

Parent Outline: 3 – 5

Water Conservation

Welcome/ Staff/Volunteer Names

Introduction: **Today's Topic-Water Conservation**
Question: How important is keeping our water clean?

Game: **Globe Toss**-Students toss an inflatable globe around a circle, saying their names and noting how much water covers the globe compared to land.

Background/ Exploration: **Water, Water Everywhere**-Water is important. The usable amount is small and precious. Demonstration of relative amounts of sea water, ice, and drinkable water.
Water (Hydrologic) Cycle–Show poster, describe
Watershed-Define and find on map. Name some things that affect water quality.

Game: **Water Cycle Game**-Students travel through stations following the “life” of a drop of water.

Activity: **Enviroscapes** –Experiment with the effect of humans on horizontal water quality with a watershed model. Note routes of farm runoff, development & chemical pollution.

Activity: **Groundwater models**- Experiment with human effects on vertical water cycle/water quality.

Water Treatment Plants –Model water treatment steps with cups, filters, and dirty water.

Hike: Walk along the stream and look for signs indicating water quality, soil layers, & erosion. Discuss wetlands & water quality. Show/explain the **constructed wetland** behind the barn.

Send Off: Goodbye!

For Further Study:

Taggart & Bracht. 1991. *Handle With Care: Your Guide to Preventing Water Pollution*. The Terrene Institute, Washington, D.C.

www.iowater.net A site about a program that monitors Iowa's water quality. Check it out!

www.iadnr.com Department of Natural Resources-info on environmental quality & issues.

www.nrcs.usda.gov Natural Resource Conservation Service. More conservation information.