

Picture This - Clean Water

Research ways that contractors, road builders, and home owners can prevent nonpoint source pollution. You'll find some of the answers in the book, *Watershed Connections*. Write your ideas down.

Gutters and Downspouts - A Drawing Activity

Draw a picture of a house and yard. There are many things you can do to help take care of soil and water. Look at your drawing and answer these questions:

1. Does the house have gutters along the edge of the roof? Gutters and downspouts help prevent soil erosion. If you didn't draw them on your building, add them now.
2. Draw some grass, flowers, and shrubs next to your house where the downspouts empty onto the ground. The plants will make the house pretty. They will also act like big sponges and help to keep soil from washing away when it rains.
3. Is there a sidewalk in your picture? What is it made of? Sidewalks made of stones, gravel, or bricks (uneven surfaces with air holes) let rain soak into the ground.
4. Is there a pet in your picture? Cleaning up after pets is important if you live in the city or suburbs. When it rains, animal waste washes from sidewalks into street storm drains. It could end up in your neighborhood creek or stream. If you were a fish, would you want that dumped in your living room? Be a pooper-scooper. Clean up after your pet.



Grade Levels: 1-6

Science SOLs: 1.8, 2.7, 6.11

Materials Needed:

- drawing paper
- markers or crayons
- *Watershed Connections* activity book

Vocabulary Words:

erosion nonpoint source pollution

From *Virginia Naturally Educator's Guide*