

What's in the Water?

Pollution is any contamination of air, water, and/or land that affects the balance of the environment. This activity will provide students the hands-on opportunity to notice and wonder what actually goes into their local waters (ie. ditches, retention ponds, estuary, lagoon, etc.) based on actions of human behaviors. Students will begin to understand why this matters. *Spoiler Alert: Everything is connected!*

Materials:

Glue

Scissors

Container

Cardboard (represents the dirt)

Sponges (represents gardens)

Grass clippings (represents cut grass)

Wax paper (represents cement)

black/brown sprinkles (represents animal waste)

Dye (represents chemicals)

Water (represents rain, sprinklers, hose water, etc.)

Directions:

1. Cut out a piece of cardboard in the shape of a rectangle. This will represent the natural ground of the neighborhood.
2. Cut a piece of wax paper to glue onto half of the rectangular cardboard. This will represent the cement in the neighborhood.
3. Cut the sponge into six parts. Glue the six pieces of sponges onto the cardboard and wax paper in various areas. This will represent different plant beds.
4. Take the grass clippings and toss them gently onto the model.
5. Take the sprinkles and toss them gently onto the model.
6. Take the dye and sprinkle it in various places on the model.
7. Put the container at the bottom of the model.
8. Slightly lift up the model (about 20 degree angle).
9. Slowly pour the water down starting from the top of the model.
10. Have students observe what is happening as the water is running down the model.
11. Students write their observations and then have them write their wonderings based on what they noticed.
12. Design Challenge: Students will create a model where there is less run-off.

SC.2.N.1.6

Explain how scientists alone or in groups are always investigating new ways to solve problems.