

What is a Watershed? – Outdoor Lesson

Grade Kindergarten

Lesson Fall Outdoor

Time 50 -55 minutes

Materials *From the Portable:*

- Walking tour Map
- Walkie Talkies (tune to channel #6)
- Beads for Watershed Necklaces (give to teacher at end)
- Rain Boots

Objective:

To introduce students to a “watershed” and the importance of protecting and understanding the wildlife and habitat that exist in a watershed. The Pacific Northwest is unique in that we have salmon that live in our watershed.

Before the lesson:

1. A couple days before the outing, send reminder email to the volunteers and let them know to arrive at the Watershed Portable at least 15 minutes before the scheduled departure.
2. Obtain the parent/student list from the Teacher. This is the list of what students will be going with each volunteer parent.

Day of the Lesson Prep:

1. Arrive at the Watershed Portable about 1/2 hour before the outing to review the lesson and gather the materials.
2. When you check in at the office, ask Kathy Conrad to turn on her walkie-talkie and let her know of your outing time.
3. Visit the classroom to see who needs boots and either bring the students to the portable to get them or find out their sizes and bring them to the classroom.
4. When the volunteers arrive, introduce yourself and give them the list of students they will be responsible for (if that has been provided by teacher in advance).
5. Review the lesson with the parents by showing them the flipbook.
6. Remind volunteers that students need to stay with their assigned groups at all times. Volunteers need to stay with students until they are back in the classroom with their teacher.

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The Lesson:

1. Introduce yourself to the students and ask them:
 - a) *Who remembers what we are going to do on our outing today?*
 - b) *Who remembers what a watershed is? It's the land around us.*
 - c) *Who can tell me some important things from the Watershed Pledge?*
 - d) Remember to stay with your assigned parent leader for the whole tour.
2. Start walking as a group and make the following stops:
 - a) Drain by the playground – this is where water drains off the parking lot and playground. Lets follow where it goes.
 - b) Culvert pipe on the way down to the fence gate – water goes from the drain through pipe, under street and into streams.
 - c) Group cross at crosswalk. Remember to “Stop, look and listen”
 - d) Stop by rainwater and drainage pond. This is where water fills up when it rains and overflows into streams and lakes. Look for wildlife, frogs, birds.
 - e) Follow trail to outdoor classroom. Stop to look and listen to nature.
 - f) Continue to stream. Ask students what lives in our streams (Salmon). Have two parents in the stream to help the students across. Continue on trail to open field. Be sure to have parent go first.
 - g) Ask what they might find in the field. Then as a group walk past the tennis courts, down the road and back to the school.
 - h) Let students know they have earned a second bead.

Finishing up:

1. Have students return boots and follow teacher's directions on returning to classroom.
2. If time permits, have parents put the new watershed bead on student's necklaces; otherwise, give beads to teacher to have put on necklaces as their schedule allows.
3. Return materials back to their place in the watershed portable.
4. Thank parent volunteers! You can also send them an email later.
5. When you check out at the office, let Kathy Conrad know that the outing is complete and she can turn off her walkie-talkie.
6. Remember to fill out the Lesson Feedback form on the website.