



How will rain affect water quality?

The Environment and You

The Stars Challenge at Monmouth University



The Stars Challenge *The Environment and You* at Monmouth University Fall 2007

The Environment and You

The Stars Challenge

We investigated some of the ways that our decisions impact the natural world. Whale Pond Brook, the stream that runs through Monmouth University, was targeted for intensive investigation. Fun was had by all as we suited up in waders that seemed two sizes too big and sank to our knees in the mud! Some of us seemed better able to get stuck than others. Serious science followed as we calculated rates of stream flow, surveyed macro invertebrates, and took water samples for chemical analysis. Our findings were sobering. The rampant development around the watershed has negatively impacted the water quality and loss of biodiversity has occurred.

Before time ran out (and we never seemed to have enough time), we studied Global Warming and discussed one of the greatest challenges facing our species, to develop energy sources that do not harm the Earth. We constructed solar powered devices and studied solar water heaters and solar homes.

Tread lightly on the Earth. Remember that your decisions have consequences. Take care of this precious blue world, the only home we have.

It's been my honor and pleasure to work with you.

Mr. E. Marc Coe





Students donned waders and began to analyze Whale Pond Brook on campus at Monmouth University. It was a beautiful fall day.







Is it more fun to analyze the brook or get stuck in the mud?

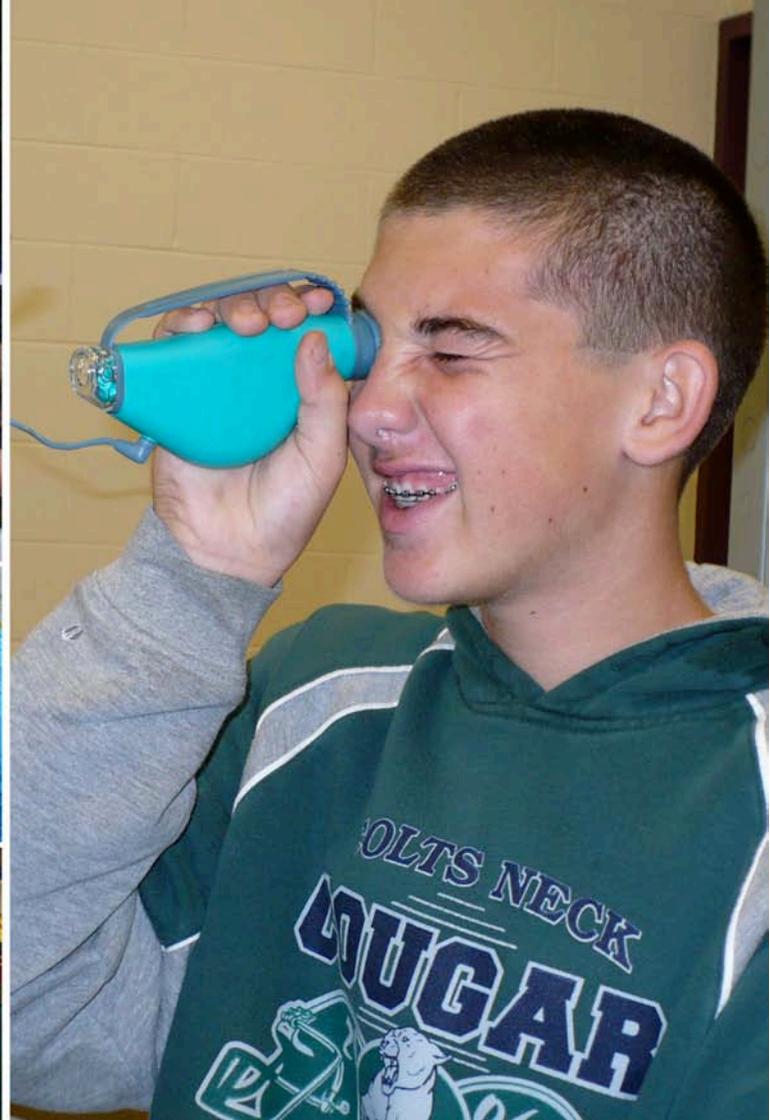


Students analyze macro invertebrates in the brook to help understand the health of the watershed.



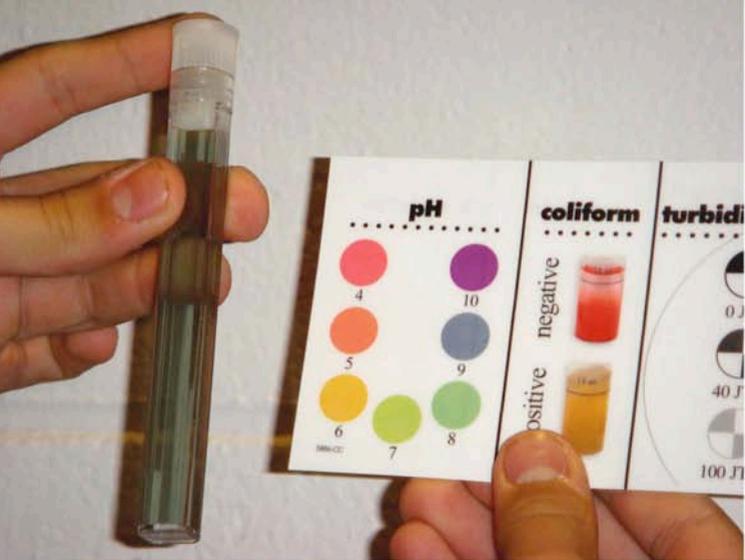
With some trepidation, students sift through the mud looking for macro invertebrates from the brook. It was pouring rain!





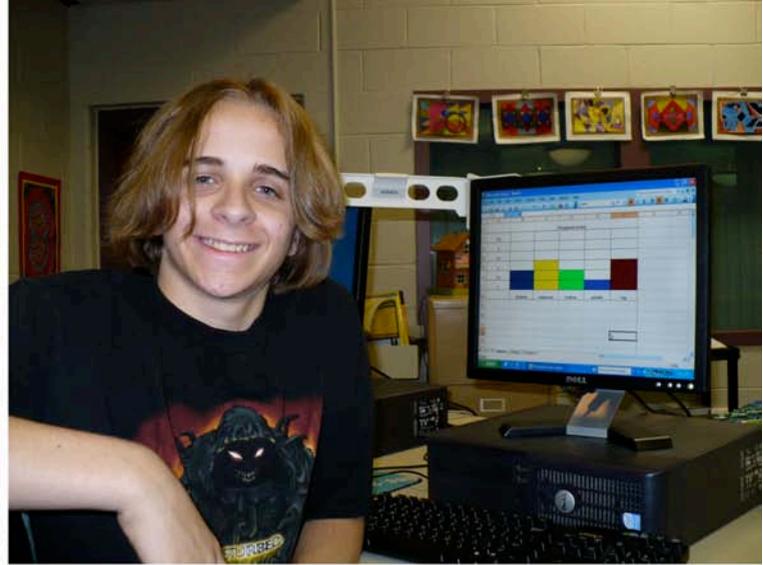


Students perform a chemical analysis of the water to provide additional insights into the health of the brook.



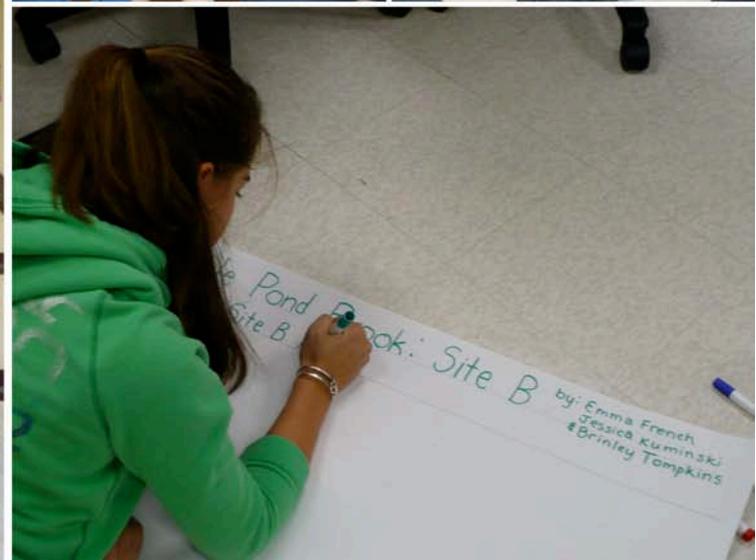


Students produce bio-fuel gas from wood. And are surprised to discover that it will burn and create smoke.





Students analyze the density of water and alcohol to determine the mix required so that an ice cube has neutral buoyancy.





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