



Water Pollution Patrol

Subject: Nature, Pollution

This hands-on activity demonstrates the difference between clean and polluted water. Through actions and observation, visualize the importance of keeping our creeks clean.

Materials List

1. Maple syrup
2. Dish soap
3. Small pieces of wadded up paper
4. Green food coloring added to water
5. Handful of dirt
6. 2+ cups water
7. 2 plastic containers, 1 quart each
8. 2 small sponges, each cut into a fish shape
9. Optional: Add a couple of rocks and plant pieces to creek containers

Ages: 3 and up
Time: 20 minutes



Instructions

1. Cut each sponge into the shape of a fish. Name your fishes!
2. Pre-measure the following items into small bowls or containers and label:
 - Syrup = Oil
 - Dish soap = Fertilizers
 - Pieces of paper = Trash
 - Colored water = Pesticides
 - Dirt = Dirt
3. Label the two different containers: Clean Creek and Cruddy Creek. Set a sponge fish into the bottom of each container.
4. Use the storyline on the next page to follow the fish through the city. Complete the demonstrations as you read.

Water Pollution Patrol

READ:

Imagine that you live in a city that has two different creeks.

Cruddy Creek runs through areas with a lot of pollution, which makes water dirty and unsafe for people, plants and animals. Clean Creek, on the other hand, runs through areas that people keep very clean.

Clean Creek runs through the city park and into a neighborhood before it leaves town. Nobody litters in the park or neighborhood, so only rain water goes down the storm drains and into the creek.

Cruddy Creek starts out in the foothills. It's nice and clean where it begins.

But Cruddy Creek passes through farmland that has been coated in pesticides and fertilizers to help the crops grow.

It also runs through a construction site covered in piles of fresh dirt.

Cruddy Creek then passes by a park that doesn't have a garbage can, so trash ends up on the ground and eventually in the water.

It finally flows by a neighborhood where lots of cars leak oil onto the street. The oil flows along the streets down the storm drains right into Cruddy Creek!

DEMONSTRATE:

-  Add enough water to cover fish in the Clean Creek container.
-  Add enough water to cover fish in the Cruddy Creek container.
-  Add contents of pesticide and fertilizer containers into Cruddy Creek.
-  Add contents of dirt container into Cruddy Creek.
-  Add trash into Cruddy Creek.
-  Add oil into Cruddy Creek.

OBSERVE: Observe the water difference in the two containers. Which water would you prefer to drink?

Table Talk

Which container has the happier fish?

In Cruddy Creek, what other things might get hurt besides the fish?

Can you name a few things you can do to keep the water in your creek clean?

Have you ever been to a creek? What did you see and do?