



Theme: Water (Grades 3-5)

Pre-Visit Activity #2 Water in the News

Overview:

This introductory activity is designed to acquaint students with water issues.

Objectives:

- Students will identify the natural resources of Nevada.
- Students will read and identify the structures of a variety of selections.
- Students will demonstrate an active interest in reading.
- Students will select and use appropriate public speaking techniques.
- Students will list examples of how people use and manage natural resources within Nevada.

Materials:

- Bulletin board paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks or tape
- Two weeks' collection of local newspapers (local news sections only)

Activity:

1. Begin the activity by asking the students the following questions:
 - How is water used?
 - How much water do we use?
 - Do we have enough?
 - How do we save water?
 - How can we find the answers to these questions?
 - What other questions can you think of about water?Collect and record student answers on a research board.
2. Hold up a newspaper. "Let's see if we can find some information about water in the newspaper."
3. Use tape to secure a large piece of bulletin board paper to the board or any other accessible wall. Label it "Water in the News."
4. Pass out newspapers, scissors, and glue sticks or tape.

5. Have the students search through the newspaper and cut out any article or advertisement in which they find the word "water" or a picture of water. (They should choose at least two news articles.)
6. Have the students paste or tape each clipping to the large piece of bulletin board paper.
7. When the majority of the groups are finished, collect the newspapers, scissors, and tape.

Discussion:

1. Use the articles on the bulletin board to lead a discussion about how water is used in Southern Nevada.
2. Record a list of uses generated from the discussion.
3. Discuss and add to the list any other uses of water not found in the newspaper clippings.

Extension:

Ask each group (or individual student) to choose an article to report on to the rest of the class. Their report should include:

1. A description of where the story took place
2. The date the story appeared
3. How water was discussed in the article
4. What water issues were raised in the article, if any

Suggested Reading:

1. ***Brother Eagle, Sister Sky: A Message from Chief Seattle*** illustrated by Susan Jeffers. A story about Native American beliefs and how each generation deserves to breathe fresh air, drink pure water and to enjoy all the beauty that the earth offers.
2. ***The Drop in My Drink*** by Meredith Hooper and Chris Coady. Water takes on fascinating new significance as readers discover the amazing complexity of a substance we take for granted. Includes a detailed depiction of water cycles, amazing facts and important environmental information.
3. ***A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder*** by Walter Wick. Shows the different forms of water in amazingly detailed photographs; explains water's properties.
4. ***The Earth and I*** by Frank Asch. Explains the friendship between the earth and a young child and what each can do for the other. .
5. ***Gullywasher*** by Joyce Rossi. In English and Spanish. A grandfather tells tall tales of his life as a cowboy (vaquero) and of the harsh life in the desert, flash floods, and wildlife.
6. ***I Am Water*** by Jean Marzollo. A first book about water in its different forms and uses.

7. ***One Small Square: Cactus Desert*** by Donald M. Silver. Teaches about all the plants and wildlife that exist in one small square of desert - an excellent introduction to ecosystems and biodiversity.
8. ***Snail Girl Brings Water*** by Geri Reams. A retelling of a traditional Navaho creation myth which explains how water came to earth.
9. ***This Place is Dry*** by Vicki Cobb, illustrated by Barbara Lavallee. Surveys the living conditions in Arizona's Sonoran Desert for the people and the unusual animals that live there. Also describes the engineering accomplishment of the Hoover Dam.
10. ***Water Science, Water Fun: Great Things to Do with H₂O*** by Noel Fiarotta and Phyllis Fiarotta. Lessons and experiments teach about floating, refraction, leaching temperature gravity, buoyancy, flow and other water properties.
11. ***Where Does Water Come From?*** by C. Vance Cast. Clever Clavin shows how much water there is on earth, how wells are dug to bring it out of the ground, and how water treatment plants work.
12. ***The Woman Who Outshone the Sun/La Mujer Que Brillaba Aún Más Que el Sol*** by Alejandro Cruz Martinez, illustrated by Fernando Olivera. A bilingual tale from ancient Mexico that tells of a beautiful woman who arrives in a mountain village and is driven out because she is different, taking the river with her.