



Get Involved! Choose an event to host or an activity to participate in during Geography Awareness Week 2010.

Introduction

Geography Awareness Week is Nov. 14-20, 2010!

Celebrate freshwater by choosing an activity from the list below (or make up your own!).

Whether you want to involve an entire community, a classroom, a college group, just a few friends, or participate on your own, there's an activity here that's right for you.

After you've chosen the right event for you, your group of friends or your organization, check out how to plan and publicize your event below.

Freshwater Events and Activities

3.7 Mile Walk for Freshwater (*Guide included in this packet*)

Although in the United States and other developed nations, getting water is as simple as turning on the faucet, about two-thirds of the world's families don't have water directly piped to their homes.

Women and children in developing regions of Africa and Asia are primarily the ones responsible with collecting and carrying water from source to home. The average woman in these regions walks 3.7 miles each day while carrying freshwater. Acknowledge these women by hosting or participating in a 3.7 mile Walk For Freshwater.

To find water charities to partner with, check out the Freshwater Global Action Atlas at <http://www.actionatlas.org/conservation/freshwater/uid/plaB6365564D03FDC339>.

(See the 3.7 Mile Walk for Freshwater event planning guide included in this packet)

Geocaching

Geocaching is a scavenger hunt that uses a GPS receiver to find hidden treasures. Use geocaching.com and a GPS or an iPhone to hunt for geocaches in your local watershed or near local freshwater bodies. Or go out and set up your own around freshwater sources and uses! Geocaching is a great way to learn about global positioning systems and navigation, and also gets you to explore your local freshwater in a new and exciting way! For more Geocaching options, check out <http://www.earthcache.org> to learn more and to search for geocaches and earthcaches near you.

Options: Anyone can geocache and Earthcache-- teachers and students, parents and kids or you and

friends. Establish teams and compete to see who can find the caches first! Or just go for a stroll and see what freshwater caches you come across.



Freshwater Fair

Get the community together for a Freshwater Fair! Hold the fair at a local park, school or other area (after obtaining permission) and invite local water authorities in your area to have tables with information and/or activities surrounding freshwater and local water resources. Don't forget to invite members of the community!

Option: This can also be a campus Freshwater Fair for college communities!

-Reach out to local freshwater conservation organizations, parks and recreation departments, the local water quality control board, etc.

-Discuss the dangers to water supply from improper disposal of hazardous waste and trash, demonstrate conservation methods and techniques that can be employed by the community and on an individual scale.

-Learn about your community's watershed and how your community can start responsibly using and conserving water!

-Have a "Get-to-Know Your Utilities" section and learn about the flows of water in and out of your house.

-Talk to local businesses about possibly donating money, reusable water bottles, snacks, t-shirts, prizes, etc.

-Have activities such as water bottle exchanges, freshwater games (maybe trivia), or an involvement fair with community and campus water organizations.



Freshwater Book List *(Included in this packet)*

Choose books from our freshwater book list that are both fun and informative.

Parents: Pick some books that would interest your child, and yourself!

Teachers: Choose some freshwater books to supplement curriculum or change up a regularly scheduled assignment.

Libraries or Book Clubs: Choose a freshwater themed book for a book club or pull out freshwater books from the stacks and display them!



Freshwater Crossword Puzzle and Word Find *(Included in this packet)*

Learn about freshwater while sharpening your mind and having fun! Perfect for individuals, teachers and students, or parents and kids!

CONTESTS

Freshwater encompasses rain, snow, ice, glaciers, ponds, streams, puddles, watersheds, lakes and streams. Set up a poster, art, photo or poetry contest about Freshwater.

VARIATIONS ON CONTESTS

+Make a contest specific to water issues in your area. Is there contaminated freshwater? Is there a freshwater scarcity?

- +Choose just one specific category of freshwater: ie: RAIN or CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES
- + Have a night where your school or organization has an open house to showcase all of the cool freshwater works!
- + **Teachers and students:** Host school wide or grade wide contests. Display participants' Freshwater work in classrooms, hallways, lobbies, etc. A panel of teachers, or a popular vote can be the judge.
- +**Newspapers:** Advertise the contest and the theme, and then run the winning submissions along with runners up in the paper.



Freshwater Poster Contest



Freshwater Art Contest



Freshwater Photo Contest

Students and teachers can submit photos for different categories involving freshwater aspects (ie: Physical Landscape, Urban Landscape, Flora and Fauna, People/Culture, Rural Landscape, Geography in Action, and the 2010 Geography Awareness Week theme: Freshwater). Photos can be displayed on campus or in the school and be judged by the student population. The winner could have their picture featured on the geography website, or given a prize determined by the school.



Freshwater Poetry Contest



Freshwater Field Trips and Family Trips

Learning is never more effective than when set in a real-world setting! Classes, families and other groups can learn about their local watershed and freshwater resources by visiting:

-Local freshwater bodies

- Rivers
- Lakes
- Reservoirs
- Streams
- Creeks
- Ponds

-Local Freshwater management or interest groups

- Parks and Recreation Departments
- Water Quality Control Boards
- Freshwater Conservation Organizations
- Waste-water Treatment facilities
- Local government dealing with local freshwater issues

- Take a field trip to do a local watershed clean-up!
- Go on a walk around the field-trip site, or even just around the school or home. Keep a list of all the freshwater on the trip. (eg. In a school they might note water fountains, mop water, toilets, cafeteria cleaning processes, etc.) Whoever notices the most freshwater uses wins!

FUND-RAISE FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP!

We know funds are tight, especially if you're a school, but these out-of-the-classroom learning experiences are truly priceless. Solicit local businesses or organizations (maybe ones related to freshwater) to fund your field trip or to donate money or snacks for a brown-bag lunch. Find fundraisers that students can participate in to make your field trip possible!



Watershed Clean-Up

Clean up your local watershed with your family, class, college group, community group, friends, etc! Join together to do a trash cleanup around local freshwater bodies!



Legislative Lobby Visit

Let local legislators know that you're a politically active constituent who wants the candidates you vote for to value geographic literacy. Do some research on a local congressperson and find out what water issues are plaguing their district. Next, set up a meeting with a local congressman and talk with them about how important geographic education is and let them know that it's something you seriously consider before voting for a candidate. Invite them to attend a community or school freshwater event that you're having and have them speak about why freshwater is such an important issue in their area.



Legislator Education Session

Legislators don't always have time to educate themselves about every issue plaguing their district. As a school group, independent person or group, or water conservation organization, you can help legislators see that freshwater IS an important issue in their districts and their constituents DO care about it.

Choose a geographic or political area and find the legislators who represent it. Next, research fresh water issues, such as water sanitation, water scarcity, crippling water infrastructure, loss of freshwater species and habitats, and water pollution. Prepare a BRIEF presentation with well cited sources, showing legislators why freshwater is important to you, and more importantly, to their district.



(College) Dorm Water Challenge

Have dorms on campus compete to see which building can use the least amount of freshwater! Have a water saving competition and find a reward for the winning dorm.



(College) Watershed Clean-Up with local school

Get together a group of college kids to participate in a watershed clean-up for a day! Print up shirts, commemorating the day and the activity and Geography Awareness Week 2010, or just have a low-key

good time!

Ask one or more local schools to partner with your club or group for a watershed clean-up day. Fund-raise so that the kids can take a day to go on a field trip! Find some local bodies of safe freshwater and clean up the area around it! Have a competition to see who can collect the heaviest amount of garbage!

Go to www.GeographyAwarenessWeek.org in November to get more details, ideas, and resources for more events and activities, including:

- Geography Trivia Questions
- National Geographic Freshwater Map Kit
- National Geographic Freshwater Map Kit Activities
- Freshwater Video List
- Are You Smarter Than a Geography Major?