



HIGH DESERT WATERSHED

Curriculum Support Designed for Elementary School Teachers

Taking Water Education to the Next Level...

With budget cuts taking hold of extracurricular activities in the classroom, it is more important now than ever before that we get creative to teach our children how to take charge of their environment. This **teacher's guide** provides interactive classroom activities that not only get children thinking about the environment but encourages them to help protect the Mojave River Watershed in our own backyard.

CONTACT: Kelly Koehler, Mojave River Watershed Group Liaison, (951) 462-1106



MOJAVE RIVER WATERSHED GROUP

Curriculum Activity



Dear Principal and/or Teacher:

The teacher's guide has been developed by the Mojave River Watershed Group for your use in the classroom to educate students on watersheds and their resources, and encourage active protection of our stormwater.

This packet includes materials for students in grades K-3 to increase their awareness of the condition of our watershed and inspire creative solutions that can be integrated in everyday life to benefit our stormwater and the community. From fun interactive art activities to educational puzzles and quizzes, students can learn while going through approved curriculum guidelines how they can make a difference for our stormwater's future.

In addition to these materials, the Mojave River Watershed Group offers a variety of other teaching tools available for the entire campus or individual classrooms:

- "I'm A Stormwater Trooper!" Assembly/Presentation
- Science Fair Project Ideas Relating to Stormwater
- School-Wide Newsletter Article
- Open House and/or Back To School Night Informational Table

If you would like to schedule any of these for your school or classroom, please contact Angela Meluski, Mojave River Watershed Group Liaison, by phone at (909) 384-8188 or by email at ameluski@westboundcommunications.com. For more information on our program, please visit www.mojaveriver.org.

Thank you for your willingness to educate our children on the future of our stormwater!

Regards,

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**MOJAVE RIVER WATERSHED GROUP***Curriculum Activity***FLOWING STORMWATER FACTS****WHAT IS THE MOJAVE RIVER WATERSHED?**

With each rain, thunderstorm or snow, water runs down the mountains and through the desert into the Mojave River and, eventually, into the watershed. Once there, the untreated water flows into our waterways freely and contaminates our water.

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is a term used to describe water that originates during rain or snow. But not all that water can soak into the ground. What happens to the extra water? It becomes surface runoff, which flows into a network of channels, gutters and pipes that empty into the Mojave River Watershed.

HOW DOES THE MOJAVE RIVER WATERSHED GET POLLUTED?

When surface runoff flows into drains and the watershed, it carries with it what is on the surface. Here are some of the items that can pollute the watershed:

- Litter
- Pet Waste
- Cigarette Butts
- Motor Oil
- Anti-Freeze
- Pesticides
- Fertilizers
- Used Paint
- Household Toxic Chemicals

HOW DOES IT AFFECT YOU?

So, why be concerned about stormwater pollution? This water can go untreated and contaminate local drinking water supplies and have negative effects on our local environment and wildlife. Trash and debris accumulate in stormdrains, causing clogs and backups in our neighborhoods or streets.

What else? We live in a desert! We already have a limited source of water so let's do what we can to protect it.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

It's easy! Small, everyday actions like picking up your pet's waste, sweeping up yard clippings with your parents, and organizing and participating in community clean-up events can all help prevent stormwater pollution.



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ACTIVITY - TAKING ACTION!

What to do:

It's a stormwater pollution expedition! As a class, search for stormwater pollution on school grounds. Take what you've learned so far about stormwater pollution prevention and organize your very own campus clean-up event! Grab your gloves and trash bags and hit the halls, picking up trash you see that could contribute to stormwater pollution.

Take a picture of your trash showing off the pollution you picked up and paste it below as a keepsake! Or, send it to the Mojave River Watershed Group at 1505 S. D Street, Ste. 201 San Bernardino, CA 92408. We can't wait to see you in action!

Take it to the next level:

Team up with another class or make it a school-wide event with your friends!

My school in action!
Paste your photo here.

**ACTIVITY - WATERSHED WRISTBANDS****What to do:**

The water cycle is a never-ending process within our environment. The Earth's water supply continuously moves from the atmosphere down into the Earth's surface and back. By making a wristband, you can gain an even greater appreciation of this wonderful cycle in action.

Materials:

- Piece of string or thin elastic cord about nine inches in length
- Six beads representing different features of the cycle. For example:
 - White = snow
 - Light blue = rain
 - Brown = mountains
 - Yellow = desert
 - Dark Blue = Mojave River Watershed
 - Green = home

Directions:

1. Using the string or elastic cord, thread the beads to represent the different parts of the cycle. You may place them in any order you like.
2. Place the string around your wrist and tie it.
3. Rotate the beads around your wrist to see the cycle in action.
4. Describe the Mojave River Watershed cycle to your family so they can learn about it too!

Take it to the next level:

Make two! One for you and one to share with a friend so they can better understand the watershed cycle. Or, use a longer string and create a fun necklace!





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ACTIVITY - COLORING PAGE

What to do:

Oh no! The water source where our friends Ducky and Fish live has oil in it! Color this coloring page to bring them to life and remember - oil and water do not mix.

Take it to the next level:

Color and draw! Students who like to draw can create their own scene of how to prevent stormwater pollution and then use colors to bring it to life.

