

Part III: Watershed Walk Educational Kit Outline and Supplemental Activities

Why do we provide the Educational Kit?

This activity kit is designed to familiarize your students with topics presented in the “Watershed Walk” field trip, and to provide a depth of experience and opportunity to apply knowledge after the trip. The activities within this kit will give your students a better understanding of such topics as **watersheds**, **ecosystem connectivity**, **human influences**, and **data collection** using unique artifacts and hands-on exploration. They are designed to build a strong background for the field trip itself, thereby enhancing your students’ outdoor experience.

How does it work?

We recommend that these activities are done in the order that they are presented, for a more comprehensive understanding of relevant concepts. These activities can be adjusted to different age or learning groups; you can omit the included worksheets and focus purely on observational activities, and extensional writing prompts help to further understanding and scientific observational skills.

Watershed Kit Contents

1. Supplemental Activity Curriculum Descriptions
2. Materials to support curriculum
3. Visual Aids to support curriculum, including habitat photos, diagrams, and worksheets
4. Artifacts to let students get up close and personal with wetland plants and animals

List of Activities and Key Concepts Covered

1. **Water the Incredible Journey** - *Water Cycle, watersheds, data collection and connectivity*
Students race to complete their journey in this active game that takes them through the water cycle as a water droplet.
2. **Water Cycle in a Bag** - *water cycle, data collection, human influences*
This multi-day activity explores the water cycle through a classroom model as students observe the process and record their observations.
3. **San Lorenzo River Watershed History*** - *watersheds and human influences*
Students use a timeline and maps to identify their watershed at home and school and explore the history of the area from first peoples through modern time.

4. **Water Sources and Sinks** - *data collection, human influences, water use*
Students look at and analyze their own water usage by examining their water bill(or sample one given) and explore ways to conserve water.
5. **Mock Town Hall Meeting** - *water use, human influence, watersheds*
Students act out stakeholders in an urban development and explore how their assumed roles interest affects water health.
6. **Conservation Commotion** - *human influence and watersheds*
Students play a game to test their knowledge of the sources of pollution and how they can make a positive impact on water quality.
7. **The Egg and Acidification*** - *data collection, connectivity, water quality*
Students get a look at the effects of pH on the environment through application and testing.
8. **Watershed Student Journal** - the kit includes one master copy of the Student journal that connects all the activities together and ties in the field trip data collection.

* These activities are described below. The Watershed Kit includes the visual aids and materials for all activities, but many can be recreated with materials in most classrooms.