

ALL YOU CAN EAT SEWAGE

GRADES K-5

MATERIALS (PER STUDENT)

- 1 bowl
- 4 oz applesauce serving or pudding
- Bug hat (construction paper, pipe cleaners, googly eyes, etc.)
- Tables
- Spoons

DEFINITIONS

Wastewater: Water that has been used, as for washing, flushing, or in a manufacturing process, and so contains waste products (also called sewage).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It is easy to flush and forget, but everything we wash down the sink and flush down the toilet goes somewhere: a septic system or a wastewater treatment plant! These are amazing places that can make dirty water clean again, but it takes several steps for that to happen. One of the most important phases in treating our wastewater happens when microorganisms, or “good bugs,” eat the organic matter in our wastewater.

This activity is designed to get young children thinking about wastewater treatment in a fun and ridiculous way. The game is to dress them up like good bugs, have them race to bowls of applesauce (sewage), and see who can finish first.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prior to the activity, have each student create their own silly bug hat or headband out of construction paper.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Set up the tables in an open area.
2. Put the applesauce or pudding in the bowls in a line on the table.
3. Create a starting line in front of the table.
4. Dress each student in their own custom bug hat, explaining to the students what the goal of the game is. When everyone is ready, shout out, “On your marks, get set, GO!”
5. Discuss with the students how what they just did is relevant to wastewater treatment.

ALTERNATIVE: Divide the students into teams and conduct the same activity as a relay race!

Adapted from: <http://sites.lafayette.edu/sees/files/2010/07/Wastewater-Treatment-Kids-Activity.doc>.