



Resource Conservation Since 1966

Water Festival

Water Festival

The Blair County Conservation District offers its "Water Festival" to all 4th grade classes in Blair County public and private schools. "Water Festival" is a hands-on learning program (at the school site) where students travel to different stations (described below). The event prepares the student for the Environment and Ecology part of the PSSA's. Each station takes 40-50 minutes. Teachers usually plan on devoting an entire morning or afternoon to the program. Instructors include staff from the conservation district and other organizations.

Station Descriptions

Macro-invertebrates and Stream Water Quality: Students catch live stream macro-invertebrates and identify them using a dichotomous key. In a game called "Macro mania" students learn about the influence of land use on water quality and the practice of macro-invertebrate sampling to quantify it. Using a map, deck of macro invertebrate cards, a sorting sheet, and a math worksheet students calculate a biological index for their stream. We also dress up a couple of student volunteers to demonstrate the use of a kick net on our classroom stream. Addresses Standard 4.1.4.C and 4.1.7.E.

Enviroscape: Students discover how their school district is part of a watershed, how this watershed gets polluted and what can be done about it. It uses a large plastic watershed model, colored powder for the pollutants, and spray bottle to illustrate rain. Addresses Standard 4.1.4.E and 4.1.7.B.

Gyotako/ Haiku (Fish Printing): In olden times, Japanese fisherman recorded large or unusual catches by making a print using the actual fish. Your students make (and take) handsome Gyotako fish prints of native Pennsylvania fish using less smelly rubber replicas. Standard 4.1.4.C. If time permits students write a Haiku poem describing their fish.

Lentic/Lotic Puppet Show: Follow two brook trout on their adventures from your school's local stream, into local rivers and finally the Susquehanna River, almost to the mouth of the Chesapeake. Addresses State Standard 4.1.4A,C and 4.1.7.B. It also ties in concepts from other stations.

River Lab: There's a stream in the classroom! This model dramatically shows streamband erosion, how riparian buffer zones protect the stream, wetlands, the effect of building along a stream, why communities flood, nonpoint source pollution and groundwater.

Save Water! Recycle?: See what recycling has to do with saving water and make a cool recycled craft.

Acid Mine Drainage Tie-Dye: Learn what causes those dead, red streams while making a tie-dye masterpiece.

* Numbers refer to Pennsylvania Academic Standards