

Planning your action projects

Learning outcome:

- Students can analyse the cause and effects of certain pollutants.
- Students can develop solutions to keep water clean and plentiful in their local environment.

Method

- Step One: consolidate the previous learning. Discuss the field trip with the students and write up some words to describe the way the students felt about the healthy stream and the polluted stream. Make a display of these words. Discuss how they would like the stream to look in the future. You could also discuss which feelings might motivate them to take action to help the stream. Use the 'Keep your Catchments Clean' poster for revision.
- Step Two: research ways to solve specific problems. Give students a leaflet each about water conservation, pollution prevention and stream restoration. They can choose at least one to read as a homework activity (this will give an indication of which project is the class favorite.). The next day students can work in groups to analyze the water conservation, pollution prevention and stream restoration posters, and answer the worksheets (**BLM 13 a,b,c**). For a class set of leaflets email us at actioncrew@gw.govt.nz.
- Step Three: choose a solution. If students are having difficulties identifying and prioritising solutions, they can use the action project cards for ideas (**BLM 14**). The cards can be sorted into solutions that are suitable for the three groups (water conservation, pollution prevention and stream restoration). They can also be ranked according to their likely effectiveness in improving stream health, their interest to the students or their practicality as an action project. To assist students in clarifying their ideas they can complete the cause, effect and solution worksheet (**BLM 15**) for an identified issue.
- Step Four: work as a team to achieve the action project. The Action Crew will visit the students to clarify their action project ideas using the Action Planner (**BLM 16**). This will help the students to think in more practical terms about their project. For example, what skills and information will they need to achieve the project? Who can they go to for help? How long will the project take to complete? How much money will it cost?

Teachers' notes

This part is a challenge but incredibly rewarding and worthwhile. It's great for the students, school and of course, the environment. Don't forget – the Action Crew can help. The next six pages outline some ideas for action projects.