

Ryan Mark

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Our water

Water is one of our most valuable, natural resources. Our job is to keep the water clean so we can drink water; use it to grow plants; keep ourselves clean, and protect the earth. Not all waters are clean. Water pollution is caused by contamination of water by sewage, toxic chemicals, metals, oils and other things. Water pollution can affect all bodies of water; rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and oceans. Ground waters can also be affected. Fish are a species that can be harmed as well as plants and us!

Many Americans use groundwater for drinking water. The largest use for ground water is to irrigate crops. Ground water is water that is found underground, in the cracks and spaces in the soil sand and rock. Ground water is stored in the earth and moves slowly through the layers. Some pollutants of groundwater are, landfills, septic tanks, leaky underground gas tanks and from overuse of fertilizers and pesticides. When ground water is polluted you can't drink it. It's important for us to learn to take care of our groundwater because it is important to have clean drinking water and clean water to irrigate our farms.

Pathogens also pollute water and can be harmful. They can cause many illnesses like typhoid, dysentery, and skin diseases; as well as respiratory illnesses like asthma. Some pathogens are bacteria and viruses. The pollutants enter bodies of water through untreated sewage; storm drains septic tanks run off from farms and boats dump the sewage. All these pollutants cause sicknesses.

Our clean water will help the earth in many ways.