

Clean Creeks Classroom Curriculum

I. Classroom visit and watershed model interactive demonstration

40 minutes – 2 hours total – 1 to 3 Classroom visits

- A. What do you know about your watershed? – Brainstorming session with the class to find out what students already know. (Materials – Watershed map and writing surface – chalkboard, white board, tablet)
- 5 to 10 minutes – Entire class participates as one group
- B. Create a Watershed - Hands-on activity to demonstrate how a watershed works. (Materials: newspaper, newsprint on roll, and water)
- 15 to 20 minutes – Either entire class or groups of 5
- C. Enviroscape Interactive Demonstration – Students participate in a demonstration on this 3-d model by – Building up a community, adding water to the waterways, and observing pollution/ runoff when rain falls over the landscape top and carries soil (cocoa), chemicals (colored drink mixes) and oil (cocoa and water mixture) through a watershed to a body of water. Stormwater runoff and storm drain function are also addressed.
- 25 minutes – Either entire class or group rotation
- D. Design your own watershed – This is an art activity that can be started on the first visit, and worked on by students between additional visits /field day. Students can create their own watershed based upon what they have learned about their local watershed. This can be a 3-D project, either with modeling clay, or similar to a diorama, or even 2-d painting or drawing, depending on the classroom preferences and amount of time available.
- Time and materials required vary.

II. Field trip to Bidwell Park, or outdoor stations on school site

2 to 3 hours

Kids & Creeks Curriculum

www.kidsandcreeks.org/

Learn about riparian ecology, natural and cultural history, aquatic biology, and herpetology at four stations:

Four of the following activities will be offered:

- Find and identify aquatic invertebrates;
- Visit with local herpetologist and his collection;
- Craft demonstration and discussion by local Mechoopda tribal members;
- Nature walk along the creek;
- Learn more about aquatic and riparian species by playing salmon related games;
- Make art from materials along the creek.

III. Follow-up classroom visit

1 to 2 hours

- A. Water quality monitoring – Students test creek water samples for Ph, temperature, etc. Students log data and check for patterns, find averages, etc.
- 45 minutes – 1 hour
- B. Complete Creative Watersheds – (See I. D. above)

IV. Community Showcase event

1 hour

- A. Students' watershed models are displayed at local public space (e.g. public library, school lobby). Students write a press release, and invite the press and their local representatives.
- B. Students hold a press conference, and share information on how to prevent runoff pollution of our waterways.

V. Family Involvement

- A. Participating classrooms receive the Chico Clean Creeks 2008 Calendar for each student to refer to at home, and use as a tool to educate their families.
- B. Handouts inviting parents to mark storm drains in their neighborhood, with instructions on where to pick up maps and markers at the City, are provided.

Contact

Jennifer Oman

SWM EOP Coordinator

530.521.2260

jenniferoman@mac.com

www.keepchicoclean.org

Storm Water Management Education and Outreach Program is funded by the City of Chico