

**Water Law 101**  
**Classroom Presentation Outline – 9th through 12th Grade**



Water Law 101 Outline

1. Introduction and water background (15 min.)
  - a. Test your water rights knowledge quiz
  - b. Colorado is a headwaters state
  - c. How water is used in Colorado?
  - d. Colorado Springs' water system
  
2. Water Rights in Colorado (10 min.)
  - a. Water rights origins (Riparian Doctrine)
  - b. Colorado water law ( Prior Appropriations Doctrine)
  - c. Ownership
  - d. Priority
  - e. Appropriation
  - f. Beneficial use
  - g. Types of water rights
  
3. Let's Get Water! - Water Rights Trading Game (10 min.)
  - a. Explain game and assign parts
  - b. Trade/sell/auction off water rights with poker chips and play money
  
4. Water Court (10 min.)
  - a. Redistribute poker chips based on laws and scenarios
  - b. Award jelly beans based on how well they sold or bought what they needed
  - c. Go through slides of example river
  
5. Summary (5 min.)
  - a. Review intro quiz answers
  - b. Local water rights are enough to keep Colorado Springs supplied until 2050
  - c. Main ideas
    - i. Water is a precious commodity with complex legal structure
    - ii. Conserve and appreciate your resource

Total program time: 50 minutes