

Name KEY Period \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

"After the Storm"

The biggest water quality problem that we have in the nation today is: polluted runoff

The amount of fresh water on Earth that we can use is: less than 1%

Santa Monica Bay

Describe the problem with the Santa Monica Bay Watershed:

when it rains, all of the runoff goes right into the bay without being treated first.

What link was made between surfers and pollutants?

surfers are ingesting the water - through their mouths, skin, and ears.

What has happened as a result of monitoring California beaches?

Area officials have to test the water daily; people do not want to swim in the water; people are tasked with doing a better job of keeping the water clean. Beach warnings are posted to prevent swimming. People have done a better job

By the time water arrives at the mouth of the Gulf of Mexico, it has accumulated enough runoff to create a "hypoxic zone." A hypoxic zone is an area that:

an area of water lacking in <sup>vital</sup> oxygen Since these things were put in place and CA waterways are improving.

Describe the problem that is faced in the Gulf of Mexico. What is happening to the organisms that live in the water?

Algae blooms die and deplete the water of oxygen. the algae dies because of pollutants going into the water. Fish and other organisms are dying because of these pollutants and lack of oxygen.

What is so wonderful about wetlands? Plants that grow in wetlands filter the water.



What is happening to them and why? Leaving the area has cut off the water from the wetlands ... salt water sits in swamps + marshes and kills them.

The first step in solving the problems with our water is raising public awareness. We all live upstream of somebody and we also live downstream of somebody else!

### New York City

What has New York City done to protect the quality of its drinking water?

The city had to choose between a 6 billion dollar water filtration system or a 1 billion dollar watershed preservation program. As a result they...  
(purchased) 355,000 acres of undeveloped land in watershed  
- upgraded water treatment plants

- responsibility to protect certain waterways  
On Meadowbrook farm, what has been done to reduce the amount of manure that could potentially be washed into the water supply?

A large tank was installed to store manure so it did not run into their streams.

### Ford Plant in Dearborn, Michigan

What has been done at the Ford plant to reduce the amount of polluted runoff?

They have installed plants on their roof to prevent runoff.

### Summary

According to the video, what can the average person do to reduce polluted runoff in our watersheds?

1. Take a short shower
2. Don't wash car in driveways
3. Don't use pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers when a big rain is coming.

This video was co-produced by the EPA and The Weather Channel. In 2-3 sentences, summarize its purpose.

The video presents the ever worsening problem of pollution runoff caused by increasing human populations.  
The purpose of the video is to raise awareness on this issue so that our waterways can be cleaner and safer for future generations.