



DALLAS ARBORETUM
Education

Garden STEM at Home
Rainy Day Hike



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.

RAINY DAY HIKE



OBJECTIVE:

STUDENTS WILL IDENTIFY THEIR SCHOOLYARD WATERSHED AND INVESTIGATE THE AMOUNT OF POLLUTION THAT ENTERS NEARBY WATERWAYS.

SOURCE

Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide 2.0

BACKGROUND

Some students may be familiar with the term watershed - or with pollution and runoff - but they may not make the connection that their schoolyard is, in fact, part of a larger watershed. In this activity, students will investigate their schoolyard, backyard or parking lot to examine how their environment plays a role in the watershed around them.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Begin by creating a legend for your map. The legend should include symbols for the following features: buildings, trees, sidewalks, parking lot, downspouts, trash cans, natural litter like leaves and twigs, water, oil, trash, slow water flow, fast water flow, storm drains, flower beds, grass and playgrounds.
2. Create a map of the school grounds (or other outdoor space) using the legend you've created. You may break this up into small sections depending on the number of students participating.
3. Make additional copies of the map: label one Fair Weather Prediction and one Rainy Day Hike.
4. On a fair weather day, ask students to make predictions about what a rainy day will bring to the location. Is their trash or natural materials that will move to a new location? How will water flow in the space? Are there low spots? (You can use a golf ball to make predictions about movement and speed).
5. Discuss and modify the fair weather predictions based on possible sources of point and nonpoint contamination (oil stains, trash, etc.).
6. On a rainy day, visit the same area and identify patterns investigated above. Students should make notes about the following: slopes, erosion, water direction, speed of water movement, how water alters the landscape, where water goes to.
7. Discuss findings and ways that students can reduce the impact of pollution and decrease runoff from the site. Optional: Make and implement an action plan.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Project WET Rainy Day Hike Team Directions:

<https://www.watereducation.org/general-information/rainy-day-hike>

Understanding Garbage and Our Environment by Andrea J. Nolan; ISBN: