

From the Mountains to the Estuary: From the Schoolyard to the Bay

**Meaningful Watershed Experiences
for Grade 6 Students**

Created by:



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In partnership with:



**Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Manassas Battlefield National Park**



Classroom Stewardship Project

We Can Make A Difference!

Overview

Students will work together to design a project that will improve their school yard environment or somehow benefit the Chesapeake Bay.

Materials

- Will depend on the project

Setting the Stage

Have the students reflect on what they have studied during this watershed unit. Even though they might be located far from the Bay, do their actions still affect it? Will changes at the local level affect the Chesapeake?

Acquisition of Learning

1. Based on their observations of their schoolyard and the activities they participated in, have student groups brainstorm to create projects that they could do as a class or as a school to help improve the quality of their schoolyard, community, and ultimately the Bay.
2. Make sure that it is a project that could be done by students (e.g. conducting a schoolyard clean up, not building better sewage treatment plants 😊)
3. Student groups should develop an outline for their project. It should include a materials list, amount of time, budget, and how it will improve the environment.
4. Have each group present their project to the class. Have the students discuss the pros and cons of each proposal.
5. You can combine ideas from different classes and adopt a 6th grade or even a school project or each class can come up with their own.
6. Have the students vote on the projects to decide which one they would like to undertake.
7. Encourage students to write letters to get the community and local government officials involved. Contact info for the PWC Board of County Supervisors located here:
<http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=040050000940000442>
8. Invite reporters, school board representatives, local government, PTSO members, and the community to participate in the project or to encourage the students in their stewardship of the environment.
9. Have students act as reporters and photographers to document the stewardship projects.

Encourage students to come up with their own ideas based on their observations and data collection.

For additional ideas for Schoolyard Stewardship Projects visit:
www.livebinders.com/edit?id=1925 and

Lessons from the Bay at <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/LFB/lessonplans/index.html>

Closure

At the end of the project ask the students to again reflect and answer the question that was asked at the beginning of the unit. Write a brief description of a watershed, why is the state of the watershed important to people, and how can we improve the water quality in the watershed?