

Who Dirtied the water?

An interactive story that graphically show how we are all responsible for water pollution and must all take responsibility for cleaning up our waters.

Materials: 1 gallon, wide-mouth jar 3/4 full with tap water.

Film canisters (you can make multiple if you want to get all youth involved, just put a little in each.) You can also use the little snack bags though they can see what it is ahead of time. I do have lots of film canister if you want to use them and a large pickle jar.

Label- contents

River - sand
Runoff- potting soil
salt marshes - dry grass
shellfish beds - crushed shells
Wampanoag - crushed shells
settlers - organic garbage (pieces of apple, potato skin...)
farmers - potting soil
Fishermen -nylon line
houses - toilet paper
sun bathers - balloons & plastic pieces
boaters - plastic pieces
Laundromats - dish detergent
cleaning - baking soda "cleansers"
port - oil (use dyed cooking oil - motor oil hazardous- red dye looks like diesel)
factories - vinegar

**Just don't put a lot of materials in the canister or it will look bad right away and not build up to the concept that it has happened over time.

Set jar up with water and hand out containers- pair up students, one each depending on the materials and size of group. Don't allow them to peek at what's inside.

As you read the story and their label is called they should come up and add the contents of their container and say what was in the container so that all can hear.)

The Story:

Once upon a time there was a beautiful piece of land. It was almost an island, connected to the mainland by a narrow land bridge, and surrounded on three sides by a bay. The bay was filled with clear ocean water dotted with green islands. (Point to the jar). Fish and sea life thrived in the water. The land was covered with trees and the land and the bay teemed with wildlife.

CHORUS:

- *Would you want to swim in this bay? (Definitely.)
- *Would you eat fish caught in this water? (Definitely.)
- * Would you like to go boating in this bay? (Definitely.)

A RIVER ran along one side of the land, carrying sediment with it as it flowed into the bay.

SALTMARSHES grew along the edges of the bay. Grasses from coastal salt marshes washed into the bay and became food for the fish.

In the shallow water, clams, mussels, oysters and scallops grew in SHELLFISH BEDS.

A small tribe of people lived on the land, which they called Shawmut. The people were called the WAMPANOG. The Wampanoag people fished for food and shellfish in the bay. They dumped some of their garbage near the bay. We still find the piles of the shells they left.

CHORUS:

* Would you.. swim. (Certainly) *Would you eat fish...(Certainly) *Would you swim ... (Certainly)

After many years SETTLERS from Europe came to live on Shawmut. The settlers built a town much larger than the Wampanoag villages. Some of the town's garbage was dumped into the bay.

As the town grew, the settlers filled the salt marshes to provide more land on which to build. FARMERS cut down trees to clear their fields. Without trees and marshes to hold the soil, rain carried soil into the bay.

CHORUS:

* Would ..swim (Probably) *Would. eat fish (Probably) * Would ..swim.. (Probably)

More and more HOUSES and shops were built, and the town of Shawmut grew into the city of Boston. Sewer pipes were constructed to remove the waste from houses and bathrooms. The sewage flowed through the pipes into the bay.

Since the marshes had been filled in, RUNOFF water washed pollution from the streets directly into the bay.

FISHERMEN found that nets made of plastic were stronger than those made of rope. Sometimes these nets got lost in the water.

Fishermen and other BOATERS sometimes threw rubbish overboard.

CHORUS:

*Would... swim? (Maybe) *Would .. eat fish? (Maybe) * Would... swim..?(Maybe.)

The city build LAUNDROMATS where people could wash their clothes. The detergents went down the pipes with the sewage into the harbor.

People CLEANING their houses used poisonous tile and drain cleaners, which flowed into the sewage system.

Even swimmers and SUN BATHERS going to enjoy the beach sometimes left garbage on the beaches. Lost balloons would fly out over the ocean. When they burst, they would fall into the water.

As Boston Harbor - as the bay was now called - grew into a major sea PORT, large oil tankers and ships came to unload their cargo. Sometimes the tankers spilled oil into the bay.

FACTORIES build along the water's edge often dumped their wastes and chemicals into the water.

CHORUS:

*Would ..swim..?(No) *Would... eat fish ?(No) * Would... swim...? (No)

Who dirtied the water? (Everyone.) Who is responsible for cleaning it up? (Everyone)

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