

Can 4th Graders Improve Water Quality for Our Planet?

Water is essential for life. All living things depend upon it. Yet every day, our actions contribute to pollution that is detrimental to our waterways—and ultimately our watersheds. In this project, students will take action to protect our watersheds. They will investigate water samples to determine what's in their water, and investigate ways to improve water quality. Then, they'll share what they've learned by creating a fundraiser to raise money for a charity that focuses on improving water quality and water pollution issues.

Imagine if the actions we take now to protect our watersheds resulted in cleaner and more sustainable waterways. What a difference this would make for all of Earth's living creatures!



Start
with why

Lesson 1: Play "Water" You Gonna Do about It?

Engage student interest by playing a game in which students engineer a device to try and keep "polluted" water from contaminating a nearby body of water. Expand their understanding by teaching them about watersheds and why they are important. **SOCIAL STUDIES**



Think it
through

Lesson 2: Diving into Watersheds

Develop student research skills by leading an investigation on watersheds and your Hydrologic Unit Code address.

Lesson 3: Makin' it Rain: DIY Watersheds

Help students become builders, makers, and creators by constructing a watershed that teaches students how water from very different places is really deeply connected. **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING**



Work it out

Lesson 4: Sample That Water!

Get out into nature and visit a local body of water to collect and analyze water samples. **SCIENCE**

Lesson 5: Connect to Worldwide Water Issues

Think globally by helping students understand the connection between what they discovered in their local water sampling activity, and the broader issues related to clean drinking water around the world. Then, select a charity that can help your class address a specific real-world, water-related issue. **MATH ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

Lesson 6: Raisin' for our Basin: A Fundraiser Plan

Don't just learn about problems with water pollution—do something about it! Plan a fundraiser for the charity your class selected to help address the issue head-on.



Fix it up

Lesson 7: Improve Your Fundraiser Plan

Teach students to seek constant improvement as they work to prepare for their fundraiser by guiding them to think iteratively, constantly refining their ideas until they sparkle like brilliant little conceptual diamonds.



Share your
awesome

Lesson 8: "Rap" it Up: Raise Funds and Awareness

Make your classroom a force for good by putting on an awesome fundraiser that collects funds for the charity your class selected. As added entertainment, your students will perform their self-produced watershed rap!

Suggested project time: **8 hours**





Content Connections

Math

UNITS OF MEASURE

After viewing stories about children who must walk long distances for water, help students understand the distances traveled by converting between metric units.

[CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.4.MD.A.1](#)

English Language Arts

VISUAL AND ORAL INFORMATION

As students both read and watch the different water gathering experiences of two children, have them discuss how the text and video work together to create a more complete story.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.7](#)

Science

WATER AND EROSION

As students sample their water, explore the way in which water affects the land around it. [NGSS 4-ESS2-1](#)



Real-world Connections

Bring the World to Your Students

- Meet a Defender
- Explore Aquifers with a Wildlife Biologist
- Skype a Scientist
- Meet and Tweet with the Kings of the Springs



Collaboration Options

Basin Buddies

Use web searches in conjunction with the Hydrologic Unit Code tool to find schools who share your same basin, but who have different watersheds. Write them a letter to inform them about how you share your water.



Professional Development

Rules and Routines

What are some effective rules and routines I can use to improve classroom management?



Social Studies

FREEDOMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Examine how the issue of water pollution can help students reflect on the balance between freedoms and responsibilities. [D2.Civ.4.3-5](#)

Social Emotional Learning

SELF-MANAGEMENT AND RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

Develop list of group expectations for sharing materials effectively as students construct their watersheds.

[CASEL CORE COMPETENCIES](#)

Not teaching these standards?

Blue Apple projects include content connections for kindergarten through eighth grade. Go to [BlueAppleTeacher.org](#) to learn more!



Project Plan & Supplies

Kit Supplies

- Food Coloring
- Pipe Cleaners
- Clothes Pins
- Glitter
- Duct Tape
- Oil
- Spray Bottles
- Garbage Bags
- Water Testing Strips

Online Resources

- “Water’ You Gonna Do about It?” Challenge
- Cheru’s Journey ([YouTube 0:54](#))
- Hydrological Unit Code Locator
- “Build a Watershed” Activity
- “Water Within Reach” Article
- And so much more!



This is just the beginning!

Go online to access the complete project.

- Clear learning targets and step-by-step instructions
- Dozens of links to supporting resources
 - Mini-lessons aligned to content standards
 - Videos and contact information from industry experts
 - Ideas to collaborate with other classrooms
 - Practical, point-of-use instructional strategies
 - Access to a grade-specific Project Coach