



Journey Through a Storm Drain

Objective: Participants will learn where a storm drain ends and how to prevent pollution from entering a storm drain. (This activity works well when used in conjunction with Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful’s water pollution toolkit.)

AKS connections:

K-8

Science: Process Skills: Asks questions about the world relating to everyday life
Science: The Designated World: Identifying natural resources and their conservation
Science: Living World: Identifying healthy choices
Social Studies: Information Processing Skills
Language Arts: Listening and Speaking
Mathematics: Curricular goals interwoven throughout
Character Education: Respect for environment

High School

Science: Technology and Society
Science: Environmental

Materials:

- Refrigerator box, Large hanging clothes storage box (can purchase at a moving supply store), or play tube (can purchase at Oriental Trading at www.oriental.com)
- 1 yard of blue (or water print) fabric for the end of the storm drain
- Litter items to carry through the storm drain (examples: beverage containers, snack packages, cigarette butts (in baggie)), container of motor oil (to discuss motor oil dumping issues), baggie of yard debris, etc.)
- Tape

Set-up:

1. If using a box for the storm drain, cover with black paper or plastic tablecloth material works well – comes in rolls at party supply stores. Brace the box for safety (three pieces of wood connected to make a “u” shape to fit snugly over the top of the box – place in the middle). If using a play tube, simply open it up.

2. Place the fabric at the end of the storm drain. If possible, tape the fabric to the floor for safety.

Procedure:

1. Instructor has the participants face the storm drain and make rain (optional)

Make a Rain Storm - A great quiet down activity for the group!

Have children sit or stand. First, divide the students into four groups – drizzle, big rain drops, rain storm, and thunder/lightning storm. Lead the group in creating the sounds of a rain storm. Begin with total silence.

a. Drizzle group hand motions: the rain storm begins with drizzle made by rubbing hands together, palms and fingers flat, back and forth slowly, then faster.

b. Big rain drop group hand motions: big rain drops begin to fall, made by snapping your fingers slowly, then faster.

c. Rain shower group hand motions: the rain begins to pour down heavily, made by quickly patting lap or thighs with hands, faster, then faster.

d. Thunderstorm/Lightning group hand motions: the rain is REALLY pouring down now as you add to your lap pounding, feet stamping on the floor or as your hands are slapping your thighs, stomp your feet on the floor at the same time.e.

e. Instructor should shake a thunder tube to make thunder. Visit www.thundertube.com for information on thunder tubes.

f. Each group continues their part of the rain shower until the leader signals each group one by one to stop their motions. The Rain storm is over!

2. Instructor should lead a discussion about where the rain goes after a rain storm (potential answers: soil, plants, bodies of water, groundwater, storm drains, etc.). Ask the participants where a storm drain leads (answer: nearby body of water).
3. Discuss the types of pollution that enter our waterways through a storm drain. (*See attached information on non-point source pollution).
4. Have examples available of some of the pollutants (examples: litter items, motor oil container to represent used motor oil, pine needles and leaves from raking lawns (have a plastic bag with yard debris, etc.).
5. Allow students to crawl through the storm drain - one at a time but quickly (a few students should carry the pollutant examples and leave them on the fabric).
6. After all participants have taken a *Journey through a Storm Drain*, discuss methods to prevent storm drain pollution (examples: education, storm drain stenciling, barriers that prohibit litter from entering a storm drain, etc.) For information on the nonpoint source water pollution toolkit or conducting Storm Drain Stenciling, contact GC&B at www.gwinnettcba.org

