KEEP GREATER MILWAUKEE BEAUTIFUL

# Water Pollution

# Water Pollution

Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful

Objective: Observe how pollution affects our water sources and understand why water pollution is bad

About two thirds of the Earth's surface is covered in water, but only a very small fraction of that is freshwater accessible for us to use and drink.

Water pollution occurs when contaminants, like oil or garbage, make their way into the water, whether on accident or on purpose.

Around 6 billion pounds of garbage end up in Earth's oceans each year.

It is very important to make sure we do not pollute the few sources of freshwater we do have. And if a source is already polluted, it is vital we clean it up!

# Water Pollution

## Supplies Needed

-Container (any size)
-Vegetable Oil
-Cocoa powder or coffee grounds
-Dish Soap
-Cotton balls
-Toothbrush or sponge
-Tweezers
-Assorted plastic animal toys (freshwater or ocean animals work great)
-Sand, rocks, shells (optional)
-Small pieces of garbage (plastic bag pieces, balloons, straws, bottlecaps, fishing line, etc.)
-Water

**1.** Start to make your aquatic habitat. Use plastic animals toys, plastic plant pieces, sand, rocks, or shells. You can make it look however you like!

# Water Pollution

**2.** Add some water to your habitat. Carefully pour enough water to fill up the majority of the container.

How does your ecosystem look? Is the water clear? Are the animals living in a healthy environment?

**Oh no! A harmful liquid pollution leaked into your water source.**

**3.** Take 1/4 cup of oil and mix it with either 1 Tablespoon coco powder or coffee grounds. Use a spoon to scoop mixture and dump 10 spoonfuls into the water and mix.

# Water Pollution

**Oh no! Careless humans threw their garbage into your water source.**

**4.** Grab the assorted garbage pieces and place in the water and mix.

How does your ecosystem look now? Is the water still clear? Are the animals still living in a healthy environment?

## Let's clean up!

**5.** Use the tweezers to pull out all of the garbage. Use the toothbrush and soap to scrub and clean the animal toys, rocks, and shells.

# Water Pollution

**6.** Use the cotton balls to soak up the dirty oil. Clean your ecosystem as best as you can!

## Questions to Consider:

-Were you able to get the water to look as clean as it did in the beginning?

-How did the pollution affect each part of the ecosystem? How would this affect you?

-What can you do to prevent pollution?

Visit www.kgmb.org for more activities

Source: https://www.naturalbeachliving.com/water-pollution-activities/