

#### APPLICABLE TO:

- AIR
- ENERGY
- WATER
- WASTE
- TOXINS

#### RECOMMENDED AGE:

- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- MIDDLE SCHOOL
- HIGH SCHOOL
- COLLEGE

#### COST:

- FREE
- \$1 - \$15
- \$16 - \$50
- \$50 and more

#### REINFORCES:

- CRITICAL THINKING
- COMMUNICATION
- CREATIVITY
- COLLABORATION

## 20 MINUTE ACTIVITY: GUESS THE WATER WORD

### OVERVIEW:

Work together with your Grades of Green Team students to solve a set of water themed riddles. Each correctly-solved riddle will earn you a random letter that is part of a secret water-themed word. How many words can you unscramble?

### MATERIAL CHECKLIST

- Printer
- Level 2 Guess the Water Word Riddles List (Provided)
- Whiteboard and marker (optional)

### ACTIVITY STEPS:

1. Select someone to volunteer as the Riddle Reader. Have the Riddle Reader read one of the riddle questions on the Water Word Riddles list out loud and slowly to the group. Make sure they do not read the correct answer, or the letter awarded.
2. Allow students to work together and guess what they think is the correct answer. Once they guess the correct answer which is written on the Water Word Riddles List, the Riddle Reader can reward them by presenting the associated letter which is written at the end of each riddle question.
3. Ensure game players know each letter awarded is a random letter that is part of a larger word related to water. Have one student write down the awarded letter on the whiteboard.
4. Have the Riddle Reader read off each riddle question and award the students with the associated letters until all the riddles questions are solved and all the letters have been awarded. Have a new student write down each new rewarded letter to help keep track of the scrambled letters.
5. Once all the letters are identified from one riddle, ask the group to work together to descramble the word. The answer will be on the provided Water Word Riddles list.
6. After a Water Word is descrambled, have the group discuss the definition of the word. A brief definition is provided on the Water Word Riddles list if students are unsure what the word means. Ask students how they think the word relates to water conservation or water pollution.
7. The Riddle Reader can share some of the questions below each Water Word Riddle to guide the discussion.

## RECOMMENDED GRADES OF GREEN ACTIVITIES:

- ⇒ In-Class Water Activities
- ⇒ Water Earth Tips

RIDDLE #1

1. A great way to learn about aquatic animals is by visiting this type of museum. These types of museums tend to have different exhibits of aquatic animals like fish and sharks. You can learn about where these animals live, what they eat, and how they survive in nature.
  - a. Correct Answer: Aquarium
  - b. Letter Awarded: A
2. Plants in drier climates often have features that help them store more water. In the desert, this part of a plant can be spiny (like a cactus) or even thick and waxy like a succulent plant. In the forest, this part of the plant can create lots of shade.
  - a. Correct Answer: Leaf
  - b. Letter Awarded: L
3. As stated in the movie Finding Nemo, "All \_\_\_\_\_ lead to the ocean." This is why it is important to make sure that we pick up our trash so that they don't make their way to the ocean where they can harm wildlife.
  - a. Correct Answer: Drains
  - b. Letter Awarded: D
4. Ice sheets or ice caps are layers of ice that cover a large area of land or sea. As temperatures get warmer from global warming, these bodies of ice begin to break into tinier pieces of ice that can float around in the ocean. This tinier body of ice is what the Titanic crashed into before it sank.
  - a. Correct Answer: Iceberg
  - b. Letter Awarded: I
5. Fishermen sometimes use this tool to help catch fish. However, if this fishing tool becomes litter in the ocean, it can threaten and harm wildlife such as fish, sea turtles, and even birds.
  - a. Correct Answer: Net
  - b. Letter Awarded: N
6. As large bodies of rock begin to break down from wind, rain, and other types of weathering, the smaller fragments can get moved by rivers and streams into our oceans. These fragments can eventually end up at our beaches.
  - a. Correct Answer: Sand
  - b. Letter Awarded: S

Water Word: **ISLAND** - an area of land surrounded by water on all sides

- What are some different ways that trash or pollution can get to an island?
- What types of trash or pollution do you think are most commonly found on islands and why?
- What is something you can do as an individual to prevent trash from ending up in our oceans?

## RIDDLE #2

1. This manmade material is used to make all sorts of things from toys to expo markers to grocery store bags. It also takes hundreds of years for this material to break down if it ends up in the ocean as litter, and can be accidentally eaten by marine animals.
  - a. Correct Answer: Plastic
  - b. Letter Awarded: P
2. You probably use this lined paper item to take notes in class. [Did you know one sheet of paper requires 13 ounces of water to make?](#) Try to reuse paper as much as possible so no paper (or water used to make it) goes to waste.
  - a. Correct Answer: Notebook
  - b. Letter Awarded: N
3. These large bodies of water are home to many types of marine animals like whales and fish. It is important to pick up trash off the streets and beaches so that they do not end up in these bodies of water and hurt marine life that can mistake trash for food.
  - a. Correct Answer: Ocean
  - b. Letter Awarded: O
4. How well do you know your United States geography? What southeastern state shares a border with the Gulf of Mexico and is famous for their style of fried chicken? The Gulf of Mexico and this southeastern state are important resting points for migratory birds.
  - a. Correct Answer: Louisiana
  - b. Letter Awarded: L
5. [It takes 67 gallons of water to produce one pound of this delicious citrus fruit.](#) This fruit also offers a big kick of vitamin C.
  - a. Correct Answer: Orange
  - b. Letter Awarded: O
6. Do you like seafood? This sea animal is a seafood favorite of many. In the wild, this ocean animal helps keep the population of sea urchins under control by eating them.
  - a. Correct Answer: Lobster
  - b. Letter Awarded: L
7. Planting this type of plant can help prevent flooding because it absorbs water through its roots. It can save water by releasing water into the air through its leaves. These plants can sometimes grow fruit and nuts.
  - a. Correct Answer: Tree
  - b. Letter Awarded: T
8. You use this item when it rains so that you don't get wet. Make sure you hold on tight to this item during a windy storm so that it doesn't get blown out of your hand and into the ocean.
  - a. Correct Answer: Umbrella
  - b. Letter Awarded: U
9. We use water for all sorts of things such as producing manmade items. In the winter, some people can even use water to make snowballs, build snowmen, and even build this type of shelter made out of blocks of ice.
  - a. Correct Answer: Igloo
  - b. Letter Awarded: I

Water Word: **POLLUTION** - any substance introduced to an environment that has harmful effects.

- What are some examples of pollution?
- Why do you think pollution is bad for plants and animals? What effect do you think it can have on them?
- What can we each do to prevent pollution?