



To Demonstrate How Garbage Can Pollute the Water*

Activity E.cc

Grades 4 - 6

OBJECTIVE:

To Demonstrate How Garbage Can Pollute the Water*

MATERIALS:

Clear bowl filled with water

Sand

Ink

Different types of garbage

VOCABULARY: runoff

PROCEDURE:

Explain that garbage can pollute water. Illustrate by having the children place different types of garbage such as shredded paper, food scraps, a tin can, and a dark liquid such as coffee into a clear bowl containing clean water. Let the children observe the changes in the water after each addition. Tell children that water becomes polluted by garbage even when the garbage is not put directly into the water. Illustrate by pouring some ink onto a mound of sand that has been placed in a bowl. Explain that the ink represents the pollutants in garbage. Sprinkle water over the mound (to represent rain) until it drains into the bowl.

Explain that in the environment this water would run off into rivers and lakes or would seep down into the ground and pollute the water there. Ask if anyone has a well. Help children to understand that there is water in the ground that we use for drinking and bathing, and that this water can become polluted by runoff from garbage that is not properly managed.

*Adapted from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Let's Reduce and Recycle: Curriculum for Solid Waste