



Ocean Links Project Report

OUR OCEAN LINKS OBSERVATIONS

Use this checklist to rate the health of water at your school and/or in your community by CIRCLING responses that apply to your situation.

How Does Water Health Rate at Your School? (Mandatory)

Chances are that water originating from your school is healthier if you see activities such as those listed below.

- 1. We reduce solid waste because we recycle things..... Yes No
- 2. Non-toxic chemical cleaners are used to clean things like drains and floors..... Yes No
- 3. Hazardous wastes, like paint and motor oil are sent to proper disposal sites. Yes No
- 4. We use non-toxic products on our school-yard instead of pesticides/herbicides..... Yes No
- 5. We avoid the use of chemical fertilizers on our schoolyard..... Yes No
- 6. Our school parking lot is free of oil spots. Yes No
- 7. Our schoolyard is free of litter (e.g., pop bottles, six-pack rings, plastic bags)..... Yes No
- 8. At our school, we see different kinds of wild plants and animals..... Yes No
- 9. Our schoolyard is free of invasive, alien species (e.g., purple loosestrife). Yes No
- 10. We take water-conservation measures (e.g., leaks are repaired, low-flow valves are used in washrooms, rain barrels are used). Yes No
- 11. Other measures are taken at our school..... Yes No

(Please specify.) _____

How Healthy is a Shoreline in Your Community? (Optional)

There's a chance that water flowing through your community is in good health if you see signs of activities along a shoreline such as those that are listed below.

- 12. We see signs (e.g., tracks, nests, burrows, scats) of the presence of wildlife along this shoreline. Yes No
- 13. We see different kinds of wild plants and animals along this shoreline (e.g., turtles, birds, fish, mammals, amphibians, aquatic plants)..... Yes No
- 14. This shoreline is free of alien species (e.g., zebra mussels, red-eared sliders)..... Yes No
- 15. This shoreline is free of erosion (free of bare spots preventing soil from falling into water). Yes No
- 16. This shoreline is free from litter because of the presence of such things as "No Dumping" signs and garbage-disposal facilities. Yes No
- 17. Along this shoreline, we see different kinds of wildlife habitats such as rock and brush piles, nests, cover, snags (standing dead trees), and dead falls (downed trees)..... Yes No
- 18. Along this shoreline, we see different kinds of wildlife habitats in water (e.g., pools, runs, riffles, marshes, boulders, woody debris). Yes No
- 19. We see a wide strip of healthy vegetation (e.g., varieties of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses) along the shoreline..... Yes No

OVER ►

Be a voice for oceans . Start by noting activities that affect water. Make suggestions about how people can improve water health to benefit oceans, wildlife, and people. Send them to CWF on a completed "Our Ocean Links Water Health Report".

- 20. We see a wide strip of healthy vegetation (e.g., bulrush, sedge, pickerelweed) in shallow waters. Yes No
- 21. We see that developments (e.g., industries, housing, roads) are far from this shoreline..... Yes No
- 22. We live in a rural community. Yes No
If no, skip to item 25.
- 23. We see that land is not tilled to the water's edge along this shoreline..... Yes No
- 24. We see that livestock is fenced off from this shoreline (preventing pollution of water with their waste)..... Yes No
- 25. There are other signs of a healthy shoreline... Yes No
(Please specify.) _____

How Does the Health of Water Rate Generally in Your Community? (Optional)

Water in your community might be healthy if you see signs of activities such as those that are listed below.

- 31. Our community has silhouettes of fish or whales or other signs stencilled beside street drains to remind people that everything goes down the drain..... Yes No
- 32. Our community has a properly functioning sewage-treatment plant. Yes No
- 33. Our community is free of water pollution (e.g., there is a lack of a rotten egg smell, green water, shiny film, or reddish coating on the water)..... Yes No
- 34. Our community is free of litter that could harm wildlife (e.g., plastic debris)..... Yes No
- 35. There are other signs Yes No
(Please specify.) _____

How Healthy is the Water that You Tested? (Optional)

If your class or school is involved in water quality testing projects, your results serve as indicators of water health in your area. Use the checklist below to help you rate the health of the water that you tested in your community.

- 26. Our water tests show that the pH value is in the normal range (suitable for most life forms). Yes No
- 27. Our water tests show that the level of turbidity (lack of clarity) of the water is low..... Yes No
- 28. Our water tests show the presence of aquatic macroinvertebrates (e.g., stoneflies, mayflies)..... Yes No
- 29. Our water tests show high oxygen content. ... Yes No
- 30. Our water tests show that nutrients (nitrates and phosphates) are present in small amounts..... Yes No

Celebrate the International Year of Freshwater!

Freshwater is our living link with oceans. It flows through our communities as streams, rivers, or lakes and ultimately drains into our oceans. By viewing water as a network, we can see how action to boost local water health leads to global benefits for oceans. Giving oceans a hand begins with taking care of our freshwater link with them. The Ocean Links project lets you tell Canadians how to achieve that goal.

Submit your opinion about the health of water at your school and/or in your community (based on your observations), along with your suggestions about how all Canadians can improve local water health, by completing the "Our Ocean Links Water Health Report".



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SCHOOL Ocean Links Project Report

OUR OCEAN LINKS WATER HEALTH REPORT

The Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) and its Oceans Day Partners will report students' views about water health during Oceans Day each year for the next five years. Make your voice count by completing the "Our Ocean Links Water Health Report" — as a class. Use extra sheets, if necessary. Reports may be submitted on line at www.wildeducation.org. Or, return your report by fax or mail to the address or number located on the reverse side of this sheet. Be sure to watch for your school's name on the Ocean Links water map. CWF will send your school an Ocean Links Participation Certificate.

1. Identify the community in which you made your observations. _____

2. Circle the location(s) at which you made observations: School Shoreline Community Other (specify) _____

3. Identify the name of the ocean (i.e., the Arctic, Pacific or Atlantic) into which the water in your community ultimately drains. (Consult the Ocean Links water map for assistance.)

4. Based on your observations of activities that affect water, what is your diagnosis of the health of water in your community? Be sure to indicate reasons for your opinions.

5. Do you think that the health of the water that originated from your community was the same when it drained into the ocean? Indicate reasons for your opinions.

6a. Explain briefly your thoughts about how wildlife in your local community might be affected by the condition of the water in your community.

6b. Explain briefly your thoughts about how marine wildlife might be affected by the condition of the same water after it drained into the ocean.

7. Make at least five suggestions of ways that people at your school and/or in your community can improve the health of water.

8. Have your teacher complete the next two sections of this Ocean Links Water Health Report.

Name of School: _____ (Please print.)

Address: _____ (Please print.)

Contact (Name of Teacher): _____ (Please print.)

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail address: _____ (Please print.)

9. Indicate with a checkmark ALL the following that apply:

- I would like my class/school to receive an Ocean Links Participation Certificate.
- I intend to participate in the Ocean Links project next year.
- I would like to register my school in the Blue School Program and receive a plaque.
I am enclosing a completed Blue School Registration form that was included in this unit.
- You have my permission to contact me.
- You have my permission to include our school on the Ocean Links map.

Thank you for participating in the Ocean Links project.

You may complete a copy of the "Our Ocean Links Water Health Report" online at www.wildeduction.org. Or, send your completed report (both sides) by fax or by mail to the address provided below.



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