

5th Grade Activities

EnviroscapeThe 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: S5E1**

Turning Chaos into Order- You don't have to be outside very long to notice the vast differences in organisms in our very backyards. From trees to birds to bees, each organism has very specific characteristics. In this lesson, students will explore basic concepts of taxonomy, by student-led discussion. As a class, they will develop a system to sort themselves by characteristics they create. In small groups, students will practice classifying by developing a system to sort fish that are found in our watershed. **Standards: S5L1**

Marvelous MicrobesHave you ever wondered how wastewater gets treated? Similar to a game of sharks and minnows, the students will either be "food" (some of the various components of wastewater such as bacteria, algae, nutrients, or food particles) or they will be a microbe that eats the food. This lesson allows students to interactively learn about a few of the microorganisms that we use to break down wastewater and how we can use them to our benefit. **Standards: S5L4**

Poison PumpThis lesson does an excellent job of incorporating history into a science lesson. Based on the real-life epidemic that plagued London in 1954, students are given a series of clues to discover the source of the disease named Cholera. Students are asked to label information on a map provided in the clues to form a supported hypothesis as to the origin of the outbreak. This lesson provides an excellent introduction to water quality, human impacts, and even epidemiology. **Standards: S5L4**