

VIDEO: Clean Water

Adapted from: Clean Water. Schlessinger Video Productions. Distributed by Educator's Media. P.O. Box 31667, Chicago, Illinois, 60631-0489.

Grade Level: Basic to Advanced

Duration: 40 minutes

Setting: Classroom

Summary: Students watch a video about threats to our clean water supply, complete a worksheet, and discuss what they learned about water pollution and conservation.

Objectives: Students will become familiar with the general threats to our water supply; they will be able to describe biomagnification, bioremediation, and thermal pollution. Students will also explore how they can personally contribute to water conservation.

Vocabulary: (see Worksheet Answer Key for definitions)
Aquifer, biomagnification, estuary, thermal pollution, bioremediation

Related Module Resources:

- See the "Additional Module Resource" section of the Module Resource Binder for relevant fact sheets and articles

Materials (Included in Module):

- Clean Water Video [Main Box]
- Clean Water Worksheet
- Clean Water Answer Key

Additional Materials (NOT Included in Module):

- TV, VCR

ACADEMIC STANDARDS (ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY):

7th Grade

- 4.1.7.B. Understand the role of the watershed.
 - Explain factors that affect water quality and flow through a watershed.
- 4.1.7.C. Explain the effects of water on the life of organisms in a watershed.
 - Explain how water is necessary for all life.
- 4.1.7.D. Explain and describe characteristics of a wetland.
 - Describe the different functions of a wetland.
- 4.1.7.E. Describe the impact of watersheds and wetlands on people.
 - Explain the impact of watersheds and wetlands in flood control, wildlife habitats and pollution abatement.
- 4.3.7.B. Describe how human actions affect the health of the environment.
 - Identify land use practices and their relation to environmental health.
- 4.8.7.D. Explain the importance of maintaining the natural resources at the local, state and national levels.
 - Explain how conservation practices have influenced ecosystems.

10th Grade

- 4.1.10.D. Describe the multiple functions of wetlands.
 - Explain how a wetland influences water quality, wildlife and water retention.
- 4.1.10.E. Identify and describe natural and human events on watersheds and wetlands.
 - Identify the effects of humans and human events on watersheds.
- 4.3.10.B. Explain how multiple variables determine the effects of pollution on environmental health, natural processes and human practices.
 - Explain how human practices affect the quality of the water and soil.

BACKGROUND:

Clean water is requisite for life. Earth has been called the "water planet" and our supply of clean water is seemingly infinite. Despite this perception, available, usable water is limited in supply. For as long as the earth has existed, the same fixed amount of water has been cycled and recycled. There is enough water to sustain life on this planet if we use it wisely; however, increasingly, we are poisoning the water we depend on for everything from drinking to washing and from agriculture to industry.

The threats to our clean water supply are many and varied. The video, Clean Water, is a good introduction to the topics of clean water, water pollution, and water conservation.

OVERVIEW:

Students watch the 25-minute video, Clean Water. They complete a worksheet and discuss the threats to clean water, water pollution, and water conservation.

PROCEDURE:

Teacher Preparation:

1. Procure a TV and VCR for the presentation of the video.
2. Photocopy an appropriate number of Clean Water worksheets sheets for your students.

Student Activity:

1. Briefly introduce the concept of water pollution and the importance of clean water to living things.
2. Distribute Clean Water worksheets to students and have them read over the questions. The questions are presented in the same order in which their answers are discussed in the video.
3. Watch the video attentively and complete the worksheet.
4. After the end of the video, give students a few minutes to complete their worksheets.
5. Go over the answers with students and foster discussion of the various questions when appropriate.

DISCUSSION:

Use worksheet questions to fuel discussion.

EVALUATION:

- Students have accurately completed the worksheet.

EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS:

- Have students work in groups to make brief documentaries, photo albums, or illustrated guides of water pollution and threats to clean water in your area.
- Have students interview people in the community about their perception of our water supply and threats to it.
- Invite local watershed or water pollution specialists to make presentations in your classroom.
- Have students research different types of water pollution that are problematic in their communities and educate their peers or community groups.

Notes (Please write any suggestions you have for teachers using this activity in the future):