



MANZI's NEWS



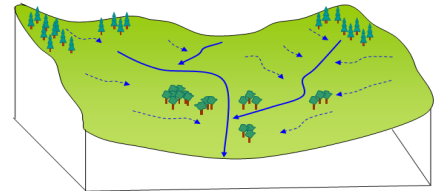
A Newsletter for Manzi's Water Wise Club Members

June 2017

CATCHMENT-All For One and One For All!

Hi Friends,

Hope that everything at school is going fine! Today we will learn about catchments. A catchment is an area of land drained by a river or body of water. If you take a look at the figure on the right, any rain that falls on the land will flow into the river. The land from the top of the slope to the river, that collects this water is known as a catchment.



The quality of a catchment area is very important. The activities of people within the catchment area affect the river flowing through it, which can lead to problems with water quality and quantity, and can have an affect on nature living in that catchment. Pollution can cause problems for irrigation, industry, fishing and tourism. The main problem is the amount of nutrients entering the river, mainly from agricultural fertilisers, and untreated or not adequately treated municipal sewage, including faeces and household products. This puts people at risk of getting diseases if they use the water to drink.



The Vaal River Catchment (see green area on map on left) is a very important water source for Gauteng. Built in 1938, the Vaal Dam stores water from the Vaal and Wilge Rivers, and supplies water to more than 13 million people in Gauteng, North West, Free State and Mpumalanga provinces. Their water flows through agricultural land and rural areas which means that this water is of reasonable good quality.



Two important water transfer schemes have been built to get water from other catchment areas into the Vaal Dam catchment. This is important because of the growth of Gauteng in terms of industry and the amount of people. These schemes are the Thukela Vaal Water Transfer Scheme and the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The water from the Vaal Dam is purified at two purification stations in Vereeniging and supplied to various local authorities who supply it to you.

Why Protect Our Catchments?

Human activities such as urban development, agriculture and land clearing have a negative impact on the health of catchments. Caring for our rivers, dams and water underground makes sure that there is a healthy catchment that can provide our community with:

- clean drinking water,
- healthy vegetation and waterways,
- habitats for plants and animals,
- natural areas for recreation,
- reliable and clean water for stock and irrigation,
- opportunities for sustainable agriculture and industry.



A rubbish dump in Pretoria

In order to make sure that the best quality water is possible from within our catchments, let us all follow some simple guidelines:

Throwing Away Rubbish

Think before you throw anything away. Where is this rubbish going to land up. If you throw it on the ground it will eventually land up in our rivers and make it unhealthy. Can the rubbish be reused or recycled? This is much better as less rubbish will land up on a rubbish dump. Better still, buy less so that there is less rubbish.

Recreational Activities

When doing recreational activities (whether you are in a car or four wheel drive, on a motorcycle or a horse) be sure to follow directions on sign posts, remain on marked tracks and camp on marked areas.

On the Farm

Reduce the flow of fertilisers, soil nutrients and agricultural chemicals into rivers when it rains heavily. This includes livestock manure.

Septic Tanks

Make sure that septic tanks are maintained properly. They mustn't leak into rivers.



All for One and One for All Word Search

Find the words in the word search and circle each word. You will be left with 9 uncircled letters that will make the name of the area of land that drains into a river.

FIND THESE WORDS

POLLUTION	P		F	L	D	A	M		V	
FREE STATE	O	S	R	A	C		A	R	E	T
KLIP	L	E	E	N		T	C	I	R	S
WILGE	L	W	E	D	H	M		V	E	E
VAAL	U	A	S	T	A	T	E	E	E	W
DAM	T	G	D	I	R	T	Y	R	N	H
NORTH WEST	I	E		V	A	A	L	S	I	T
VEREENIGING	O		K	L	I	P			G	R
RIVERS	N	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	I	O
QUALITY	W	A	T	E	R	E		N	N	N
WATER		W	I	L	G	E	T		G	
SEWAGE										
DIRTY										
LAND										

ANSWER: _____

Do you see that it is very important to look after catchments. The quality of river water is only good if the catchment is wisely managed. Chief Seattle, a native American Indian Chief, said, "The rivers are our brothers, they carry our canoes and feed our children... So you must give to the river the same kindness you would give to your brother."

Till next time!
Always remember to be Water Wise!
Love
Manzi

References:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catchment_area
www.dwa.gov.za
<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com>

