







ORAL CLASSROOM QUIZ : WATER & THE ENVIRONMENT

Questions	Answers
<p>1) What is stormwater runoff and why is it a problem?</p> 	<p>When it rains, water flows over yards, streets, rooftops, parking lots, and other hard surfaces and picks up pollutants (<i>such as pet waste, fertilizer, litter and grass clippings</i>) on the way to the storm drain or drainage ditch. This polluted water, called stormwater runoff, then flows directly into our creeks and larger waterways – untreated! In Wilmington, runoff eventually flows into the Cape Fear River or Intracoastal Waterway.</p> <p>Our daily activities are the main source of stormwater pollution. As a result, the water resources that are so important to the Wilmington community have suffered from fish kills, shellfish bed closings, algal blooms, and overall poor water quality. You can be the solution to pollution by preventing litter, pet waste, yard debris, fertilizer, pesticides, automobile fluids, carwash soaps, hazardous chemicals, etc., from getting into runoff in the first place!</p>
<p>2) What is a watershed?</p> 	<p>A watershed is the area of land that drains stormwater runoff to a certain body of water. Everyone lives, works, and plays in a watershed. In Wilmington, stormwater runoff flows from our watersheds into creeks (i.e. Bradley, Hewletts, etc.) and then into the Cape Fear River and Intracoastal Waterway.</p>
<p>3) What are three ways that trash ends up on the beach?</p>	<p>Trash can be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) washed down from our storm drains and creeks and out to the shore, 2) trash can be left by beach-goers, 3) trash can be washed up from the ocean, or 4) trash can be blown onto the beach by the wind
<p>4) What are two ways that pollution on the beach or in the water can affect you?</p>	<p>Toxic pollution can enter the food chain, traveling upward through bugs and fish, and ultimately ending up in humans, affecting human health. Marine pollution can also affect beach-goers - glass on the beach is a hazard, and toxic pollution can be a health hazard for anyone entering the water.</p>
<p>5) True or False? Pet waste (or doggie doo) can be left on the ground to act as a natural fertilizer for the grass.</p>	<p>False! Pet waste pollutes water and pollutes your health. Pet waste contains diseases, bacteria, and parasites that can make humans and other animals very sick if they touch water polluted with pet waste. Pet waste should never be left on the ground; use a bag or pooper-scooper to always pick it up.</p>
<p>6) How long does a cigarette butt take to decompose? -2 weeks, -200 years, -4 years</p>	<p>At least 200 years! The filters of cigarette butts contain a form of plastic called cellulose acetate. As with any plastic, it takes a very long time (if ever!) to decompose.</p>
<p>7) Name two ways that plastics or litter in the ocean can harm marine life. (60 percent of the trash picked up on Big Sweep Days is made of plastic.)</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mistaken for food by many marine mammals and birds. Eating plastic or other litter is potentially fatal for marine life and birds. 2) Entanglement- litter and plastic can choke, drown, or cause other harm to marine mammals, fish, and many birds. 3) Litter and plastic can damage boats and shipping vessels by entangling propellers or through collision with larger debris. 4) Litter soils our coasts, rendering them less appealing for beach-goers and adversely affecting our economy.

<p>8) What is the difference between point source and non-point source pollution?</p> 	<p>Point source pollution is pollution contributed from a distinct source, such as a pipe from a factory. Non-point source pollution is the type of pollution picked up by stormwater runoff. It is pollution that comes from many different sources (you can't pinpoint a distinct source). Examples of NPS pollution include pet waste, fertilizer, litter/trash, car washing soaps, pesticides, sediment, etc.</p>
<p>9) Name three things that we use in our homes or gardens that are potential hazards to our waterways and/or ocean?</p>	<p>Any household hazardous waste could qualify as a good answer here. These would include pesticides (both herbicides and insecticides), paints, solvents, toxic cleaners, batteries, and oil from our cars.</p>
<p>10) How many gallons of water can one gallon of motor oil pollute? -1,000, -10,000, -100,000</p>	<p>100,000 gallons of water.</p> 
<p>11) True or false? Leaves should be raked down a storm drain so they can wash into a stream, decompose, and provide food for fish.</p>	<p>Very false! In Wilmington and NHC, blowing leaves, grass clippings, and other yard waste into a storm drain is illegal. These materials decompose in water and cause algae blooms, low dissolved oxygen (which fish need to survive) and poor water quality. In addition, yard wastes that get stuck in a storm drain can cause your street or home to flood.</p>
<p>12) What percentage of the trash on our beaches comes from inland sources?</p>	<p>60%</p>
<p>13) Name three of the most commonly found items on NC Big Sweep Days?</p>	<p>The most commonly found items are: cigarette butts; plastic; fishing line, fast food containers, bags, wrapper; caps/lids; glass pieces; straws; beverage bottles (glass); other plastic & packing materials; and bottle caps (metal).</p>
<p>14) What percentage of the earth is water? -78%, -41%, -54%</p>	<p>78 percent.</p>
<p>15) What are some ways you can reduce the amount of trash that you discard each day?</p>	<p>Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. The less trash we create, the less trash that will end up in our marine environment.</p>
<p>16) To be friendly to our waterways, where should people wash their car when they're at home?</p>	<p>Cars should be washed on the grass, not the driveway or street. This allows the soil to absorb and filter the dirt and soapy water instead of it running into a storm drain. A commercial car wash is another good idea.</p>
<p>17) What are three things that you can do to help protect our creeks, streams, rivers and ocean?</p> 	<p>Take part in a Beach Cleanup event. Mark a storm drain. Never put anything into a storm drain or drainage ditch. Clean up after your pet. Throw litter in the trash. Reduce, reuse, recycle. Wash your car on the grass or at a commercial carwash. Recycle used motor oil and antifreeze. Check vehicles for leaks. Dispose of household hazardous chemicals properly. Tell a friend or neighbor how they can protect our waterways!</p> 