

NEWS BREAK

Article: Grow: Catch and Release Rain

Section: PACIFIC NW, pg. 6-7

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, November 4, 2018** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

**Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.*

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will learn about rainwater harvesting. They'll discuss whose families are currently doing it and whether they'd be interested in setting up a simple system in their own yards (if they haven't started yet). They'll discuss the benefits and how it helps the environment, especially curbing the runoff in the storm drains and local waterways.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about?
- Are there clues in the picture?
- What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“Why bother? Like most environmental questions, the answer is bigger than my garden. During a major “storm event,” rainwater **sluicing** over paved areas in our urban environment picks up contaminants.”

Write your guess and then look up the definition and write it below your guess. How close did you come to the correct definition?

Sluice Guess:

Sluice Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. Beyond saving water for the next growing season, you also can collect and manage rainfall to do what two things?
2. It takes only an inch of rain falling on a 10-by-10-foot roof, like the one on our shelter, to collect enough water to fill a ____-gallon rain barrel.
3. The Puget Sound region averages about ____ feet of rain per year; about two-thirds of that falls between November and March.
4. During a major “storm event,” rainwater sluicing over paved areas in our urban environment picks up _____.
5. This toxic soup then empties into the nearest _____ or, worse, fouls _____.
6. What does catch-and-release rainwater harvesting look like?
7. Why is gravity your friend, when you’re catching and releasing rainwater?

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

- Have you heard about filling rain barrels before? Do you think it’s a good idea? Why or why not?
- Does your family harvest rainwater?

The Puget Sound region averages about 3 feet of rain per year; about two-thirds of that falls between November and March. When you really do the math, capturing rain with a barrel feels like standing beneath Snoqualmie Falls with a teaspoon.

- Can you visualize standing beneath a powerful waterfall trying to fill a teaspoon? What would happen? Would it be effective? Why or why not?

“Anything I can do to keep water on my property lessens pollution and flooding, and helps reduce the burden on municipal utilities.”

- Do you try to live your life in a way that reduces pollution? How?
- Do you think you’d be interested in creating a rain in your own yard? Why or why not?
- Who can you contact if you’re interested in rainwater harvesting tips or purchasing a rain barrel?

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register on-line](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

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Newsbreak Answer Key: November 4, 2018

Pre-Reading Discussion:

Answers will vary

Vocabulary Building:

Sluice: Wash or rinse freely with a stream or shower of water; "She sluiced her face in cold water."

Comprehension Answers:

1. Recharge soil moisture and protect your community.
2. 55-gallon rain barrel
3. 3 feet of rain per year
4. Contaminants
5. Storm drain; local waterways
6. Before the rainy season arrives, connect a hose to the overflow spigot at the base of the barrel. Now grab your slicker; you might get wet. After each storm, or as your rain barrels fill, open the overflow valve, and drain the barrel(s), directing the water to where it can gently infiltrate the soil in the garden; trees and hedging especially appreciate the deep watering. Note: Select an overflow discharge point at least 8 feet away from the foundation of your house, to keep the basement dry. (I learned that the hard way.)
7. Life will be so much easier if you can site your rain barrel(s) uphill from your overflow discharge point. If your lot is level, elevating your rain barrel by a couple of feet will ensure enough pressure to move water through the hose. It's important to provide a sturdy footing and strap your elevated rain barrel securely in place. Later, in early spring, stop releasing captured rainwater to build up stores that you can use to water the summer garden when things get dry again.

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay

Questions: Answers will vary

*For more valuable tips on rainwater harvesting, including information about purchasing rain barrels from the Seattle Conservation Corps, a Parks and Recreation Department program, visit the City of Seattle's website.