to the native Tongva people and to early settlers' survival. How long can humans survive without water? (Circle one.)

- 1 day - 3 days - 10 days

Most of LA's drinking water comes from sources far away (Northern CA & Colorado River). Why do you think Heal the Bay is working towards switching to a more sustainable, local water plan?

DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA STATION

The Sea

Just a short walk to the ocean and the famous, historic Santa Monica Pier where you'll find Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, just below the Merry-Go-Round. Visit the Aquarium and mention the train tour to get both the answers and to meet the animals native to the Santa Monica Bay.

