

Champagne Fountain Watershed Activity

Source Unknown But Used By Many

Materials:

- 4 large clear bowls (stackable bowls that fit inside of one another - large, medium, small, and smaller – see photo below)
- 3 large industrial size cans – cut both ends of each can off/out
- food coloring (3 colors are needed)
- water to fill each bowl

Instructions:

Before activity:

- Stack bowls using cans as seen in photo below.
- Add water to almost fill first three top bowls. For the largest bowl fill bowl $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water.



At beginning of activity:

- Discuss concept of watershed with audience.
- Discuss how each bowl represents an individual watershed. Ask the audience if they know what watershed they live in. Discuss how we all live in a watershed, and how smaller watersheds form larger watershed. Example: I live in the Licking River Watershed, which is part of the Ohio River Watershed, which is part of the Mississippi River Watershed. Have a map of local watersheds as a visual.
- Demonstrate how water flowing in a smaller watershed travels into larger watersheds by adding water to the first (smallest) bowl on top. Allow the water to overflow into the other bowls.
- Talk about different pollutants that may be present in a watershed. For example, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, automobile fluids, silt, waste products, etc.
- Illustrate different pollutants in each watershed (or bowl) by adding different colors of food coloring to the first three bowls.
- Discuss what happens during a rain event. The pollutants in the first watershed (or bowl) will pollute the larger watersheds.
- Demonstrate a rain event by adding more water to the first watershed (or bowl). Discuss what happens if the second watershed (or bowl) has a rain event and the first watershed does not. Demonstrate this by adding water to the second watershed (or bowl) and not adding water to the first watershed (or bowl).
- Discuss how these rain events have effected the larger watersheds (third and fourth bowls).
- Discuss ways to reduce or eliminate pollution.

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