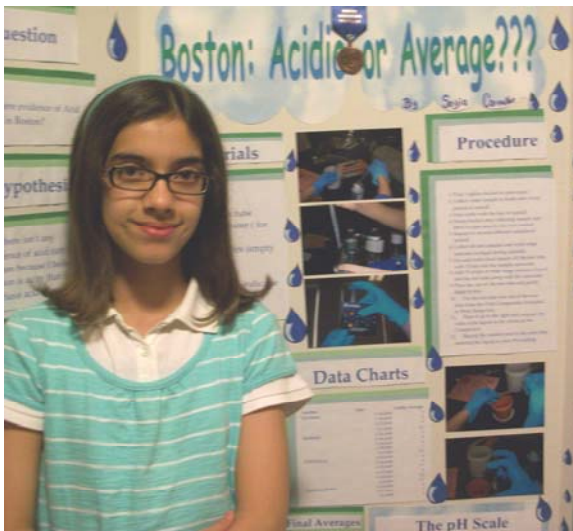




2010

MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

A Program from The Foresight Project Inc; www.theforesightproject.org



Region VI: Boston

Sofia Carvalho: Washington
Irving Middle School,
Roslindale

Climate Science: *Acid Rain*

About me:

My name is Sofia Carvalho and I am twelve years old. I have lived in Boston practically my whole life. I have an older sister named Barbara who is 17 years old. I have a guinea pig and a turtle. My favorite sports are soccer and basketball. I love riding my bike in the summer and playing sports with my best friend Maria. My favorite subjects in school are science, English, writing, and social studies. I love reading various types of books. My favorite authors are Nancy Farmer, Gary Paulsen, and Karen Hesse. In my free time I love watching movies with my mom. We watch all of our favorite classics dozens of times. I've always loved science but I've only had an interest for in the last three years when I actually had a hands on experience. Experimenting was always my favorite thing to do in science class.

My Project :

On a rainy day step outside and take a look at one of nature's beauties: Rain. But once again humans have invaded this healthy and natural substance. Unfortunately everything we use nowadays comes with its benefits and its burdens. Cars, power plants, industries, buildings, and homes are all very important in our world today, but they are all damaging our environment. One thing these pollutants have caused is Acid Rain. Acid Rain contains pollutants and damages lakes, trees, plants, and so many other things.

In my experiment, I wanted to see if Acid Rain has invaded my little corner of the earth. I collected rain samples from different parts of Boston at different times and tested each individual sample. The locations I used were West Roxbury, Dorchester, Downtown Boston, and Roslindale. I used a Wide Range indicator kit to test the rain-water pH level. Is there evidence of Acid rain in Boston? My hypothesis was there is no evidence of acid rain in Boston and my results supported my hypothesis: All 18 of my rain samples tested to be "normal" rainwater, with a normal pH. .

The first time I heard about Acid rain was in my fifth grade science class when we had to pick an environmental issue and make a small presentation. My friend chose acid rain, I had never heard of it before. When the science fair came around in the sixth grade my teacher gave us a sheet with different project ideas. One of them was is there evidence of acid rain in Boston. I was immediately intrigued and when I looked into the project I knew it was what I wanted to try. I had always loved experimenting and the idea of discovering answers on your own. That is how I became interested in my project.