

ACTIVE WATERSHED EDUCATION

It's AWESome!



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Why teach about watersheds?

- Watersheds are the interaction of geology, climate, soils, flora, fauna, and human beings
- It's where the water meets the land
- Watersheds are a natural boundary
- Many agencies use watersheds as regulatory units
- It's important to know what is upstream to understand downstream problems
- Provides a holistic view of our environment



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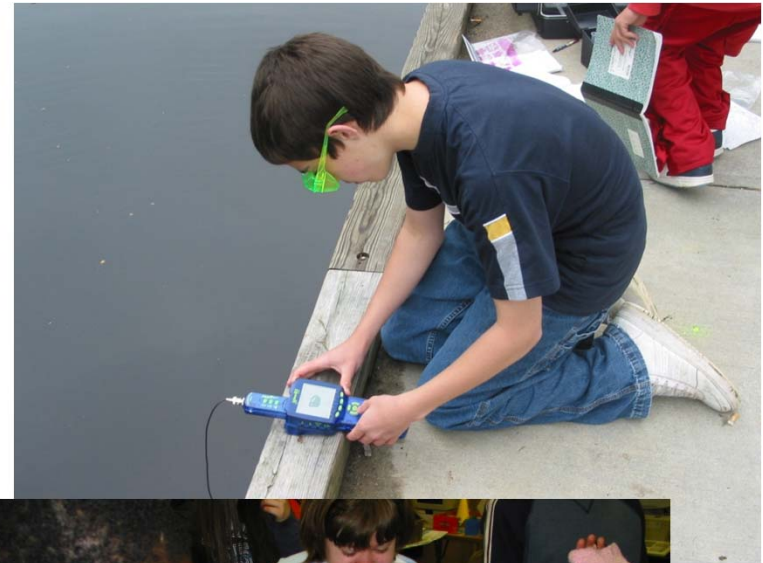
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Why schools?

Teaching Environmental Education has been shown to:

- Bolster science curriculum
- Teach basic science skills
- Demonstrate how fun and interesting science can be
- Students bring knowledge back home to the community



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Project
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Water Education for Teachers



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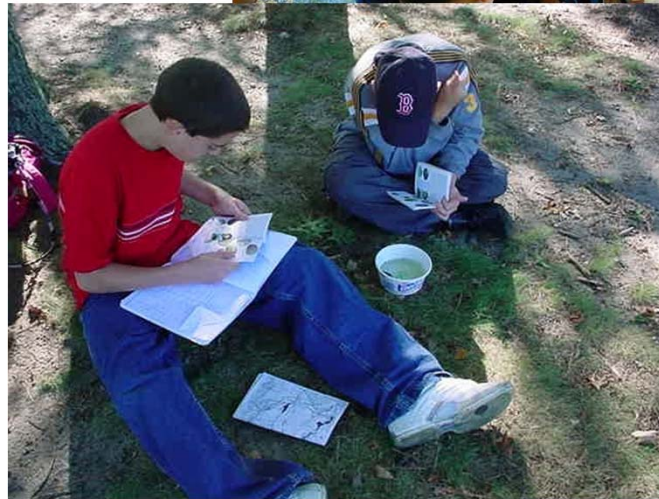
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Where does the study of watersheds fit in?

Where doesn't it?

- Science concepts and facts
- Creative writing and literature
- Art
- Social studies
- History
- Current events



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Blocks to teaching Environmental Education

- Lack of education and training
- Lack of time
- Lack of money
- Lack of motivation
- Lack of support



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How do we get teachers to teach about watersheds and EE?

- Become familiar with schools and requirements - GSE's, curriculums, class structure, available space
- Provide easy and/or cheap activities
- Collect equipment and allow teachers to borrow it
- Get grants to conduct class programs
- Work with other non-profits who go into the schools
- Solicit teacher's ideas and methods



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Things to consider

- What are the important take away points
- Focus on what you know
- Make sure programs are fun and interesting
- Use what you got
- If collecting data, decide how it will be used



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AWESome! Curriculum

The Active Watershed Education Curriculum was Developed by:
The Southern Rhode Island Conservation District
And *The University of Rhode Island*
Department of Natural Resource Sciences

Written in 1993 by:

Martha Cheo, Vicky J. O'Neal, Michael Bechdol, and Meredith Slater
with contributions by: *Walter Cole and Charlotte F. Spang*

Updated in 1998, 2005, 2007 and 2009 by:

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AWESome! Curriculum Contents

- Unit 1 *What is a Watershed*
- Unit 2 *Wetland Ecology*
- Unit 3 *Wetland Exploration*
- Unit 4 *Water Resources*
- Unit 5 *Soil Resources*
- Unit 6 *Effects on Land Use*
- Unit 7 *Cultural Resources*
- Unit 8 *Intro to Water Quality Issues*
- Unit 9 to 11 *Point and Non-point Sources of Pollution and Field Trips*
- Unit 12 *Public Hearings and Citizen Actions*



For more information

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