

THINK BLUE TO GO GREEN

Newspapers for this educational program provided by:

OKLAHOMA
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What Is Pollution?

What do you picture when you think of pollution? Paper or other litter on the ground? Pollution is when any substance harmful to living organisms gets into soil, air or water. All pollution has drastically increased since the Industrial Revolution, so it's important to learn where pollution comes from and how to decrease its impact. Point source pollution is when the starting point of a contaminant is easily found. For example, the recent oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico was started by a ruptured well. Nonpoint source pollution can be trickier. It doesn't come from one specific place or substance. Nonpoint source pollution is when rain or melting snow picks up pollutants, and carries the collection to the closest water source. It can include fertilizers and insecticides used on farm land and neighborhood lawns.

Oil, grease and chemicals are other components of nonpoint source pollution which can be picked up from our roads. Nonpoint source pollution is often the leading cause of water quality problems, but because it can be hard to identify, it can also be hard to stop. If we Think Blue To Go Green, we can help in small ways. Talk to your parents about using environmentally friendly lawn products. Dispose of paint and other polluting liquids properly, and be careful not to drip excess gas on the ground when filling up the car. Think Blue To Go Green to help cut down on both point and nonpoint source pollution.

Activities

On recess, take a walk around the school grounds and see if you can find an example of point source pollution and nonpoint source pollution.

Find the name and location of your closest local recycling center and give it to your parents.

Look up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and write a paragraph with the basic details.

- What is the Garbage Patch?
- Where is the Garbage Patch located?
- Who is responsible for the Garbage Patch?
- How did all the garbage come together?

"What is Pollution?" is just one of the programs presented by the Oklahoma Aquarium Education Department. Log onto www.okaquarium.org to learn more about scheduling a field trip for your class to Oklahoma's only ocean!



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