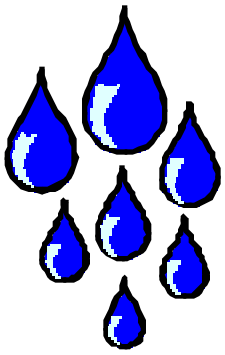
Post Visit Activity

<u>Water: Here Today. Where Tomorrow</u>?



Objective: The students will identify where their water supply comes from, where that water goes once it has been used and how the water is treated or purified. Students will identify parts of the water cycle and describe how the water we use ends up back in the environment. Students will explain how we can protect water quality and list ways we can conserve water in our daily lives. This is an activity adapted from *Keepers of the Earth*.

Procedure: Begin by studying the water supply to your school or homes. Using the map included have the students trace the water from its source to their faucet. Now have the students draw a map tracing their real water from its source (river, well, reservoir) to the nearest water faucets and bathroom. Be sure to start with the water cycle from the sky, include a cave or ground water reservoir, or other natural elements.

Ask the students to name all of the ways they use water in a typical day. Show them a gallon jug of water and ask them to estimate how many gallons they use in a day. Have the students write down the list. Tell them that over the next 24 hours they are to keep track of the ways they use water by noting them on the paper. The next day, show the students the included chart with the water-saving methods covered. Tell them these are the average water uses in a home. Using the information on the chart have the students estimate the gallons they used in the 24-hour period.

Lead a discussion about where wastewater goes after it leaves the school or home when it is flushed down a drain. Brainstorm ways of conserving water at home, such as:

1. Not leaving the water running while you brush your teeth or do dishes.
2. Putting a brick or a plastic bottle with water in it in the toilet tank to reduce the water volume used per flush.
3. Reducing lawn watering, watering in the cool hours when the water doesn't evaporate as quickly, or using "gray" water on the lawn.
4. Protecting ground water by never dumping old car oil on the ground. Save it in milk jugs and send it to a recycling center.
5. Your own ideas!

Show the students the Water Conserving Methods section of the chart and talk about the methods listed. How hard would it be to follow these? Have the student log their water use for another 24 hours, this time trying out as many water-saving methods as they can. Ask the students to calculate their water use and compare the two days. Have them practice these measures for two or three days and then report on what it means to make sacrifices and accept inconveniences to protect the water resources on planet Earth. Encourage them to help their families continue these practices.