

Quiet Contamination of Our Waters

Learn about the environmental impact
of pharmaceuticals and personal care
products on the environment

Driving Question

How does my daily routine impact my local water resources?



What products do you use in your morning or evening routine?

1. What percentage of the people in your group has read the ingredient labels on their products? Looked them up online?
2. What chemicals and active ingredients are in these products?
3. Where do the chemicals go after you use them?
4. How do you think these chemicals affect us and our environment?

Part 1:

Environmental Impact

Example: Microbeads in facial washes

The problem: Plastic microbeads are washed into the water system, where they look like fish eggs. When eaten, the indigestible polyethylene or polypropylene can damage organs and block digestive systems. The plastics are passed on to the animals that eat the first animal, and they pass up through the food chain.



Part 2:

What are PPCPs?



Daily medications are called pharmaceuticals (P). Personal care products (PCP) include shampoo, soap, make-up and make-up removers, toothpaste, and moisturizers.

Where do the chemicals in PPCPs go when we rinse them down the drain?

What PPCPs are in our bathrooms?

The Story of Cosmetics



<http://storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-cosmetics/>

Product Ingredients

1. What are some common ingredients in products?
2. What is the purpose of those ingredients?
3. How do they affect our environment and waterways?



How to Reduce our Use

Brainstorm ideas! How can you reduce your use personal use of PPCPs?

1. Eliminate products you do not really need (or find healthy ways to dispose)
2. Purchase or make your own natural products
3. Complete and sign a personal “Action Plan-Reducing my PPCP Waste”



Service-Learning Project

Put Your Ideas into Action!

Try one of these:

1. Build awareness with posters and PSAs
2. Create a collection drive for un-used and old medications
3. Create your own natural PCPs.

Work with your classmates to create your own personal service project

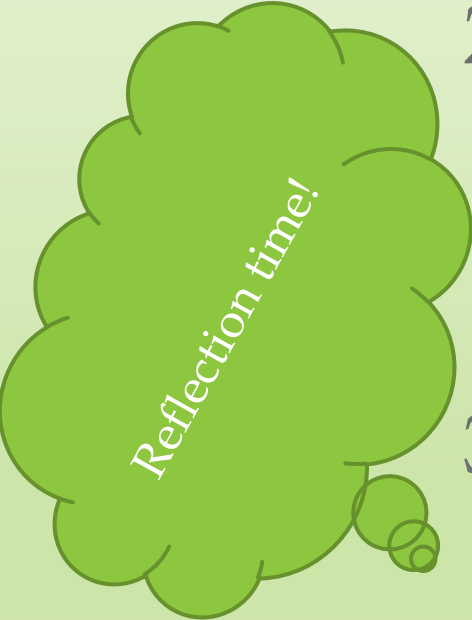


Water is the driving
force of all nature.

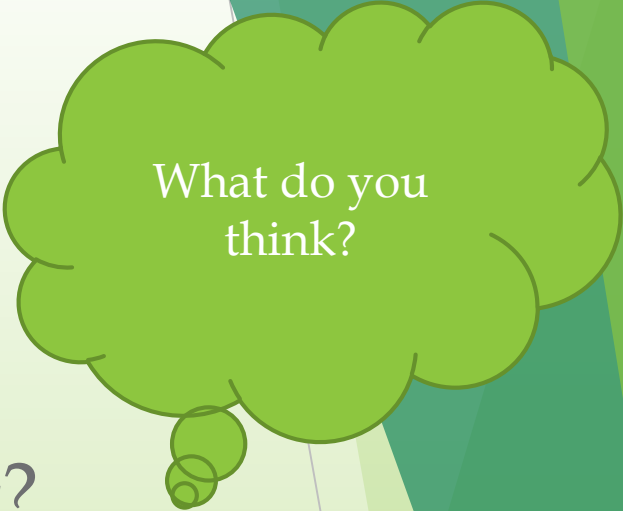
-- Leonardo daVinci

Reflection

1. What was the project impact?
2. Did people learn about this issue?
Did anyone change their habits or how they think about our water and what we put into it?
3. Why is it important to protect our water and be good stewards to our community?



Reflection time!



What do you think?