



# School Programs

## Contact Us

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**E**ach program is approximately 2 hours in length. Students will spend some time outside observing the river, completing activities outside and inside with our exhibits, and viewing a film about the history of the Water Works. Our programs are ideal for grades four and up.

## Water in Our World

**T**his general orientation to the Interpretive Center provides the perfect overview for the teacher focusing on a variety of water issues, past, present and future. Your students will be introduced to a variety of concepts and vocabulary using activity booklets in exhibits on the natural water cycle, watersheds, the water use cycle, land use and pollution. They will also learn about their individual relationship to local, regional and global water quality issues on Planet Earth.

## From Street to Stream: Slow the Flow

**S**tudents will focus on stormwater runoff (one of the greatest sources of water pollution today), watersheds, and the different kinds of land pollution that affect our water quality — past and present. Students will explore, on foot, the Water Works site and surroundings as a way to better understand the concepts of point- and non-point-source pollution. The lesson will also give students a look into the Philadelphia Water Department's demonstrations of best management practices for existing and future land development.

## Land and Water: A Delicate Balance

**E**very day, people make choices about how they will use the land around them – often without considering how their use of land may affect the water they drink. Let your students come to understand the delicate relationship of land use to water quality through a matching card activity using the exhibits in the Interpretive Center. Students will also study a variety of maps to understand the development of land over time, and then plan fictional communities of their own in a way that would protect water quality.

## Building as Machine: Water for the City

**T**he Water Works is an engineering landmark. Students will learn about the design and function of this nineteenth century pumping station and why it was the most visited public place in America at that time. Learn how innovative technology for the public good and a concern for the natural environment, beauty and civic pride all came together at this unique site. Students will become apprentice engineers as they examine the pumps and gears that put the “works” in Water Works.

## Full Day Program: The Schuylkill River Watershed: A Tale of Two Settings

(grades 5 – 12; Sep – Nov and Apr – Jun)

**T**he Schuylkill River is a critical natural resource for the entire Philadelphia region. But can your students tell you why the river is so important? In collaboration with the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), located upstream, just inside the City's northwestern boundary, the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center (FWWIC) offers a full-day program that travels to both sites to teach students about the critical connection between watershed protection and water quality. Students will explore the ecology of SCEE's unimpaired first-order stream, which is a tributary of the Schuylkill River, and will use the interactive exhibits at FWWIC to learn how communities within the Schuylkill River Watershed impact the river and have a stake in protecting it.