

Wendy Fuller  
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe School

### Introduction to the water cycle and the importance of groundwater

Objective: Groundwater is an important resource that is often taken for granted. In this lesson, students will begin to understand the water cycle and realize clean water is a finite resource. Students will also gain an appreciation of where water comes from, what happens to it when it is pumped out of the ground, and potential sources of groundwater contamination such as fracking, mining, and agricultural pollutants.

#### Materials:

Computer with internet access

Blank print out of the water cycle available at:

<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycleprintnotext.html>

Groundwater Simulation System (We used Ward's Groundwater Simulation)

Plastic waste bucket

Paper towels

Water supply

#### Procedure:

1. Provide copies of the blank water cycle
2. Have students link to: <http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle.html> to fill in the boxes, labelling the movement of water
3. Have students create a vocabulary list using the words in boxes and creating definitions by summarizing the information given on the interactive water cycle:  
<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle-kids-adv.html>
4. Discuss with students the water cycle concept along with the amount of available freshwater in comparison to total water on Earth.
5. Watch Discovery Education video: Water to the Last Drop
6. Demonstrate groundwater movement using the Groundwater Simulation System
7. Demonstrate again, only this time add a "pollutant"