

Raising Your Water IQ: 6th grade curriculum and web-based interactive modules

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The Texas Water Development Board collaborated with Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education to produce a series of interactive website modules, as well as a 6th grade curriculum, and a K-3 coloring book with original Texas-centric characters. TWDB's new kids webpage was launched in early 2006 and can be viewed at <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/kids>. These exciting, engaging and instructive additions to TWDB's water education program are designed to teach kids about surface water/groundwater, water use in Texas, water conservation, water planning, the water cycle, and nonpoint source pollution. The modules support and enforce concepts in the newly developed 6th grade curriculum, and in TWDB's existing Major Rivers 4th-5th grade curriculum. The 6th grade curriculum is correlated to Texas education standards (TEKS), provides hands-on activities, and integrates multiple disciplines. Each activity has a short reading and writing assessment and there are also rubrics designed to assist the teacher in assessing students' work. The curriculum was designed for 6th grade but is also correlated to 7th and 8th grade TEKS to assist teachers in preparing students for the middle school science TAKS test.

Utilities can use these resources in promoting the Water IQ: Know your Water campaign by providing schools with information about local water supplies and encouraging teachers to follow up in the classroom by using the games and curriculum to introduce students to water education topics. For instance, the surface water / groundwater module teaches students about the relationship between groundwater and surface water (a required TEKS concept), and reinforces concepts learned in the Reservoirs and Groundwater activity series. There is also a vocabulary assessment built into the surface water / groundwater module. The "Using Water Wisely" module demonstrates what students and their families can do to save water at home and visually/mathematically illustrates how that water savings can multiply as more and more people develop good water conservation habits. Using that knowledge, students can practice being a water planner and delivering the correct resources and tools to the right places at the right time. Help increase your customers' Water IQ with these captivating activities!