
SQUAMISH RIVERS

Aqua Words

Grades: K-3

Subject, Science, Language
Arts

Time required: 30 minutes

Key Concepts:

*Fish and wildlife need a
healthy habitat*

Objectives:

*Students will be able to
describe a variety of ways and
reasons why water is
important to people and
wildlife.*

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Key Words:

water

Skills:

Analysis, discussion, listing, writing/
drawing



Background:

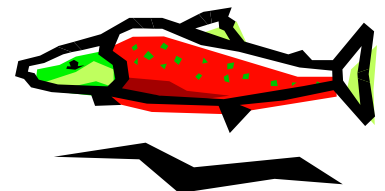
Water is central to all life and life activities. Plants and animals must have water to survive. Water represents about 75% of a person's body weight and covers about 71% of the earth's surface. About 8% of Canada is covered by water. Canada has 16% of the world's fresh water, making it one of the wettest countries in the world.

Nearly everything on earth can be directly or indirectly traced to a connection with water. Rocks channel water into streams, streams and rivers carry water across the land into seas and oceans. Ponds, lakes, marshes and swamps often hold water in place. Trees draw water from the soil and transport it up into the leaves and out again into the air. Clouds are airborne carriers of water across the sky.

Wildlife needs water for survival. The water must be clean and free of toxic contamination. Humans use water for many purposes other than drinking. Care must be taken to protect water quality. Water is a

Materials

- Markers/crayons
- Large piece of butcher or other paper (or chalk board)



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Background continued:

source of beauty and recreation. It is the basis of a massive planetary transportation system. Water grows our food, cools our cars, and is one of the first things on the list of substances the astronauts take into space. The driest desert has water. There are about 1,330 million cubic kilometers of water in the oceans. The tiny plants that live in the earth's oceans – phytoplankton – produce one third or more of our oxygen, a gas vital to vertebrate respiration.

The major purpose of this activity is for student to increase their appreciation of the importance of water and watery habitats.

Procedure:

1. Ask students to think about some of the ways they have used water that day. Emphasize how all living things are ultimately connected to water (see background information). Water is important. All life depends on water in some way.
2. Lay a long strip of butcher paper on a table or use spacious empty chalkboard and draw an outline of the banks of a river along the entire sheet. Use this river image to create a “river of words” and ask the students to list or draw 100 items that have something to do with water within the banks of the river. Ask them to think of words about water, including its importance to people and wildlife. Keep students stretching into new areas by suggesting examples and categories if they get bogged down.
3. Using the words and pictures that were recorded, ask the students to create webs

of related words/pictures on a separate paper.
4. When students have finished several water webs, have them look at what they have done and create one or two poems about water.

Extensions:

1. Create a class *River of Words* book with each student's page included. Students can write their poem and then illustrate their ideas. Summit class poetry to the River of Words contest. River of Words (ROW) is a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting kids to their watersheds through poetry and art. See www.riverofwords.org for more information. Contest deadline is March 1st of each year.



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Evaluation:

1. Have students:
 - a. Tell three ways you use water
 - b. Tell how plants use water
 - c. Tell how animals use water.
 - d. Describe why water is important.

Community Connections:

1. Teach students the “rap” song (follows) about how to “keep our creeks blue” and adapt the song to the Squamish community. Share the song with other classes or the whole school!

Resource:

This activity has been adapted from “Aqua Words” from Project WILD (1995).

"Keep Our Creeks Blue"

(sing as a "rap" song)

There are four easy steps
To keep our creeks clean
Listen to our song and you'll know what I mean.
Step number 1: if you have any gum
Put the wrapper in the garbage
And your job's well done.

It's easy to do
Keep our creeks blue.

Step number two
Is easy to do
Listen to these words and you can do it too.
If you have oil or paint
Don't dump it down the drain
'Cause it goes to the creek
And the fish will be in pain.

It's easy to do
Keep our creeks blue.

If your Mom or Dad
Wash their car one day
Tell mom or pop that it's not OK
Unless they wash it on the lawn
'cause the soap goes down
And floats in the creek, then the fish all
frown.

It's easy to do
Keep our creeks blue.

If you spray your yard with pesticides
Its goes to the creek when it rains outside
It gets in the water, the birds and the bugs
And it fills them up with deadly drugs.

It's easy to do
Keep our creeks blue.
It's easy to do
Keep our creeks blue.