Eco-Schools USA-Watersheds, Oceans and Wetlands

Watershed Walk

Take a 10-minute walk in your neighborhood with a caregiver or guardian. If taking a walk isn't an option, use Google Earth. Input your address, including your city and state. Choose the person icon to get to the street view. Use the forward and backward icons to "walk" through your neighborhood while answering the questions below.

1. Count the number of trees you see.	
2. Count the number of green spaces. Green spaces are things like parks, community food or flower gardens, or tiny forests.	
3. How would you best describe the topography, flat, (a few or a lot) small hills, (a few or a lot) big hills, a combination of one or all?	
4. Look to your left, look to your right, look far, look near, look up and look down. Estimate how much concrete you see. Circle the percentage.	0% 25% 50% 75% 100% ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
5. Be on the lookout for litter. If you have gloves and a bag, pick up the litter. List the different kinds of litter you observe.	
6. Count the number of trash cans you observe.	_____ # of trash cans ___ overflowing ___ full ___ empty
7. Record the number of dog poops observed.	

CONTINUED

8. Do you observe a waterway, such as a creek, stream, bayou, etc.? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ clear of litter along the banks ☐ some litter along the banks ☐ a lot of litter along the banks

☐ no vegetation along the banks ☐ a little vegetation along the banks ☐ a lot of vegetation along the banks

---

9. Count the number of storm drains you see. _____ storm drains

☐ clear of debris ☐ blocked partially by debris ☐ completely blocked by debris

We collected a lot of data. Let's talk about it!

1) Does everyone live in a watershed?

2) When it rains, where does the water go?

3) Based on your observations, do you think your neighborhood has more land that will absorb water, permeable, allowing water to flow through it, or more land that is impermeable, surfaces that make the water run over or around it?

4) Which of the activities above do you think are harmful to your watershed? Explain why they harmful.

5) What are some activities that benefit your watershed? Explain why they are beneficial.