

WATER EXPLORING

Summary: A practical activity to explore your local area and discover where water is found, what it is used for and why it is necessary.

Aim: To create awareness of water in our surroundings and the relationship between water and human life.

Equipment: Map, paper, pens, camera (optional)

Preparation: Find a suitable route around the local area

Duration: One to two hours

Setting: Local Area

Age Range: 11 to 14



LARCH HILL

INTERNATIONAL SCOUT CENTRE

eco adventure

Educational objectives

Explore the sources of clean water and clean air in the local environment. Identify threats to clean water and clean air in the local and global environment and be able to suggest solutions.

Aim 1

Scouts are working towards a world where people and natural systems have clean water and clean air.

Background

Water is vital for life and in many parts of the world can be found all around us in a variety of different places. In some parts of the world clean, safe water is not freely available. This activity encourages us to explore our local environment and discover our water, where it is, what it is needed for and what it looks like. Once we understand our water and why it is important to us we can begin to learn about water in a global context.

Step by step guide to activity

1. Split the Scouts into small groups and give each group a map, paper, pen and a camera (optional). A route can be marked on the map, or you can give them coordinates to follow, or they can decide on their own route within a marked area.
2. Before the groups set off, have a quick discussion about where they think they might find water. For example, stream or river, public toilets, puddle, water fountain etc.
3. The groups walk around the route looking for water. When they find some they should think about the following questions. Where is the water? What is it used for? How much water is there? Is it there every day? What colour is it? Does it smell, is it discoloured? Can humans drink it? Can animals drink it? If they have a camera they can take a photograph of the water.

Evaluation

1. Once all the groups have returned ask each group to present what they found and discuss the findings. Use the questions below to help the discussion. Were the Scouts surprised by the quantity of water they discovered? How does the water they found fit into the water cycle? How does the water help us? How does the water help plants and animals? Did anyone mention the water that is in the air as water vapour? Did anyone mention the water in the soil and underground?
2. If you have taken photographs, create a display of the water in your neighbourhood.
3. Did the groups identify water hidden within buildings? Ask them to think about what we use water for in our homes and how that water gets there. What happens to that water before it enters our homes? Where does it go after it leaves our homes and what happens to it then?

Further activities

1. Visit a water facility in your local area and learn about where the water in your home comes from, how it is cleaned and where it goes to after you have used it.
2. Build a model or make a poster showing the water cycle.
3. If you found any water pollution problems in your local area, investigate these more thoroughly. Find out what is causing the pollution and take some action to resolve it.
4. Look into ways we can be more efficient with our use of water in our day-to-day lives.