

LESSON PLAN



Activity: Hooray for Native Trees!

Time: 30 minutes

Grades: K-5

Education Standards (NGSS):

K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-3, 1-LS1-1, 2-ESS2-1, 2-ESS2-3, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 3-ESS3-1, 3-5-ETS1-3, 4-LS1-1, 4-ESS2-1, 4-ESS2-2, 4-ESS3-2, 3-5-ETS1-2, 5-LS2-1, 5-ESS3-1, 3-5-ETS1-2

Objective:

To understand where our rainwater goes, how pollutants in our backyard travel to the Great Lakes, and how planting native trees provides habitat and helps protect our waters.

Materials Used for Activity

- Rainwater demonstration with pavement, soil, and a live tree.
- Movements to act as a river and lake
- Objects to demonstrate the many environmental benefits of native trees
- Watershed map

Learning Outcomes

- What is an impervious surface, and what are its negative environmental effects?
- Why are native trees and plants more beneficial than non-native species?
- How do a tree's leaves and roots help reduce soil erosion, and why is that important?
- How do trees provide habitat for wildlife?
- How do trees act like windbreakers, and how is this beneficial?
- What are two ways in which trees act like filters, and how is this beneficial?
- How do trees help keep our air clean?
- How do native trees help prevent flooding?
- How do humans benefit from planting native trees?
- What are the environmental benefits of planting native trees?

Lesson Plan Schedule

- Watch demonstrations of rainwater on impervious and pervious surfaces: 5 minutes
- Use body movements to become a local river and Lake Michigan: 5 minutes
- Use two student volunteers to wear props chosen by classmates that demonstrate the many benefits of trees and how native trees improve water quality: 20 minutes

Out of Class Assignment(s)

- Watch a video on how trees reduce flooding: [youtube.com/TreesPreventFlooding](https://www.youtube.com/TreesPreventFlooding).
- Discover what native trees grow well on your school grounds and at home.