

Franklin County

Henry County

City of Roanoke

Roanoke County

Fall/Winter 2022

Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation District



SOL BASED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



We work with the people who work the land.

Do you need help planning your classroom activities ?

A highlight of activities the Blue Ridge SWCD offers:

Enviro-scape:



This is a model of a community watershed. With interaction from students, point and non-point sources of pollution are identified and discussed. This is an excellent activity for students to participate in a “meaningful watershed experience”. (SOLs: K.5, K.10, 1.8, 2.8, 3.6, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.5, 4.8, 5.6, 5.7, 6.5, 6.7, 6.9, LS.11, LS.12, ES.7, ES.9)

Erosion Box Activity:

Students test the velocity, turbidity and environmental impact of erosion on bare soil



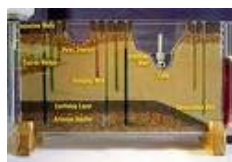
Virginia Products Map



and gullies and the environmental impact with the installation of best management practices. (SOLs: 1.1, 3.7, 3.10, 4.8, 5.7, 6.5)

Students are fascinated by this giant map of Virginia! They learn where produce and products are grown and raised in Virginia along with identifying Virginia’s five physiographic regions. (SOLs: Science 4.2 & 4.8, English 4.7, 4.8 & 4.9 and History 4.1,4.2 & 4.3)

Ground Water Model:



Is an interactive class room tool that is designed to show the flow of water and toxins through differing gradients. It may demonstrate flowage through confined and unconfined aquifers as well as the effects of pumping on these aquifers. (SOLs: K.9, 1.8, 3.7, 3.9, 4.8)

Dirt Babies:

This is a fun and unique way to teach students about the characteristics and essential role fertile soil plays in the survival of all living things. Students personalize their “dirt baby” with facial features



babies” with facial features and other decorative ornaments then place them in their very own incubator under the sun. Provide them with lots of TLC and watch them grow. (SOLs: 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10)

Who Polluted the River?

Using a model to represent a body of water, students participate to see how as populations increase in an area the resource use changes and the body of water becomes polluted. This demonstrates how we are all connected in the pollution problem. Then the students discuss ways to conserve our resources. (SOLs: K.5, K.10, 1.8, 2.8, 3.6, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 4.5, 4.8, 5.7, 6.5, 6.7, 6.9, LS.11, LS.12, ES.7, ES.9)

For more information, contact

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Check out our web site for updated BMP Programs and educational activities at:

<http://www.brswcd.org>

“Clean Water For the Frog” - A story about wetlands by Carol Anne & E. Graham

A wetland is an area that has standing water long enough to allow plant growth adapted to living in water or wet soils and soils that indicate low oxygen. “Clean Water for the Frog” activity provides students in K-3 grade an opportunity to

learn the basic benefits, structure, function of wetlands and the life cycle of the frog. Science SOLs include: K.6, 1.4, 1.5,1.8, 2.4, 2.5, 2.8, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.10. This is a Virginia Cooperative Extension program.



Mark Your Calendar!

Envirothon Competition Visit: www.vaswcd.org/Envirothon

Rain Barrel & Compost Workshop Schedules: www.franklincountyva.org/parks

Educational Activities Continued– Fall/Winter 2022



Team Up for 2022 Envirothon

The Virginia Envirothon is a team based natural resources competition for high school students. Students who participate learn stewardship and management concepts and work to solve real world environmental problems. The program is field-oriented, community based and gives students an opportunity to work with natural resources professionals. Students work in teams of five. Teams can be created through school clubs, classes, home school groups, 4-H groups, scout troops, local nature centers etc. The only requirements of a team are a minimum of five students and one adult advisor/chaperone. These teams of high school students are tested on their knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and a current environmental issue. For more information contact Maura Christian (Maura.Christian@vaswcd.org) at (804) 559-0324 and to view the Envirothon video visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UScAswsQSo>. TEAM UP!!!



Tumbler Style Composter Workshops

How Does Your Garden Grow? If you and your friends are interested in building your own Tumbler-style Composter (for only \$100 each) register on-line through the Franklin County Parks & Recreation at <https://playfranklincounty.com> then go to “activities” then to “life skills” to schedule a workshop one week prior to each session.



Rain Barrel Workshops

Have you ever thought about the amount of rainwater that runs off of your roof and is diverted to the nearest ditch, creek or over pavement? Learn to construct your very own rain barrel by attending one of our Rain Barrel Workshops (for only \$60 each). See how easy it is to collect gallons of water for a variety of “around the house” uses. Register through Franklin County Parks & Recreation at <https://playfranklincounty.com> then go to “activities” then to “life skills” to schedule a workshop one week prior to each session.

“Rigsby”



This is a story written and illustrated by Jenny Bingham

through “Virginia Naturally”. **Rigsby** is a small raccoon who sets out on a happy hunt but encounters unexpected problems along the way. Students learn how important it is to take care of our environment for the sake of all as presented with animal puppets and props. Science SOLs for K10, 1.5 & 1.8

Additional Resources

- **VA Naturally** - Here, you will find links to more than 600 organizations which provide environmental education programs and services in Virginia including volunteer and funding opportunities, teacher workshops and lesson plans, conferences, community events, and other resources. <https://dwr.virginia.gov>
- **Department of Conservation and Recreation** - information on watersheds, Non Point Source Pollution, storm water management, and the Adopt-A-Stream program <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov>
- **Project WET** - a supplementary water education program

for educators giving special emphasis to understanding the needs for water by all water users

www.projectwet.org

- **Project WILD** - a wildlife focused conservation education program for K-12 educators and students

www.projectwild.org

- **Project Underground** - a national educational program on caves and karst awareness www.dcr.virginia.gov/underground.htm

- **Project Learning Tree** - a K-12 curriculum of activities to increase students’ understanding of the environment

Additional Activities

In conjunction with these programs and others, the District offers interactive stream survey curriculum utilizing the “Leaf Pack Stream Ecology Kit” as well as “What is Water?” A Virginia Cooperative Extension interactive curriculum featuring an animated Canadian Goose wittingly teaches numerous properties and characteristics of water.

The NEED PROJECT:

“Science of Energy” Elementary

www.plt.org

- **Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Education Cookbook** - recipes for hands-on activities and projects from Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the state of Virginia. Most activities include SOLs to be covered.

www.vaswcd.org/cookbook.htm

- **VA Cooperative Extension** conducts education programs in agriculture and natural resources, family & consumer science, & 4-H youth development. www.ext.vt.edu

and Secondary)- hands on experiments that students use to learn about the forms of energy and energy transformation. Check yours out today.

Each program covers Science SOLs in each grade level. If you would like to schedule a program, to share your ideas for activities, or would like more information please contact Kathy Smith our Program Manager/Education Coordinator.

- **Department of Environmental Quality** - this site includes several links to environmental education resources which include \$500-\$1000 grant opportunities

www.deq.state.va.us/education/homepage.html

- Mission of **NEED Project** is to promote an energy conscious and educated society by creating effective networks of students, educators, business, government and community leaders to design and deliver objective, multi-sided energy education programs. www.need.org

NEARLY ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND CAN BE ARRANGED ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.