

Water Quality Scavenger Hunt

Take an adult with you to find the items below. Each item is directly related to the quality of our water. Go through the scavenger hunt to learn about how you can help keep our water clean. Feel free to write your

answers on the back. For extra fun, take a silly selfie with each item.

1. Find some water runoff. This is water on the surface of the ground, usually pavement like a street, parking lot, driveway, or sidewalk that runs downhill due to gravity. (If it is a dry day, pour some clean water onto the ground to create runoff.) Where did you find runoff?			 2. Find the storm drain this runoff will lead to. Is the storm drain you found clean or dirty? Does the storm drain have any markings telling who it belongs to? 		
3. If there is a lot of runoff from rain (or human activities, like emptying a pool), it will carry trash on the ground with it to the storm drain. Find trash on the street. What kind of trash did you find?			 4. Not only does water carry trash; it carries dirt, oil, chemicals, and many other pollutants as well. Even leaves that wash down a storm drain can pollute our waterways. Find another kind of pollutant, other than trash, on the street. What did you find? 		
5. Storm drains in your neighborhood and around the city carry water and pollutants directly to a creek, stream, river, or lake. Find a creek, stream, river, or lake that stormwater runs into. This may not be within walking distance. If you know the name of the creek, stream, river, or lake write it here.			6. We can do many things to help reduce the amount of runoff and pollutants that enter our waterways. The table below lists a few of these things. Find these items or actions that can help. Check off each item as you find it.		
Rain Barrel	Rain Garden	Native	Plants	Litter Pickup	Permeable Pavers
A rain barrel attaches	A rain garden collects	Native plants are		Picking up litter keeps	Permeable pavers are
to your gutters and collects runoff from	rainwater from a roof, driveway, or street	plants that grow in the area naturally.		trash out of our waterways. Find	used on sidewalks, patios, and driveways
your roof. You can then use the rain	and allows it to soak into the	Using native plants can reduce runoff		evidence of a litter pickup that has	instead of concrete. They allow water to
collected to water	ground, creating a	because they absorb		happened (like trash	soak into the ground
plants. It keeps this	beautiful way to	more water through		bags waiting to be	underneath them
rain from becoming	reduce runoff.	their roots.		collected) or pick up	instead of the water
runoff on our streets.				litter on your own.	becoming runoff.
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