

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

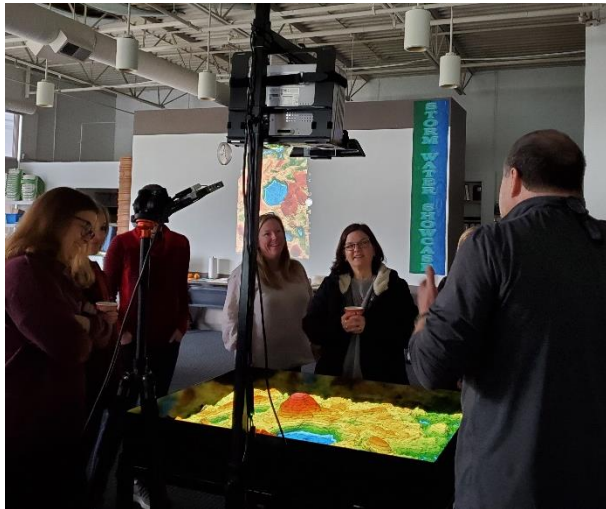


Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 70 Years

FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Franklin Soil and Water provides a variety of interactive environmental education programs focused on connecting our community to local soil and water resources.



Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District offers a variety of educational resources for schools, homeschools, scout and youth groups. Opportunities include interactive educational programs, informational videos on-line, models and kits for loan, contests and professional development.

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RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District Education Team provides interactive presentations to students in both formal and nonformal settings. All of the programs have been correlated with Ohio’s New Learning Standards for Earth and Space Sciences and Life Sciences. The programs include models, simulations, activities and literature connections.

INTERACTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

TOPIC OR THEME	PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS
Environmental Awareness Human Impact <i>Grades K-5</i>	<i>The Empty Lot</i> by Dale Fife	Students are introduced to local Ohio animals and habitats as well as potential human impact through this interactive story.
Environmental Awareness Human Impact <i>Grades PreK-5</i>	<i>The Lorax</i> by Dr. Seuss	Through participation in the narration of this Dr. Seuss story, students witness human impact on the environment and discuss the importance of making wise choices.
Environmental Awareness Human Impact <i>Grades PreK-5</i>	Francis the Fish	Students portray characters in a local community and observe how everyday actions may impact water quality in our local streams. The program concludes with a brainstorming of positive environmental habits.
Environmental Awareness Water Quality/Human Impact <i>Grades 1-12</i>	What’s in Our Water?	Using the <i>EnviroScope watershed model</i> , students observe changes in water quality when rain and land pollutants mix. Runoff, erosion, point and non-point source pollution concepts are addressed.
Environmental Awareness Soil Erosion/Water Quality <i>Grades: 1-12</i>	The Sliding Soil	Using a <i>soil erosion simulator</i> , students predict and compare the effects of rain falling on bare soil, mulched soil, grass and a driveway. Soil erosion, water quality and landscape alterations are discussed.
Habitat or Ecosystems Life in the Soil <i>Grades PreK-5</i>	Discovering Soil is Alive	Students discover that soil is alive as they uncover invertebrates living in the soil. Students will determine that soil is a habitat for a variety of animals and that some of these animals contribute to soil health.
Habitat or Ecosystems Life in a River <i>Grades K-5</i>	<i>Crawdad Creek</i> by Scott Russell Sanders	Sitting around a “dry stream” model, students encounter local stream animals as we read <i>Crawdad Creek</i> by Scott Russell Sanders. The connection between human interaction and stream health is addressed.
Habitat or Ecosystems Life in a River <i>Grades K- 2</i>	<i>Rain Fish</i> by Lois Ehlert	Science, art and literacy intersect in this program. Using the book <i>Rain Fish</i> , students will discover what rain fish are, create their own rain fish and understand that only rain should go down the storm drain.
Natural Resources Soil <i>Grades 3-8</i>	Journey Through the Soil	Students sit within the “Soil Tunnel”, a painted canvas mural depicting the world underground in urban and natural habitats. The discussion includes layers, types, textures, ingredients and uses of soil.
Natural Resources Soil <i>Grades 3-8</i>	Exploring Soil	Through hands-on activities, students will investigate soil components, examine different layers of soil, create soil by weathering rocks, and determine soil type by texturing samples.
Natural Resources Fossils <i>Grades 2, 4</i>	Fascinating Fossils	Let’s take a step back in time! We’ll investigate different types of fossils and how they are formed, compare fossils to present day organisms and discover living fossils that can be found today.
Natural Resources Plants <i>Grades 2-8</i>	The Power of Native Plants	The importance of native plants and pollinators are discovered as students explore plant parts and their uses. The role of plants in the stabilization of soil and filtering of stormwater runoff may be addressed.

VIDEOS & DIGITAL PRESENTATIONS

VIDEO	LENGTH	TOPIC
<u>Soil Tunnel Explanation</u> <i>Grades 3, 6, HS Environmental Science</i>	16 minutes	Basic information of soil layers, types, textures and ingredients are described through the use of a mural.
<u>Soil Erosion Simulator Demonstration</u> <i>Grades 4, 8, HS Environmental Science</i>	6 minutes	The force of rain on soil, mulch, grass and paved surface is demonstrated through a scientific experiment.
<u>EnviroScape Watershed Model</u> <i>Grades PreK, 1- 4, 7, HS Environmental Science</i>	4 minutes	Demonstration of non-point and point sources of pollution
<u>Searching for Macroinvertebrates</u> <i>Grades PreK-5, 7 HS Environmental Science</i>	11 minutes	Macroinvertebrates: What they are, why they are important & where to find them

MODELS & KITS FOR LOAN

TOPIC	MODEL/KIT	DESCRIPTION
Natural Resources Soil <i>Grades 3-8</i>	Rocks & Soil Loan Kit	Includes: Information/reference materials, activities, books and rock/fossil/soil samples. Students can explore the properties, types and importance of rocks, minerals, fossils and soil.
Natural Resources Landscape/Water <i>Grades 4, 7-12</i>	Augmented Reality Sandbox	The Augmented Reality Sandbox (ARS) is a model that demonstrates changes to landscapes and how water flows across a watershed, in real time. Students can investigate topography, hydrology, watersheds, and run off.
Environmental Awareness Soil Erosion/Water Quality <i>Grades: 1-12</i>	Soil Erosion Simulator	Using the simulator model, students predict and compare the effects of rain falling on different landscapes. Soil erosion, water quality and landscape alterations are discussed.
Environmental Awareness Ground Water/Water Quality <i>Grades: 6-12</i>	Ground Water Model	Students can observe the dynamics of water flowing underground and discover how a contaminated well can affect the quality of water miles away through this model that depicts confined/ unconfined layers, aquifers and fractured bedrock.
Environmental Awareness Stream Habitats/Water Quality <i>Grades: 1-12</i>	Watershed Loan Kit	Includes: Information, activities, books, puppets, preserved macroinvertebrates, posters and a dry stream model. Students can explore concepts of stream habitats and water quality.
Environmental Awareness Water Quality/Human Impact <i>Grades 1-12</i>	EnviroScape Watershed Model	Runoff, erosion, point and non-point source pollution concepts can be addressed with this model.
Environmental Awareness Water Quality/Human Impact <i>Grades 4,7,9-12</i>	Murky Water Caper Kit	The Murky Water Caper is a Reader's Theatre play of Deborah Rodney Pex's detective story about the causes and effect of water pollution. 25 scripts, character props, costumes and simple scenery are included in this kit.



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Please contact [Linda Pettit](#), Environmental Education Specialist for additional information or to schedule a program or loan kit.

Education programs are made possible through support from Franklin County Commissioners, local Cities, Municipalities, Villages and Townships in compliance with stormwater permit requirements.

FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES: SWIFTlets

SWIFTlets are two-page documents that include soil/water information and learning activities related to a specific environmental theme. These can be used to extend learning at-home or in the classroom. ([Click here](#) for our Standards Correlations Document)

Pesky Pollution	Soil Superheroes	Surprising Seeds	Native Plants	Celebrating the Earth	Pollinator Power
Wonders of Water	Helping Hands for Endangered Friends	Mighty Macros	Splendid Soil	Scoop on Scat	Stream Stewardship
Waste Not, Want Not	Looking at Leaves	Studying Stormwater	Colorful Compost	Below the Winter Snow	Venturing Into Vernal Pools
Fascinating Fossils	Curious Clouds	Cicada Palooza	Amazing Agriculture	SWIFTlet+ Macro Informants	SWIFTlet+ Wild Waterways

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

OPPORTUNITY	TIMING	DESCRIPTION
<u>Field Trip</u>	Spring and Fall	<p><i>A favorite field trip option is:</i> Stream Quality Monitoring</p> <p>Students investigate what lives within our local streams and participate in scientific sampling techniques to determine the health of the stream based on the organisms collected.</p>
<u>Poster Contest</u>	Jan-April	<p>Franklin County students (grades K-12) are invited to participate in a poster contest featuring an environmental theme. Posters are judged in different age categories and winners are presented with awards at a local ceremony.</p>
<u>Envirothon Competition</u>	Spring	<p>Teams of high school students from central and southern Ohio answer questions about aquatic ecology, forestry, soils, wildlife and environmental issues to compete in this outdoor competition. Regional winners progress to the state contest with hopes to advance to the North American event in July.</p>
<u>Professional Development</u>	Year Round	<p>Franklin Soil and Water provides training for educators that includes information, hands-on activities and related resources for a variety of environmental topics. Specific curriculum programs such as Projects WET, WILD and Learning Tree are also available. College credit is an option!</p>

Thank You to our Partners and Sponsors!!

These programs and resources are available due to partnerships, grants and working agreements with the following:

- The Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Franklin County Engineers
- The cities of Bexley, Canal Winchester, Columbus, Dublin, Gahanna, Grove City, Hilliard, New Albany, Obetz, Reynoldsburg, Upper Arlington, Westerville and Worthington
- Unincorporated Franklin County and Townships