



YOUR STUDENTS CAN

make an impact in preventing water pollution to help keep San Francisco Bay healthy.

Our free programs provide a fun and engaging way for each student to better understand their community and their important role in it. Each program is correlated to State Standards in support of your curricula. Contact us today to schedule a program at:

CleanBayEducation@gmail.com

The Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP) protects San Francisco Bay by treating 20 million gallons of

wastewater daily. Operated by the City of Palo Alto, the RWQCP serves its six partner communities of East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto and Stanford. The RWQCP provides award-winning educational programs to thousands of students throughout its service area each year with the goal of educating and inspiring young people to understand, value and protect their watershed.



2501 EMBARCADERO WAY
PALO ALTO · CA 94403

Free Water Pollution Prevention Education Programs



WHAT'S UP WITH THE BAGS?!?

2ND GRADE



Students dive into the watery world of San Francisco Bay and meet its inhabitants as they take part in a "reader's theater" story which supports reading skills and story comprehension. Students learn about the impact of plastic bags when bags enter the watershed through human use and misuse. They'll learn alternatives to plastic and how to be part of the pollution solution. Students finish by decorating a reusable bag made from recycled plastic to take home (The bag can also serve as a year-end "take-home" bag!).

WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?

2ND GRADE



Students crawl into the world of insects as they learn about the importance of insects in the food chain, how pesticides pollute our water and environment, and whether there really are "good bugs" or "bad bugs." Students work together to assemble a large insect habitat puzzle on the floor while reading aloud fascinating facts about insects. Listening and focusing skills are emphasized while practicing teamwork. The program concludes with giving the students the opportunity, with no pressure, to eat "edible bugs."

WHO DIRTIED THE BAY?!?

3RD GRADE

Students step into a time machine and roll back the clock as they trace the history of San Francisco Bay, from the Ohlone to present day, to learn about the impact of humans on our Bay environment. A hands-on activity builds their understanding of how runoff flows into creeks and the Bay, both directly and through the storm drain system, as they "dirty" a simulated Bay with pollutants from past and present. Students learn what they can do to be solutions to the pollution that impacts this vital ecosystem.

Photo: Susanne Mulcahy



MERCURY: PAST & PRESENT

4TH GRADE

Students take a hands-on look at the impact of mercury on San Francisco Bay through the lens of the Gold Rush by tracing the history of how mercury was mined in southern Santa Clara County, used in the gold mining process, and subsequently washed into San Francisco Bay. Through the interactive "Fish-Eat-Fish" game, students experience how this toxic metal is transferred through the Bay ecosystem and food chain through bio-accumulation. Students learn what we do now to prevent more mercury from entering our local environment.



WATERSHED WARRIORS

3RD AND 5TH GRADES



Using an interactive tabletop relief model called the "Enviroscape™", students learn what defines a watershed. After building out the Enviroscape model with props to create residential, commercial and agricultural communities, students simulate how rain moves pollutants through the watershed to a river, bay and ocean. The simulation concludes with a discussion of pollution sources and best practices to keep pollutants from entering the watershed.

MICROBES IN SEWAGE

7TH GRADE



Utilizing activated sludge from the water treatment plant, this lab gives students the unique, real-world experience of finding, observing, documenting, and identifying the microbes that play a vital role in wastewater treatment and observing how they remove pollutants and clean the water. This lab always gets an audible "WOW" from the students when they first look in the microscope.

Preceding the distribution of slides, we review the wastewater treatment process, proper lab procedures, and microscope technique. We provide all lab supplies, lab worksheets, and very active microbes from the wastewater treatment plant.

TOUR YOUR WATER TREATMENT PLANT

GRADES 6 TO ADULT

Just how DO we clean 20 million gallons a day, 365 days a year? At the RWQCP you'll see and learn about the multiple treatment processes that wastewater undergoes before reentering the water cycle in the Bay. Call 650.329.2122 or email cleanbay@cityofpaloalto.org to arrange a tour. Tour content is modified for age appropriateness. Consider preceding this tour with a classroom program!



STORM DRAIN STENCILING

Somewhere around your school campus, or in the immediate neighborhood, there's a storm drain! Whether you're looking for a service project or a direct and memorable way to teach water pollution prevention, stenciling storm drains around your school with the *Only Rain Down Our Drain* logo can be the way to go. We provide all the materials and instructions. Call 650.329.2122 or email cleanbay@cityofpaloalto.org to arrange this activity. Consider combining this activity with Watershed Warriors!

ONLY RAIN DOWN OUR DRAIN!
DRAINS TO BAY

