



EnviroScape Tips for Educators

The following suggestions and tips were compiled from teachers and environmental educators by Environmental Education Products, Inc. (<http://www.envirosapes.com/tips.html>).

Presentation:

"Brain storm" with students before using the EnviroScape about issues concerning non point source pollution using the question, "What are some of the ways/things we have done to impact our water systems/water ways?" Or, "Human activities change the earth's land, water and atmosphere. Some of these changes decreased the capacity of the environment to support life forms." What question you use depends greatly on the age group of the students. After brain storming this question and listing on poster paper these (usually one word) statements, move to the EnviroScape and have the students begin to discuss/demonstrate these issues. (This can take up to 45 minutes.)

Tips for Short Programs (20 minutes) for Models: With all the models you can pick and choose what elements (from the Users Guide and your experience) to focus on, depending on time frame, audience, key points. For example, you may pick a handful of areas/activities that represent the conservation principles or safe management practices and just focus on those to fit your time constraints.

If you have larger groups, here are some suggestions also:

- Perhaps a lower table with a semi-circle with different height chairs (row sitting on floor, row sitting on chairs, row sitting on tables) - or if possible, ask that sessions be in a science lab if graduated seating.
- Another idea would be to have a large mirror to reflect what was happening on the table from a higher place - this has been done in presentations to large groups at conferences - but may be too cumbersome/difficult to do in schools.
- Of course, you can always rotate the front line - have four kids at once apply something on different areas of the landscape - each saying what they had done, then four others add water - this cycle gives eight at a time the chance to interact - but you would need teacher support to make it work. And, pre or post info to reinforce the ideas.

Pollutant Tips and Options:

To show the chemical reaction that can occur when different types of pesticides and fertilizers are mixed from various uses on land. . . Take a small amount of baking soda and sprinkle on the landscape (primarily on the agricultural area but could use residential or industrial area, too). Add a drop or two of standard vinegar. A

REACTION OCCURS. The baking soda and vinegar mixture bubbles up and represents a compounded chemical reaction. Add rain to the landscape and, if you care to, even test the pH factor as an added experiment. The emphasis of this activity is to show the cumulative effects of mixing unknown chemicals, the reaction that can occur and its effect on the watershed. Remember, this mixture is great to replace oven cleaners and other toxic household products! (Don' worry -- the materials are non-toxic!)

Showing motor oil: try using soy sauce or chocolate syrup to demonstrate motor oil on the roads.

Use **sugarless Kool-Aid** outside to avoid flies, yellow jackets, and clumps. You can also use water with food coloring to avoid insect problems.

Use **sand or real soil** for sediment instead of cocoa.

Use **cocoa crispies** or mini chocolate chips for animal manure.

Cleaning Tips and Options:

Use a toothbrush to **clean your buildings**.

Use a **rag instead of a sponge** for faster clean-up.

Recycle your **onion bags** and use them to carry your wet items.