

Water Jams – An Earth Jams Presentation

Summary

Take a musical journey down the river and through the pipes. Matt drenches audiences with high-energy, interactive songs, with which students love dancing, clapping and singing along. How does water get polluted? Where does drinking water come from? How does the water cycle work? Students gush the answers after Water Jams and are dripping wet with appreciation of the value and scarcity of clean water as an essential resource. With great songs like *Stormdrain*, *Do Not Bottle Me*, *Way Down*, and *Sailing Up, Sailing Down* students will learn about water conservation, rivers, aquifers, and what they can do to protect the water.

Pre-Program Activities:

1. Brainstorm all the ways we use water as individuals and as a culture.
2. Investigate where the town water comes from. Some towns get their water from surface water like lakes or rivers, and other towns get the water from wells dug deep into the earth.
3. Introduce the lyrics to the songs in the **Water Jams Presentation**.
4. Water Challenge! Try and come up with 10 ways to reduce your water use as a school, class or individually.
5. Explore the watershed and groundwater models with folks from the Rural Maine Water Association to learn where the water comes from when we turn on the tap and where it goes when we are finished with it.

Post-Program Activities:

1. Take a watershed walk around your school grounds to see where the storm water runoff goes during a storm. Have students draw maps of the runoff in the area.
2. Have students design demonstrations of the various components of the water cycle (also called the hydrologic cycle). Let them present the demonstrations for the class. (water evaporating off the chalk board for example)
3. Take a field trip to a local river, sewage treatment plant, or pump station. Have local officials talk about the processes involved with supplying the town with water and cleaning the waste water.

Vocabulary:

Aquifer
Water cycle/Hydrologic cycle
Precipitation
Runoff
Regeneration
Watershed
H₂O

Erosion
Evaporation
Clean Water Act
Stormdrain
Algae
Nutrients