

## Stormwater and Pollution (for all ages!)

**River otters and other animals that live near the river are affected by pollution in the water.** Check out this activity to learn more about how the pollution gets there in the first place!



**Stormwater** is water from rain or snow that flows over the ground or other surfaces until it reaches the lowest point of an area. In cities or towns, the water can't soak into the ground like it would in a forest and other ecosystems. Instead, it slides over sidewalks and roads until it flows into gutters, ditches, streams, and rivers like the Rio Grande. *What do you think this water picks up during its journey to the river?*

**The Raindrop Journey:** Have you ever wondered where water goes after it rains? Which kind of obstacles might a water droplet find along the way? Are these obstacles natural or human made?

*Step outside and imagine the possible path of a water droplet from your home to the river. Write a short story about it or draw a map of its journey. Don't forget to think about everything it might run into or take with it along the way!*



*Share your story with a friend or family member. After, discuss ways in which YOU can help reduce the obstacles this water droplet finds along the way. How are these obstacles affecting the animals and plants living in the water?*

### Take it to the next level!

Water pollution is a big problem that affects the health of humans, plants, and animals living in an ecosystem. To learn more about this topic, walk around your neighborhood or go to your favorite park/trail with your family and count the litter you find along the way. How did this litter get here? Why is this type of pollution a problem? Learn more by reading about **point source** and **nonpoint source pollution**. Record what you find on this table. If you want to go further, you can even make a bar graph of the amounts you find-- Get creative! If you have gloves and a trash bag, don't forget to pick up the trash you found after you count it!



Litter type	Where? _____	Why is this type of pollution a problem?
Plastic		
Paper		
Glass		
Metal		
Dog poop		
Oil/gasoline		
Other trash		