

2nd Grade Activities

Caddisfly Activity Students are read the book “The Secret Life of Streams” by Lynell Marie Garfield. The book teaches about the characteristics and lifecycles of mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, dragonflies, dobsonflies, and midge flies in a fun story. Then we focus on Rocky the case building caddisfly and show the students pictures of different cases made by caddisflies. Then students create their own unique case out of rocks, sticks, and other craft items. **Standards: S2L1**

Dragonfly Activity – We start the activity by reading “Elisa and the Dragonfly” or “This is Your Life Cycle” The books explain the dragonfly lifecycle, how the dragonfly starts its life off in the water and ends it with a set of beautiful wings. Then students make a dragonfly craft with a clothespin body, colorful paper, pipe cleaner, and ribbon. We can also add in a waterscope craft (described in the Elisa book). This is a great educational activity and fun for all. **Standards: S2L1**

Enviroscape –The flexibility of the Enviroscape makes it possible to address human impacts issues such as erosion, litter, animal waste, fertilizers, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and other non-point source pollutants or the process involved with bringing clean water to the home and the removal of it safely back into the environment. This interactive model is a strong visual lesson that does an excellent job of portraying somewhat abstract concepts in an easy-to-understand format. **Standards: S2E3**

Build a River – teaches about the same concepts as Watershed Enviroscape but in a different format. In this activity, students will gain an understanding of the components of a river and the valuable resources found in the Etowah Watershed. Students help create the river by adding rocks, vegetation, benthic macroinvertebrates, and fish (especially darters – Etowah, Rainbow, and Cherokee). We will talk about what makes a healthy river for the macroinvertebrates, fish, amphibians, and mammals need the river to survive. Then we start adding in human influences such as dirt, fertilizer, and pesticides. We explain how that affects the water quality and the basic needs of the animals (including humans). This can be paired with some basic water quality Exploration. **Standards: S2E3**

All the way to the ocean and the fatal food game

The students are read (or it can be acted out as a play) the book “All the way to the ocean” The book explains how important it is to not put trash in storm drains because the trash goes all the way to the ocean. Discuss the 5 gyres, located in our oceans. Then the students play a game called “Fatal Food” where they are an animal looking for “good” food like a fish, algae, or a jellyfish. They may get good food or they may get “fatal” food such as fishing wire, a plastic bag, balloons, or get stuck in a bottle or 6-pack holder. We explain the dangers of plastic pollution on the environment. * We will need an open space (larger than the classroom) inside or outside to play fatal food. **Standards: S2E3**