Get Your Feet Wet!

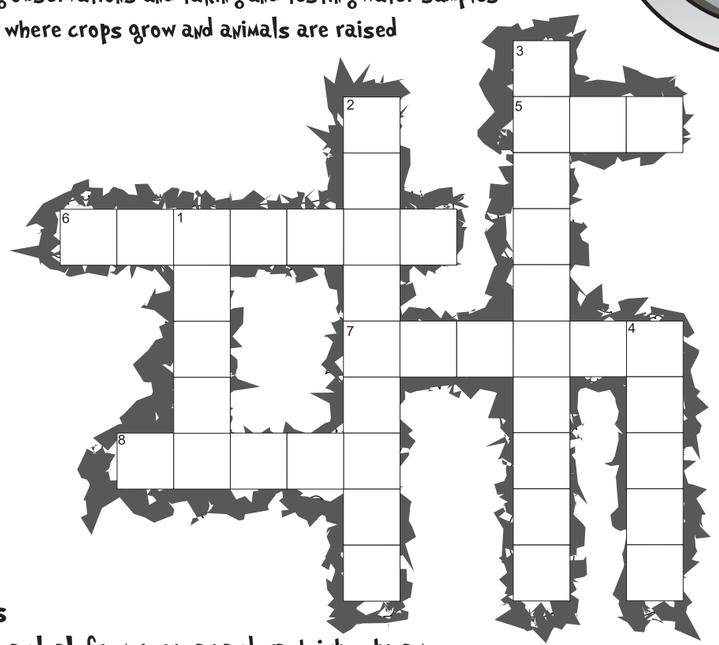
Monitor Your WATERSHED

World Water Monitoring Day

October 18

Down

1 A body of running water
2 Surrounding land that drains rain and snow into a body of water
3 Making observations and taking and testing water samples
4 Places where crops grow and animals are raised



Across

5 This can leak from your car and wash into streams
6 Cars drive along and park on these paved areas
7 Rain that washes over land and drains into bodies of water
8 Wrappers, cans and bottles people drop carelessly on the ground

Answers: 1- river 2- watershed 3- monitoring 4- farms 5- oil 6- streets 7- runoff 8- trash

KIDS: Did You Know....?

- A watershed is land that drains rain and snow to a stream, lake, wetland, bay, or the ocean.
- *EVERYONE* lives in a watershed.
- Wildlife, birds, fish, and aquatic bugs need healthy waters to survive.
- Most of the problems in our watersheds today come from polluted runoff: rain that washes over streets and farms, carrying dirt, oil, fertilizer, pesticides, animal waste, and trash into our waters.
- Kids can help by becoming water monitors and learning about the condition of their local watersheds.
- Monitoring water quality can include testing water samples, identifying water plants and animals, and looking at what's happening on the land next to the water.

Use the letters of the alphabet that correspond with the numbers to decode this message.

21	14	4	5	18	19	20	1	14	4
15	21	18		23	1	20	5	18	19	20	15
16	18	15	20	5	3	20		20	8	5	13

1	=	A
2	=	B
3	=	C
4	=	D
5	=	E
6	=	F
7	=	G
8	=	H
9	=	I
10	=	J
11	=	K
12	=	L
13	=	M
14	=	N
15	=	O
16	=	P
17	=	Q
18	=	R
19	=	S
20	=	T
21	=	U
22	=	V
23	=	W
24	=	X
25	=	Y
26	=	Z

PARENTS AND TEACHERS:

It's easy to learn more about watersheds and water monitoring, and fun to share what you've learned with children. You may want to start by taking kids on a neighborhood watershed walk. Point out litter, exposed/eroded dirt, oil spills, and pet waste that will wash off into local streams and lakes in the next storm. Sketch a map showing paved areas, woods and fields, hills and valleys, bodies of water, and other major features of your watershed. Look for wildlife such as frogs, turtles, and birds that depend on clean water to live.

Get your kids started as water monitors. Monitor a nearby stream or lake to celebrate World Water Monitoring Day (October 18) and enter your data at www.worldwatermonitoringday.org. Join a volunteer monitoring or watershed protection organization in your area, or start your own!

Find out more! Check out these websites for more information.

World Water Monitoring Day: www.worldwatermonitoringday.org
Volunteer monitoring: www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/volunteer
Watershed stewardship projects for kids: www.epa.gov/adopt/patch
EPA's water website for kids: www.epa.gov/water/kids.html
Adopt your watershed: www.epa.gov/owow/adopt

EPA
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds
Washington, DC 20460

EPA 841-H-03-005