

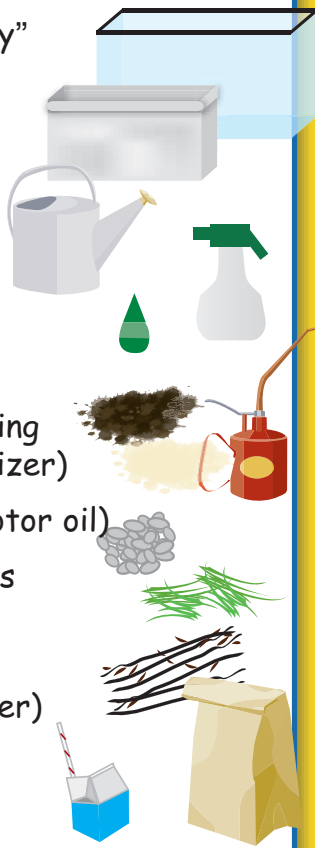
EXPERIMENT 13: Non-point Source Pollution

Challenge: Demonstrate what an average storm drain collects during a rainfall! Find out how the water from the storm drains can impact the water quality and aquatic environments of local storms, rivers and bays.



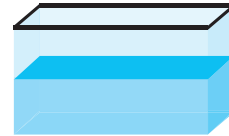
WHAT YOU NEED:

- Aquarium to serve as “Waterway”
- Rectangular Water Box to serve as storm drain
- Watering Can to serve as rain
- Spray Bottle
- “Pollutants”
 - Green Food Coloring (pesticides/fertilizer)
 - Vegetable Oil (motor oil)
 - Soil/Sand/Pebbles (erosion)
 - Grass Clippings (or Shredded Paper) and Twigs
 - Cafeteria Waste and Trash (yuck)

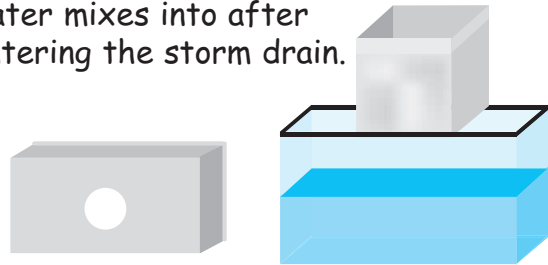


STEP-BY-STEP:

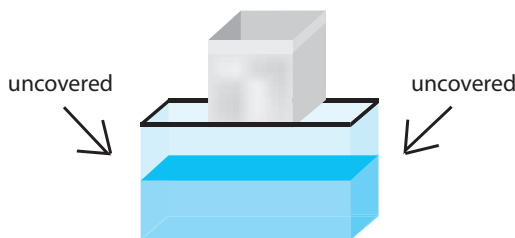
1. Fill the aquarium half-way with water.



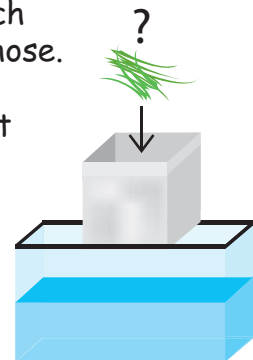
2. Cut a hole in the bottom of the box and place the box on top of the aquarium. The box represents the storm drain and the aquarium represents the waterway that the storm water mixes into after entering the storm drain.



3. Leave the sides of the aquarium uncovered so that you can view its contents.



4. Think about each pollutant you chose. Think about where it comes from and how it could enter the storm drain.

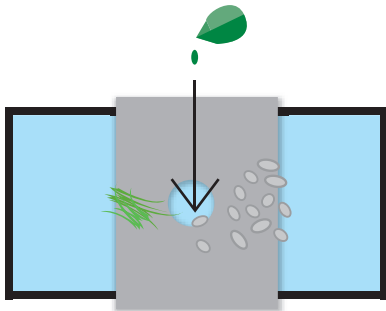


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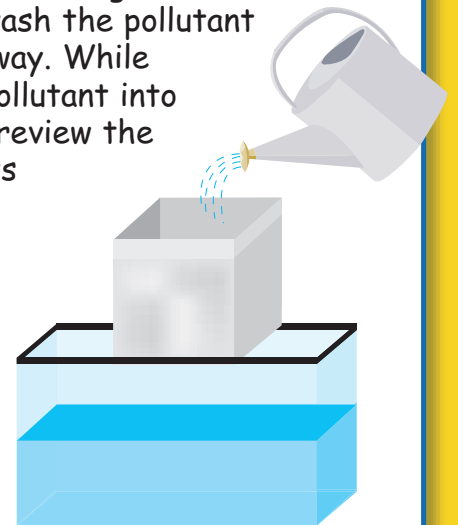
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- 5.** Place the pollutants one at a time into the storm drain. If you are doing this in a group, assign each student to one pollutant, and have them add their pollutant to the storm drain.



- 6.** Use the watering can to create rain to wash the pollutant into the waterway. While washing each pollutant into the waterway, review the pollutant and its use or origin.



QUESTIONS:



- After adding all of the pollutants, examine the contents of the waterway. Think about and discuss how the waterway has changed and how viewing this change makes you feel.
- Do the people who are responsible for the pollutant want to damage the environment? Why did they do what they did? Do they even know they did it?
- How can this type of pollution be stopped?