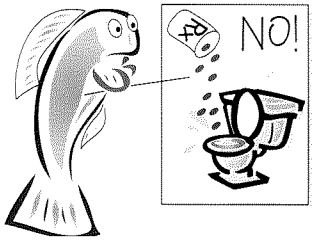
Your students CAN make an impact in preventing water pollution to help keep San Francisco Bay healthy. Our free programs provide a fun and engaging way for each student to better understand their community and their important role in it. Each program is correlated to State Standards in support of your curricula. Contact us today to schedule a program!

Down the Drain!

Grade 2

Where does that water go when it goes down the drain? Through hands-on activities, students learn the difference between sewers and storm drains. They'll learn about urban impacts on the natural water cycle and how THEY can help prevent water pollution by knowing what is and isn't okay to put down the drain. We'll explore recycling at home, sewage treatment, operation of the wastewater treatment plant and the impact of these on San Francisco Bay.



What's Bugging You?

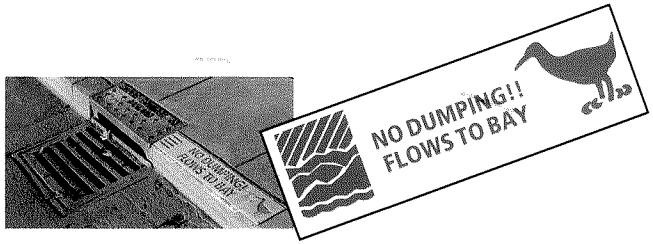
Grade 2

Students crawl into the world of common pests in our local environment and discover how methods we use for dealing with these pests contribute to water pollution. Through a basic introduction of the concept of "IPM" (Integrated Pest Management) students learn what insects and bugs have to do with water pollution and how to prevent it, whether there really are "good bugs" and "bad bugs," and what they can do to help living things thrive.

Who Dirtied the Bay?

Grade 3

Students roll back the clock as they trace the history of San Francisco Bay. We'll look at the impact of humans on that environment, from the Ohlone to present day. Using a hands-on game that deepens their understanding of the storm drain system, they'll simulate what past and present pollutants flow to the Bay, and learn what they can do to prevent pollution from impacting this vital ecosystem.



Watershed Warriors!

Grades 3 and up

Students become detectives as they use the exciting EnviroScape® interactive relief model to understand what defines a watershed. They'll search for pollution in our local environment, learn the sources of common pollutants, how pollutants travel and impact our environment, and what they can do to prevent water pollution in their own community.

Mercury: Past and Present

Grade 4

Students reach back in time to discover the history of mercury and how it was mined right here in Silicon Valley and used in the northern California foothills during the Gold Rush. Through the interactive "Fish Eat Fish" game, they'll experience how this toxic metal is transferred throughout ecosystems and the food chain, especially in our own San Francisco Bay. We'll also explore what we can do right now to prevent more mercury from entering our local environment.

Germ Busters!

Grade 5

Just like the planet, the human body is mostly water! Through hands-on activities, students will develop an understanding of the role of water in the body, and how germs spread in both water and the body. They'll also learn what clean water has to do with disease prevention and good hygiene, and how to keep both our physical and environmental systems healthy.

Microbes in Sewage

Grades 6-8

Students dive into the miniature world of the microbes that play a vital role in water treatment and learn how they work to dissolve pollutants. With actual sludge from the plant, they'll get hands-on with microscopes, using keys and charts to identify organisms through classification of structure. We'll also explore the biological, chemical, and physical processes used in wastewater treatment plants.

Sewer Science Lab

Grades 9-12

This is the ultimate week-long, hands-on experiment in wastewater treatment, that provides a platform for environmental science, scientific inquiry and the relationship between life science and our environment. Developed by local high school teachers and the staff of the RWQCP, students replicate the wastewater treatment process (using actual sludge from the plant) in the course of a week. The RWQCP provides the lab equipment, supplies, 40-page workbooks, teacher guidebook, and an assistant to facilitate the experiment. This nationally recognized program is challenging, educational, and fun!