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Poolesville High School Global Ecology Magnet Program

Visualize Your Water Challenge

Nutrient Pollution in the Chesapeake Bay

For the Visualize Your Water Challenge, my classmates and I were assigned to create a storymap on the effects of nutrient pollution on the ecosystem and human life in the Chesapeake Bay. To achieve this, I researched how Nitrogen and Phosphorus, the main sources of nutrient pollution, occurred. I organized this information into five different slides, complete with pictures, graphs, and maps to help the reader visualize the problem. When selecting sources, I tried to direct my attention towards websites related to the Chesapeake Bay, since they would provide the most appropriate information for the situation.

As far as telling my story, I began with an introduction to present the issue to the reader. The next few slides focused on narrowing down towards nutrient pollution, what it was, and what it affected. Later, I presented its causes and some solutions. Finally, I wrapped up the story with the conclusion. I think that my choice of formatting made it easier for the reader to understand the information, and it maintained the consistency of the presentation. Being a visual learner, I understand how much visual aids can help someone. My storymap incorporates pictures, graphs, videos, and maps to support my information. For one of my maps, I took the liberty to present the data as a heat map, so it was more appealing. It is small changes like these that make my presentation more comprehensive.

Being someone who lives relatively close to the Chesapeake Bay, I understand the effects of nutrient pollution on the Chesapeake Bay watershed. More specifically, I live about 14 miles from the Potomac River, a major tributary to the Chesapeake. It is common knowledge that the Potomac River is home to excessive pollution from major cities and urban areas including Washington D.C. One can only imagine how much pollution is in the Chesapeake Bay if the Potomac River and other tributaries such as the Susquehanna, Rappahannock, York, and James, all provided unnecessary nutrients into a single estuary. Nutrient pollution can raise the price of water (due to filtering measures), and pose health issues including neurological effects and liver problems to humans. With my presentation, I am trying to target people in urban areas who have the ability to take action by joining organizations to properly dispose of waste in their cities, and spread the word to their neighbors. I hope to encourage people to educate themselves and others to find more solutions to the issue.

Using my presentation, I hope to inspire others to take action and educate themselves on the impact of nutrient pollution in their area and the world. It’s important that nutrient pollution is addressed because its impact is a major factor on the health and economic success of mankind.

Works Cited

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