



The Solution to Water Pollution

Lesson 3: It's a No-Drainer!

Background

By this point we all know that it's important to conserve water not only because it's a precious resource, but because it means that there will be less wastewater to treat. There are some things that people still put down the drain that should be disposed of elsewhere, such as FOG (fats, oils, and grease), paint, and medication, to name a few. How can you get the message out about keeping dangerous items from entering our wastewater?

Key Concepts

- Learning about the items that should not become part of our wastewater
- Learning why certain items are problematic for wastewater treatment
- Creating ads or posters educating the public about wastewater issues
- Understanding that choices in words and images can convey strong messages

Curriculum Objectives

- **Grade 7 English**
SCO 9.1: Students will be expected to produce a range of writing forms (stories, cartoons, journals, business letters, speeches, reports, interviews, messages, poems, ads)
- **Grade 8 English**
SCO 9.3: Students will be expected to understand that ideas can be represented in more than one way and experiment with many forms
- **Grade 9 Science**
Students will be expected to make informed decisions and propose a course of action on science, technology, and social issues, including human and environmental needs for electricity and energy.
- **Grade 9 Visual Arts**

Supplies

- Multiple CBRM Wastewater rack cards and magnets (several different informational cards; to be shared among students)
- Access to computer lab OR paper and art supplies (markers, crayons, etc.)

Overview

Time Line: These activities will take approximately 30-40 minutes.

The lesson will begin with a brief overview of the importance of wastewater issues and brainstorming a list of things that cannot go down the drain. Students will then be asked to think about what makes a poster or advertisement great. They will then use these ideas to come up with their own poster alerting the public to important wastewater issues. The posters will then be displayed in a school hallway near a water fountain or public bathroom.

Lesson Plan (30-40 minutes)

5 min	<p>Discuss</p> <p>What are some things that should not go down the drain? (FOG, medication, paint, gasoline, lighter fluid, pesticides, poison, antifreeze, cigarettes, dental floss, feminine hygiene products, etc.)</p> <p>Why is it important to keep these things out of our wastewater?</p>
5 min	<p>Explain: What makes a great poster?</p> <p>Show students examples of effective posters (larger versions will be included in Teacher Resources).</p> <div data-bbox="418 594 711 976"> </div> <div data-bbox="716 636 1052 976"> </div> <div data-bbox="1057 594 1398 976"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What makes these posters effective? (clear and creative wording, good use of colour, interesting images) - Discuss the importance of choosing a catchy slogan or phrase to catch people's attention
20-30 min	<p>Create an Effective and Interesting Poster</p> <p>Students will design a creative poster that highlights one of the important wastewater issues.</p> <p>Things to guide thinking when coming up with poster ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why is wastewater treatment important? - What are some items that should never go down the drain? - What happens when we put dangerous items down the drain? - Where does wastewater eventually end up? - <p>Once posters are finished, display them in a hallway near a water fountain or bathroom.</p>