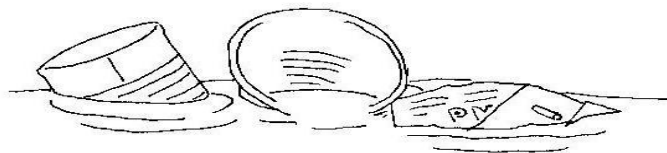


# HOW DID IT GET THERE?

by Cherie Schadler

Demonstrate that **non-point source pollution** cannot be traced.



Play a game to determine how difficult it is to trace non-point source pollution.

- You Will Need:**
- 7 signs made from poster board to hang around the neck. Write "Factory" on 1 of the signs, "Citizen" on 3 of them, and "Investigator" on the last 3.
  - Waste basket with sign that reads "creek".
  - 12 wads of black construction paper in a paper lunch sack. Write "chemical discharge" on each piece of black paper.
  - 4 wads of one of these colors of construction paper in a paper lunch sack: red, blue, or yellow. Make 3 sacks total (12 wads total). Write types of litter on each piece, such as plastic bottle, soil, fertilizer, car shampoo, animal waste, food, beverage, paper, batteries, motor oil, cigarette butt, aluminum can, and gum.
- Instructions:**
- Choose a student to be the "Factory". Student wears "Factory" sign and stands facing the waste basket "creek". Student holds sack with black wads of construction paper without "Investigators" knowing what's in the sack.
  - Choose 3 students to be the "Citizens". Students wear "Citizen" signs and stand facing the waste basket from the same direction as the "Factory" student. Students each hold a sack with 4 wads of the same colored paper without the "Investigators" seeing what is in the sacks.
  - Choose 3 students to be the "Investigators". Students wear "Investigator" signs and stand facing the "Factory" and "Citizens" with the "creek" between them.
  - Investigators close their eyes. Teacher directs the Factory and Citizens to "Pollute!" The Factory and Citizens each throw a wad of paper at the creek. Teacher then directs the Investigators to "Investigate!" Investigators open their eyes and try to determine who threw which wad. After a few turns, it will become evident that the black wads are coming from the factory and the colored wads are difficult to trace.
  - After all wads are thrown, open up each wad and read aloud the items written on each paper. Discuss: Were the investigators able to identify the sources of each form of pollution? Why not? What can citizens do to help keep the community clean?