



Soil Conservation Curriculum

Why soil conservation?

Have you ever been sick? Do you remember how you felt miserable? Think about what it felt like to have a runny nose, sore throat, sick stomach, or a rash. Have you ever gotten hurt? Think about what it felt like to smash your finger, bonk your head, or cut your skin. Bad health is no fun. There are many factors that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. One of the more misunderstood is our care of our environment. A quick walk through an urban neighborhood will reveal pollution heading toward our streams. This means less clean water to drink, and more unhealthy chemicals in our seafood products.

Air pollution contains a lot of dust, which is small soil particles that get into the air. These particles may be responsible for many deaths and illnesses each year (Air Resources, 2008). How do these particles get into the air?

Particulate Mortality. Air Resources Board, US EPA. 5/30/08.

<http://www.ncuaqmd.org/files/Particulate%20Matter%20Mortality%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

Websites with Environmental Kid's Activities

about.com

<http://grandparents.about.com/od/projectsactivities/tp/OutdoorGames.htm>

for kids outdoor games

eduScapes

<http://42explore.com/dirt.htm> for soil education

<http://www.42explore.com/prairie.htm> for prairie education

<http://www.42explore.com/water.htm> for wate education

<http://www.42explore.com/topic.htm> for a topic index

Family Education

<http://fun.familyeducation.com/outdoor-games/outdoor-activities/33332.html>

for kids outdoor activity ideas

Goddard Space Flight Center

<http://soil.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

Soil Education for older students

Kaboose

<http://family-fun.kaboose.com/outdoor-fun-activities-guide.html>

Soil Education for older students

Monterey Bay Aquarium
<http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/lc/activities/default.aspx>
Fun & Learning Section

National Association of Conservation Districts
<http://www.nacdnet.org/education/hiddentreasure/>
for a downloadable comic book on where our resources come from

Natural Resources Conservation Service
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/education/>

North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/knowzone/knowzone.htm>

Oregon Zoo
<http://www.oregonzoo.org/KidsZone/zooKids.html>
Try Some Fun & Games section

San Diego Zoo
<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/zoo/index.php>
Click on the kids tab

State Water Resources Control Board
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/outreach/education/school/games.shtml
for kids' activities
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/outreach/education/school/students.shtml
for other materials, particularly the publications and handouts link

West Texas A&M University
<http://www.wtamu.edu/~crobinson/DrDirt.htm>
for activities as well as materials to order regarding soils and environment

Websites with Environmental Print Materials for Sale

Soil & Water Conservation Society
http://store.swcs.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=c_Categories.viewCategory&catID=579&category=Cartoon%20Booklets
for cartoon booklets on conservation