

## Pouncer the Tiger Fish

### LESSON SUMMARY

This activity gives students a visual representation of how different activities in a watershed can have an effect in streams and rivers and the aquatic life in them. This can be an engagement activity to lead into another lesson, water testing or watershed lesson for example. You can also use this water as the polluted water in a DIY water filter lesson.

### LESSON OBJECTIVE(S)

- Students will identify situations like Pouncer’s in their own community.
- Students will identify possible solutions to prevent Pouncer’s situation.

### FOCUS QUESTION

What are some ways that human activities can impact aquatic life in streams and rivers?

### LEARNING TARGET (I CAN STATEMENT)

I can identify ways that human activities can impact aquatic life in streams and rivers.

### STANDARDS ADDRESSED

AR: 6-ESS3-3

MS: L.2.3A.1/L.3.4

TN: 2.LS2.2

### MATERIALS

- Fishbowl or large clear container
- Sponge cut in a fish shape
- Fishing line and weight to keep fish suspended in fishbowl
- Water
- Items to replicate pollution
- Pouncer the Tiger Fish script
- Ziplock bags or cannisters for pollutions
- Spoons

### PROCEDURES

1. Decide what items you want for each pollution type. Suggestions below but use items on hand.

Dirt	Fertilizer	Oil	Trash	Animal Waste	Plastic	Grass and Leaves	Hazardous Waste
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actual dirt</li> <li>• Cinnamon</li> <li>• Cocoa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Kool-Aid</li> <li>• Green Food Coloring</li> <li>• Green Cookie Sprinkles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chocolate Syrup</li> <li>• Maple Syrup</li> <li>• Water and Cocoa Mixed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oatmeal</li> <li>• Paper Dots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chocolate Cookie Sprinkles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rainbow Cookie Sprinkles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Real Grass/Leaves</li> <li>• Oregano</li> <li>• Parsley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Kool-Aid</li> <li>• Red Food Coloring</li> <li>• Red Cookie Sprinkles</li> </ul>

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2. Once you have decided what pollution you will use, put some in Ziplock bags or cannisters, and label with the name of pollution and script card number they represent. Make multiple of each pollution so all students can participate.
3. Print out script. Cut each part out and tape/glue to notecards. Laminate for extended use. Can also print on cardstock and skip the notecards.
4. If using a sponge for Pouncer, cut him out. Attach fishing line and weight to your fish. This will keep Pouncer suspended in the fishbowl in stead of floating to the top.
5. Fill your fishbowl with water.
6. Introduce Pouncer to the audience. Tell them that Pouncer grew up in a protected area, so he has always lived in nice clean water. He has decided he wants to go downstream to the city.
7. Distribute script to 8 students and pollutions with spoons to the rest of the class. Tell students with pollution to note what number they are.
8. Have the student with card #1 read their part. Have the students with #1 pollution come dump it in the bowl. Repeat till all parts have been read and pollution put in the bowl.
9. Pull Pouncer out of the bowl and discuss how different he and the water looks.

### CLOSURE

Ask students what some situations are that Pouncer encounter that they have in their community. Discuss what are some ways that the pollution Pouncer encounter could be prevented. This is a great activity to do as an engagement activity and lead to a watershed lesson. You can also extend this activity by having students engineer water filters and use the water in the fishbowl for them to filter.

<p>1. Pouncer swims by a farm. The farmer just plowed the field, and it has begun to rain. The soil begins to erode into the river. How is Pouncer feeling?</p>	<p>2. Pouncer swims by a neighborhood with a golf course. They use fertilizer to keep the grass nice and green. Unfortunately, the fertilizer made the plants in the river grow so much that the river could not support them with enough nutrients, and they died. The plants decaying uses up oxygen that Pouncer needs. How is Pouncer feeling?</p>
<p>3. Pouncer swims by another farm. There are cows in and by the river and they are pooping in the water! How is Pouncer feeling?</p>	<p>4. Pouncer swims by a park. A family is picnicking, but instead of putting their trash in a trash can, they leave it on the ground. The wind blows it into the river. How is Pouncer feeling?</p>
<p>5. Pouncer swims by a parking lot. A lot of cars have leaked oil and gasoline. When it rains, the water, oil, and gasoline go into the storm drains in the parking lot straight into the river. How is Pouncer feeling?</p>	<p>6. Pouncer swims by some people fishing in a boat. They throw their plastic drink bottles in the water. How is Pouncer feeling?</p>
<p>7. Pouncer swims by a storm drain. All sorts of grass clippings and leaves are coming out of it! The neighborhood connected to the storm drain just puts their yard waste in the road. How is Pouncer feeling?</p>	<p>8. Pouncer swims by some factories. Some factories follow the rules about their chemical waste, but some do not. Chemical waste is runs off into the river when it rains. How is Pouncer feeling?</p>