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Rubber Bands

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Another typical activity may be introduced when doing a unit on ecology.

Is a Stream Polluted?

Purpose: To illustrate the presence of suspended material in water.

Apparatus: A three pound coffee can lid, black paint, string, metric measurer, tape and weights.

Procedure: Take the coffee can lid and paint quadrants on it in black. Attach a string to the center of the lid with a weight attached below. Lower the lid into the water, marking each meter of string with tape. When you can no longer see the disc you can record the depth of the wet string. Why does the lid seem to disappear? Does it disappear at the same depth in all instances?

Summary

Eighty activities of this type can be found in the booklet I have assembled. If interested, write Mr. Claison Groff, Box 154, Boxholm, Iowa 50040. Ask for *Simple Experiments With Little or No Equipment*, the price is \$3.00.

Editorial note: Mr. Groff is well-known for his ability to stimulate student interest in science. He has produced many entrants and winners in statewide competition in science fairs. His booklet is illustrated.

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Rubber Bands

Have you ever had students shooting rubber bands while they were *supposed* to be doing something else? Why not channel this behavior into a learning activity? Divide the class into groups of two, each group receiving rubber bands of uniform size, a centimeter ruler and a meter stick. Have them proceed as follows:

1. Hold the ruler on the edge of the desk.
2. Hook a rubber band on the end of the ruler and pull back 12 cm.
3. Let the rubber band go.
4. Measure the flight distance with a meter stick.
5. Repeat the procedure five times and record the data.
6. Repeat the procedure, but pull the rubber band back 16 cm and 20 cm and record the data.
7. Average the distances for each trial. Average the class data. Graph the data.
8. Discuss the data and make conclusions.

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