

# Environmental Education Resources for Soils

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## Ag in the Classroom

... is a statewide educational program created to help teachers provide students in grades K-5 with a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in our economy and society. Teacher training workshops available.

**CONTACT:** <http://www.vafb.com/aitc/>

## Dirt - Secrets in the Soil

... a collection of classroom activities (in the Project Learning Tree style) designed to introduce soils to 3-5 graders. Some material is specific to Utah, but most can be adapted for use in other states. A companion video features segments to complement each lesson. **CONTACT:** The website:

<http://extension.usu.edu/aitc/resources/dirt.html> also available for purchase from Utah Ag in the Classroom (lesson plans are free on the web)

## The Living Landscape

... an interactive computer game that takes learners of all ages through various best management and conservation practices to turn a rundown farm and landscape into an environmental showplace. **CONTACT:** CTIC, 1220 Potter Drive, Room 170, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1383. Phone: (765) 494-9555; Fax (765) 494-5969. Cost: \$ 8 first CD and \$5 for each additional CD.

## Soil. Who Needs It ?

... a video for elementary grades explaining the importance of soil, its texture, soil loss and erosion.

**CONTACT:** New Mexico State University, Agricultural Communications Electronic Media Group, Box 3003 MSC 3AI, Las Cruces NM 88003. Phone: (505) 646-5368. Cost: \$ 12.95 plus shipping and handling.

## Sustaining our Soils and Society

... the booklet, Sustaining Our Soils and Society, and the colorful poster, Soils Sustain Life, offer new tools for raising awareness and understanding of our soil resources. The 64-page full-color booklet contains a copy of the poster which includes a student activity on the back. **CONTACT:** American Geological Institute, 4220 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302-1502 or order online at [www.agiweb.org](http://www.agiweb.org) ISBN 0-922152-50-0.

## Soil Biology Primer

... Get the Dirt on Soil Biology . . . The Soil Biology Primer, a 4-color, 48-page publication, introduces the reader to the living component of soil and how that component contributes to agricultural productivity and to air and water quality. It's an excellent resource for gardeners, farmers, ranchers, ag professionals, resource specialists, conservationists, soil scientists, students, and educators. The Primer includes information on the soil food web—the community of organisms living in soil—and how the web relates to soil health. **CONTACT:** the Soil and Water Conservation Society, [www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org); [pubs@swcs.org](mailto:pubs@swcs.org); or (800) THE-SOIL, ext 10.

## Real Life Farm Adventures for Kids

... join the famous Hard Hat Harry, the heavy equipment/construction genie, takes kids for a journey into the exciting world of farms. A video for elementary grades on increased production and improved technology.

**CONTACT:** Publishers Choice, Box 4106, Dept YL82-UX, Huntington Station NY, 11746.

\$ 4.95 each plus \$ 2.95 shipping and handling.

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## Riparian Forest Buffers

... defines watershed and riparian forest buffer. A video showing how land use affects water quality, denitrification of forest floors and the importance of riparian forested buffers. **CONTACT:** University of Maryland WREC/CE, P.O. Box 169, Queenstown MD 21658. Phone: (410) 827-8056. Fax: (410) 827-9039. Cost: \$ 3.50 plus \$ 3 shipping and handling.

## Riparian Buffer Box

... your Riparian Buffer Box is chock full of information and activities for learning about water quality, stream ecology and the benefits of streamside trees. Each box contains three colorful posters, tree leaf identification posters, Loblolly Pine tree seeds, the Riparian Habitat edition of the Wild in the Woods newsletter, the Environmental Education Resources Directory and Aquatic Stewardship and You, Ideas and Resources for Educators and Students; five lessons from Project WET and Project WOW! Your K - 12 students will love it! **CONTACT:** To order your Riparian Buffer Box send a return address label to Ann Regn, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219 or call (800) 592-54VA or [amregn@deq.state.va.us](mailto:amregn@deq.state.va.us).

## Splash

... an interactive computer game that delivers information on nonpoint source pollution in a fast paced and entertaining format. Includes sources of NPS in ag, urban and suburban areas. **CONTACT:** CTIC, 1220 Potter Drive, Room 170, West Lafayette IN 47906-1383. Phone: (765) 494-9555; Fax: (765) 494-5969. Cost: \$ 12 first CD and \$ 7 for each additional CD.

## Get to the Point

... a video explaining water pollution, non-point source pollution and point source pollution. Grades 3-12. **CONTACT:** Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Video Library, P.O. Box 220 (S225), Austin TX 78767-0220. Cost: \$ 10 each

## Storm Sewers Don't Lead to the Sewer Plant

... a video explaining what storm sewers are and how they work. Designed to teach elementary students the danger of polluting storm sewers with trash and chemicals such as paint and motor oil. **CONTACT:** National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) <http://www.nacdnet.org/> Cost: \$ 9 each

## After the Rain: Urban Runoff

... explore the importance of water, the pressures our cities are placing on this resource, and ways that individuals can protect local drinking water supplies. **CONTACT:** <http://eesc.orst.edu> Water Resource Orders, Extension & Station Communications, Oregon State University, 422 Kerr Administration Building, Corvallis, OR 97331-2119. Cost: \$20.

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## Internet Links

Science for Kids [www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids](http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids)

The Plant Nutrient Team Activity Book <http://ltpwww.gsfc.nasa.gov/globe/NutrTeam/pntintro.htm>

Sammy Soil [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/class/sammy.html](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/class/sammy.html)

More Ag Links [www.usda.gov/nass/nasskids/aglinks2.htm](http://www.usda.gov/nass/nasskids/aglinks2.htm)

Soil-Smart Worm [www.nhw.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/squlnm/skworm.html](http://www.nhw.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/squlnm/skworm.html)

National Ag in the Classroom <http://www.agclassroom.org/>

Utah Ag in the Classroom <http://extension.usu.edu/AITC/index.html>

Virginia Ag in the Classroom <http://www.vafb.com/aite.htm>

Land and People: Finding a Balance <http://www.usgs.gov/education/learnweb/LandPeople/intro.html>

Project Food, Land and People <http://www.foodlandpeople.org/>

Basic Groundwater Hydrology <http://www.issaquah.org/comorg/gwac/Hydro.htm>

The Dirt on Soil <http://school.discovery.com/schooladventures/soil/index.html>

Kids, Crops and Critters. [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org)

Virginia Tech Outreach Home Page <http://www.outreach.vt.edu/links.htm>

The Learning Web <http://www.usgs.gov/education/othered.html>

This USGS natural resources educational resource for students has links to 50 great sites, including such topics as Acid Rain, Eruptions of Mt. St Helens: Past, Present and Future, Biology Kid's Corner, Kid's Butterfly Site, and Earthshots: satellite pictures of environmental change.

**For more program and resource information in Virginia, your gateway to Environmental Education is on the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Website <http://www.vaswcd.org>**