

“Flooding You With Facts”

Science Background Information

OVERVIEW: This lesson provides a necessary science background for understanding some of the complexities of how a river system functions. It is particularly designed for students who might not be covering the River material in a science class. The drawings included throughout the material will help students visualize as well as analyze and synthesize the information.

OBJECTIVES:

- To understand basic ecological principles governing a river system
- To examine some of the unique geologic features of the Rio Grande system
- To apply an understanding of riparian systems to the Rio Grande bosque
- To analyze sources of contamination and pollution of the Rio Grande system

Procedures:

1. Distribute a copy of the **Handout** to each student or teams of students.

(You may wish to cover the material in stages. If so, have them read **1. The Earth's Supply of Fresh Water**. Go over the Vocabulary and discuss the information.)

2. Examine in careful detail **2. The Hydrologic Cycle: How Water Recycles**. Go over the vocabulary.

3. Divide the students into groups of 3-4. Invite them to follow the directions for being a drop of precipitation. Have them draw their cycle on a piece of butcher paper for presentation to the rest of the class.

4. Follow the same kind of pattern for the rest of the material.

Materials:

- Handout 1: "Flooding You With Facts"
- Butcher paper
- Colored pencils or crayons

TIME: Two class periods

VOCABULARY: All vocabulary is defined within the text.

fresh water
liquid fresh water
ground water
surface water
aquifers
recharge
fossil aquifers
precipitation
evapo-transpiration
irrigation diversion
water table
river system
Rio Grande Basin
watersheds
ecosystems

	<p>mainstem seasonal rivers bosque recharge zones amphibians reptiles river fluctuations sustainability degraded contaminants pollutants permit to discharge point sources nonpoint sources</p>
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