Water: Where Does It Come From?

Skill: Language Arts

Obejctives
Students will:
- Learn to understand their local waste supply
- Gain appreciation of our water systems

Backround
Pure water does not actually exist in nature. Water is such a powerful solvent that every drop of rain carries dissolved or suspended material such as dust, oxygen, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide. These substances give water its taste. Too great an amout of chemicals makes water unusable.

The availability of adequate, clean water is a necessity of every increasing importance. (Your students ought to be convinced of this by now!) Fortunately, government, businesses, and individuals have begun to awaken to the full impact of this requirement. Large areas of ground water, naturally clean and of excellant bacterial quality, are being contaminated where shortsighted methods of sewage disposal are being employed.

Since two of the dangers to avoid are over-pumping and pollution to groundwater, it is encouraging to know that sound regulations have been established in many places controlling pumpage and waste disposal. Clean water will cost more each day that we wait to clean up our pollution.

What is your town's situation? How does your city handle these problems?

Read and/or Discuss backround and vocabulary

Procedure
Call your Chamber of Commerce, County Health Department, or utility board to find out about your local water supply.
- Take a field trip to visit the water plant or invite a resource person to your classroom.
- Write a report to answer the following questions.

Vocabulary
- solvent
- oxygen
- nitrogen
- carbon dioxide
- availability
- requirement
- shortsighted
- regulations
- established

Materials
- Paper
- Pencil
- Local resource people
- Local map

P.A.S.S.
4th Grade
- Read 1.1, 3.1b,2a, 5.1a,2abcd
- Write 2.1b,4bc

5th Grade
- Read 1.1a, 3.1b,2ab, 5.1a,2bd
- Write 1.2, 2.1,5c,6acd

6th Grade
- Read 1.1a, 3.1b,2a, 5.1ab,2ad
- Write 1.2, 2.2acd,2ab,7

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Research the following questions:

- Where is the water source?
- How much does it hold
- Are there precautions for flood control?
- How much water is currently there?
- How much water does the city use daily, weekly, monthly, yearly?
- What is the average annual rainfall for the area?
- Hoe dependent on this rainfall is the area? How long could people survive without it?
- How and where is the water cleaned
- What is the cost to maintain the water system
- How long is the water projected to last?

As a follow up activity, have your students find questions for the following anwers:

- Nobody knows for sure
- It might happen, and it might not.
- They might be harmful and they might not.
- Water pollution
- Costs too much
- Conservation and preservation
- Survival
- Human resources
- It's got to go somewhere.

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