

Teacher's Conservation Corner

John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District

Grants Available

There are currently a couple of grants available for Environmental Education. The first is from the Chesapeake Bay Trust (<https://cbtrust.org/grants/environmental-education-mini/>). This grant's deadline is January 9, 2020 and projects must be completed by September 1, 2020.

The program funds up to \$5,000 for projects that involve students investigating a local environmental issue, problem, or phenomenon through indoor and outdoor research culminating in developing solutions and taking action in their school or community – also known as the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) model.

Funds can cover a multitude of items including costs for field trips, fieldwork, transportation, substitute fees, and supplies for student projects. This grant program also aims to build teacher capacity and comfort in leading environmental education programs by funding the attendance to or development of professional development trainings for educators.

The second grant which is available is an Environmental Education Grant from the EPA (<https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>). This grant has a deadline of January 6, 2020.

Under the Environmental Education Grants Program, EPA seeks grant applications from eligible applicants to support environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment.

This grant program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. Since 1992, EPA has distributed between \$2 and \$3.5 million in grant funding per year, supporting more than 3,700 grants.

The District can assist with teachers with grant writing or may be able to help out with funded projects.

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Leaf Pack Project

This project is an experiment that students can conduct about life in local streams without ever having to leave the school. Falling leaves in October and November collect in streams and provide the energy that fuels the aquatic food chain.

The Leaf Pack project involves placing mesh bags that have been filled with leaves into a stream for 3-4 weeks. After that time period, the bags are brought back to the classroom. Students examine the bags and pick out the critters that they find in the leaves. Many types of macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects) feed on and in the packs of leaves. Macroinverte-

brates have varying tolerances to water pollution. Some of them are very sensitive to pollution, so their populations can be used to evaluate water quality. It's a great hands-on activity and the District has all of the equipment to help your school make it happen.

This experiment can have many different variables including comparing two different streams, comparing types of leaves, and comparing different types of in-stream habitats. It can also be done any time of year. The project works with a wide range of grade levels, but fits well with some 5th grade SOLs. The project also works well with after school eco clubs.

Enviroscape

The Enviroscape is an interactive table top model used to demonstrate soil erosion, watersheds, land use, and pollution. Students take turns spreading different "pollutants" - soil, pesticides, fertilizers, etc. - on the model and then see what happens when it rains (a spray bottle is used to simulate rainfall).

The Enviroscape model can be used for different grade levels in different ways:

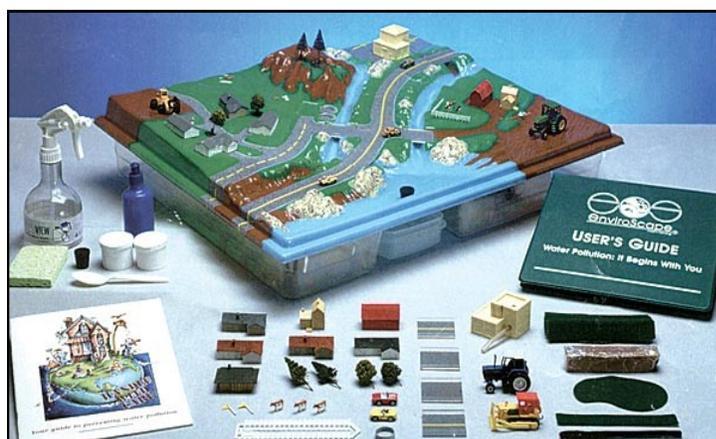
3rd Grade: Soil erosion

4th Grade: Watersheds and water resources

6th Grade: Ecosystems, watersheds, and stream processes.

It can also be used for other grades as well to cover other topics or to provide a review prior to SOL testing. This activity takes between 30 and 60

minutes to complete, depending on the specific subjects that students are studying as well as available class time. The model is a great visual representation of rainfall transporting pollutants through a watershed.



The Enviroscape Model

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