



Flat Garden Gnome Take Home Journal Instructions

Dear Student,

This is your week to take care of your class's Flat Garden Gnome! Remember to do the following while you are visiting with the Flat Garden Gnome:

- Write a short paragraph (2-3 sentences) on a special moment or something you did with Flat Garden Gnome during its stay with you.
- Write a short paragraph (2-3 sentences) on whether or not you and Flat Garden Gnome saw any water pollution. If you did, write about how you could help stop water pollution. If you did not see any pollution, write about ways in which you and Flat Garden Gnome can help stop water pollution.

Feel free to include pictures or drawings of you and the class's Flat Garden Gnome throughout its stay with you and your family. Remember to ask your parents/guardians to help you with your journal entry.

Have fun!

Sincerely,

Educator Name

Educator Title

Flat Garden Gnome Take Home Journal Instructions

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Your child's class at **NAME** School is participating in an educational stormwater management program, which was sponsored by a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection grant.

Your child has brought home a visiting Flat Garden Gnome. Please help your child be careful with Flat Garden Gnome as we need to return it back to the classroom. Have your child record any adventures or special moments he/she may have while the Flat Garden Gnome is visiting. **Return the Flat Garden Gnome and the journal following the attached master schedule so that Flat Garden Gnome can go home with another student.**

Your child should answer the following in a short paragraph (2-3 sentences) within the journal provided:

1. A special moment or adventure Flat Garden Gnome experienced while staying with you.
2. A source of water pollution that you have witnessed with Flat Garden Gnome and how you could help stop water pollution. If none were witnessed, write about a type of water pollution and how you and Flat Garden Gnome can help stop water pollution.

Your child may choose to draw an image of himself/herself with Flat Garden Gnome or take pictures to glue into the journal entry. Your child, with your help, can decorate his/her pages in the journal if they would like.

This Flat Garden Gnome will eventually go into the school's rain garden that will be installed this spring. We encourage you to learn about rain gardens and how they could be used to help prevent water pollution by visiting the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program rain garden webpage at http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain_Gardens/RGWebsite/raingardens.html.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

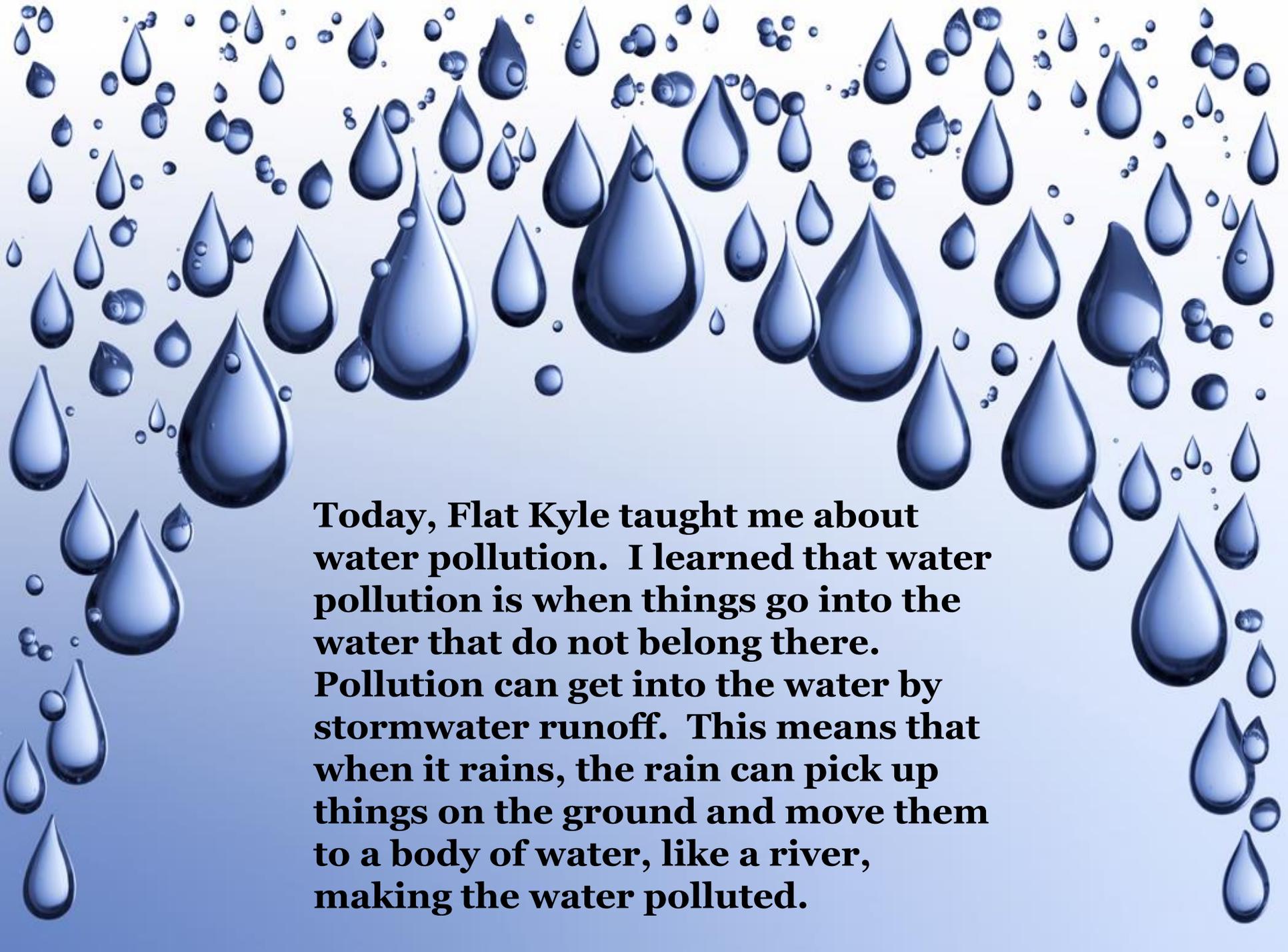
Sincerely,

Educator Name

Educator Title

A type of water pollution is litter. Flat Kyle and I found soda cans on the ground at the local park. Flat Kyle helped me pick them all up and recycle them. It is important to recycle in order to keep our water clean.





Today, Flat Kyle taught me about water pollution. I learned that water pollution is when things go into the water that do not belong there. Pollution can get into the water by stormwater runoff. This means that when it rains, the rain can pick up things on the ground and move them to a body of water, like a river, making the water polluted.



The tales of Flat Kyle...

Today, Flat Kyle and I took a long walk in the park. It was a little windy that day because the wind almost blew Kyle away into the lake!

We met a small dog, Snoopy, on our walk. We asked to play with Snoopy and to help give him a walk. Snoopy had to go to the bathroom and Kyle helped me pick up after Snoopy. Flat Kyle helped me keep my water clean that day...

Flat Kyle came home with me this week during a snow storm! We played together in the snow and made a snowman. It was a lot of fun, especially since we had over 3 feet of snow to play in!



One type of water pollution is when oil and other liquids leak out of cars. This happens when the owners do not keep up with making sure their cars are okay. A solution that Flat Kyle and I came up with was to tell the car owners to check their cars regularly to make sure there are no leaks. If there is a leak, the car owners should take their cars to the mechanic to get them fixed right away!

