

Pollution Patrol

Grade level: 2nd – 5th

Standard/ GLE Code: SC.2.3.2, SS.3.2.1, SC.4.3.5, SC.5.3.5

Time commitment: 40 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Student workbook
- Access to internet to play video

Educational Messages:

- Students learn about stormwater runoff by watching the H2O Jo video.
- Students read a water pollution passage and answer questions about storm drains and protecting water quality.
- Students fill in the blanks for a “mad-libs” type watershed story and share the hilarious results.

We all live in a watershed. A watershed is an area of land that drains into a body of water such as a stream, river, lake or ocean. Small watersheds are part of larger watersheds. Colorado Springs lies within the Fountain Creek watershed, which flows to the Arkansas River. The Arkansas River flows to the Mississippi River and eventually to the Gulf of Mexico. Your water supply comes from the Arkansas, Colorado and South Platte River watersheds.

There are many ways water can get polluted. Pollution is anything that can make the water unsafe or unhealthy such as trash, dirt and oil. Water does not only get dirty from people dumping directly into it. Things that happen in our everyday lives, far away from creeks, end up polluting our water. Stormwater runoff is rainwater that flows into creeks. This water can collect debris, trash, chemicals, dog waste and other pollutants which degrade our water quality.

Suggested format:

1. Introduce your students to stormwater pollution by having them watch the eight-minute video on YouTube titled “[H2O Jo Takes a Ride through the Storm Drain](#)”.
2. Brainstorm ways that students can keep water clean.
3. Have students work on the Pollution Patrol student page in small groups.
4. Student groups can read their Watershed-libs story to the rest of the class.

Pollution Patrol Student Page **ANSWER KEY**

There are many ways water can get polluted. Pollution is anything that can make the water unsafe or unhealthy such as trash, dirt and oil. Water does not only get dirty from people dumping directly into it. Things that happen in our everyday lives, far away from creeks, end up polluting our water. Stormwater runoff is rainwater that flows into creeks. This water can collect debris, trash, chemicals, dog waste and other pollutants which degrade our water quality.

The storm drains you see under the curbs on the street lead directly to creeks and streams. Each time the sidewalk and street get wet, pollutants such as litter, motor oil, pet waste, leaves, grass clipping, fertilizer and spilled chemicals wash down the storm drain. These pollutants make their way to our creeks and streams. You can help prevent pollution from getting into our creeks and streams.



1. Where do storm drains lead?

___ **Storm drains lead directly to creeks and streams.** ___

2. Who is responsible for reducing water pollution? ___ **YOU. It is everyone's responsibility to protect their waterways.** ___

3. Think of three things you can do to reduce water pollution:

a. Pick up trash.

b. Pick up pet waste.

c. Rake leaves into piles and place in the compost or dispose in the garbage.

Watershed-Libs

Complete the following for hilarious results.

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Last week, my friends and I took a hike to the

_____ Creek near our city of
adjective

_____. The creek ran through an
place

open field and some _____ trees. It
adjective

really was a _____ place to see! After
adverb

we hiked along the creek, we decided to go

_____ down the creek to learn
verb ending in -ing

more about the watershed. Some of the creek's flow is diverted into a reservoir that stores

Colorado Springs drinking water. Some of those reservoirs offer a chance to _____! In
verb

the creek water we saw sediment that eroded from nearby hills. We also saw a _____
noun

floating in the water. We have to keep this water clean! There were small trout in the Creek and

a _____ _____ on the shore. Suddenly we saw _____ had
adjective **animal** **proper name**

_____ into the water. My friend discovered a _____. We shouted:
verb ending in -ed **natural object**

_____! We took it back to school to study under a microscope. Creeks are always so
funny expression

much _____
adjective



Enjoy trails at the Bear Creek Nature Center which follow the creek where you can observe wildlife and enjoy water!