

Good Watersh

What does it mean to be a good neighbor? What if your ball went into your neighbor's yard and they wouldn't give it back—would that be an example of a good neighbor? Being a good neighbor means you communicate with others, follow the rules, cooperate, show respect, and watch out for other people.

Just like your neighborhood, watersheds rely on people being good neighbors. You remember learning that "We All Live Downstream." Because everything we do can affect our watershed and even those neighbors who live downstream from us, it is important to be a good watershed neighbor.

You can conserve water, prevent pollution, and work with others to protect and restore watersheds. Watershed solutions developed by many people and organizations cooperating with each other is called Integrated Watershed Management.

How can you become a good watershed neighbor? You can use tools to protect watersheds, just like watershed managers. Like them, you can use CPR—Conservation, Protection, and Restoration.

Find the good watershed neighbors in the illustration below. Then try the Good Neighbor Activity with your friends or family to learn about working together to protect a watershed.



Teach friends and family about your watershed and how to protect it.

ed Neighbors

ACTIVITY

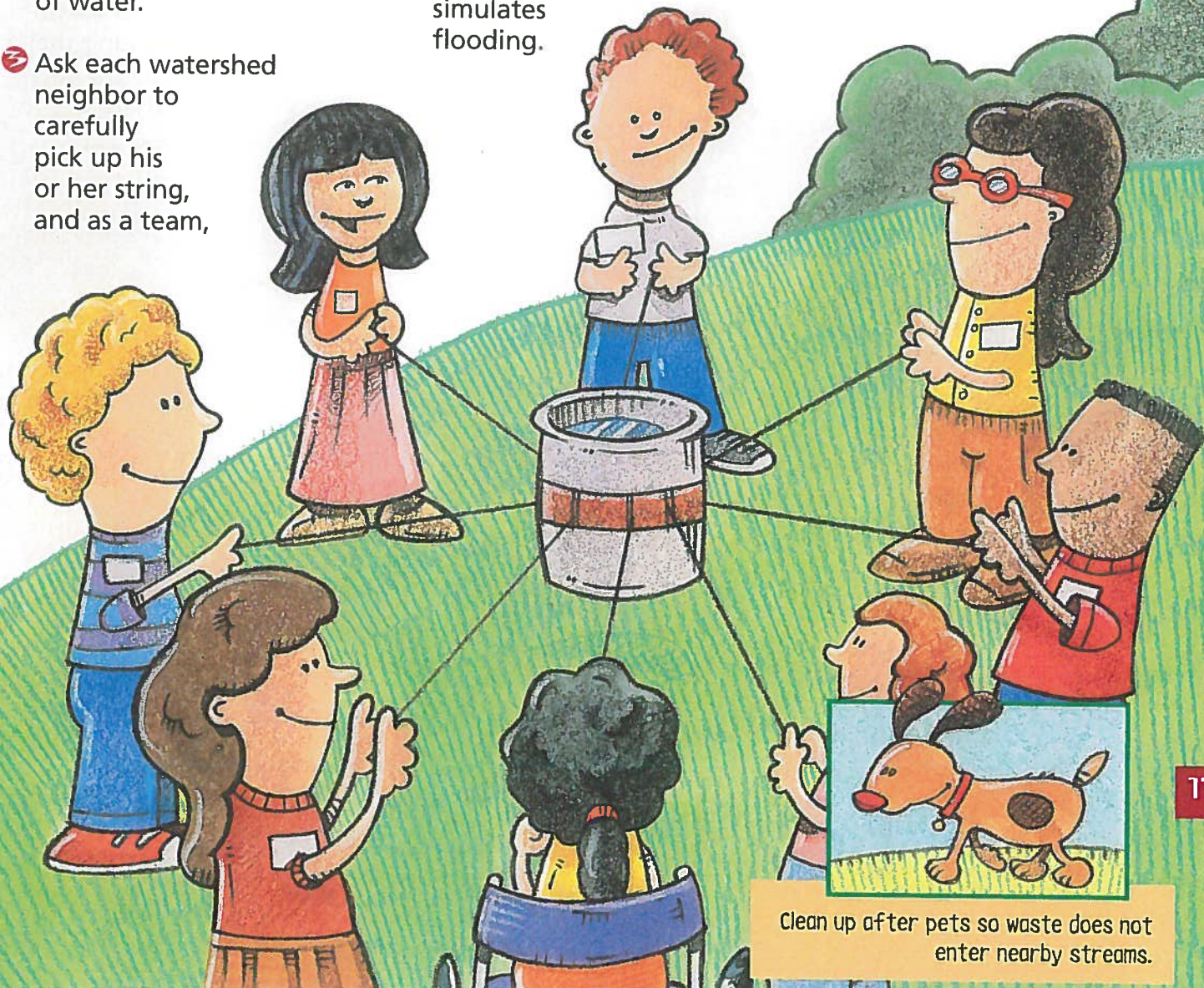
- 1 Gather eight friends or family members and each take on the role of a watershed neighbor: fish biologist, rancher, farmer, forester, company owner, hydrologist, elected officials, citizen.
- 2 Tie eight strings evenly spaced around a rubber band that fits snugly around a can 3/4 full of water.
- 3 Ask each watershed neighbor to carefully pick up his or her string, and as a team,

try to lift the can and move about without spilling it. Cooperation and communication with each other are the keys to making this work.

- 4 Watershed neighbors work together to protect watersheds. As a team, try to move the cup over an obstacle such as a string. This simulates flooding.

Going under the string simulates a drought.

YOU are a watershed neighbor, and everything you do to protect watersheds makes a difference. Small steps lead to big changes!



Good Watershed Neighbor

"Multiple Perspectives"

Background

Think of the many ways you have used water today. Perhaps you showered and brushed your teeth. You may have washed your breakfast dishes. Maybe you watered your lawn or garden (irrigation)? These are very basic, highly visible, domestic water uses.

However, what about the uses you don't see or think about. For example, your electricity may be generated at hydropower plant (Smith Mountain Lake Dam). Water is used to irrigate the fruits and vegetables you eat. What about recreation uses, such as swimming, water skiing, and fishing? Navigation and boating? Fish, animals and microorganisms (expand to see if students are familiar with these organisms) also need water to live.

Because there are many different uses for water, and each use demands different water quality standards, the USEPA created categories for specific water uses. These categories are:

- Domestic and industrial use
- Recreation for total body contact (swimming, water skiing, windsurfing)
- Recreation for partial body contact (boating, fishing)
- Aquatic organisms (fish, macroinvertebrates)
- Agriculture (irrigation, livestock watering)
- Commercial (navigation, hydroelectric and steam generated power)

Of course, depending on the water use, water quality data can be interpreted in many ways as there are users. All water users -farmers, ranchers, industry, citizens, elected officials, hydrologist, fish biologist, forester, etc. all have rights to water, yet all have different concerns about it. For example, farmers need to irrigate crops, the public water supply needs, individual household needs, livestock/aquaculture, industrial needs, mining and thermoelectric needs just to name a few for this particular county.

The average rainfall for Cooper County is 20"-30"/year. However, this area is currently experiencing drought conditions. Rain has not fallen in six weeks with no rain in expected in the near future. Decrease in water quantity and increase in water quality are becoming serious concerns for this community. A town meeting has been called to hear presentations from all of the multiple perspectives on water use during these drought conditions.

Conduct "Good Watershed Neighbor" activity

Good Watershed Neighbors Activity

Business Owner (Entrepreneur-Hydroponic Nursery):

- Someone who exercises initiative by organizing a venture to take benefit of an opportunity and, as the decision maker, decides what, how, and how much of a good or service will be produced.
- Supplies risk capital as a risk taker, and monitors and controls the business activities. The entrepreneur is usually a sole proprietor, a partner, or the one who owns the majority of shares in an incorporated venture.
- Greatly value self-reliance,
- Strive for distinction through excellence,
- Highly optimistic (otherwise nothing would be undertaken)
- Always favor challenges of medium risk (neither too easy, nor ruinous).

Citizen:

- Born and raised in Franklin County VA
 - Works at the local hardware store
 - Earned Master Gardener certification
 - Residence
 - water supply - well (ground water)
 - sewage - septic system
 - Raise a few chickens providing family with eggs and meat

Elected Official (Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation District Director):

- Provide information and technical assistance to encourage voluntary conservation practices for the improvement of water quality and soil conservation.
 - Best Management Practices
 - Watershed Dam Operation & Maintenance
 - Environmental Education & Outreach
 - Legislation through Soil & Water Conservation Board & Department of Conservation & Recreation

Farmer:

- Helps reduce ground water consumption through efficient water use practices
 - planting crops requiring less water
 - Adopt water conservation irrigation methods
 - Capturing and reusing runoff (roof)

Fish Biologist:

- Study fish and how outside forces affect fish life cycle and how fish respond to diseases in hope of finding medical cure for human beings.

