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project WET
WATER EDUCATION TODAY
Educate
Empower
Act

Do you know where your water comes from?

Huffington Post Survey (2018):

Only 21% of people know “very well” where their water comes from

49% of people under 30 did not understand where their water comes from

Water is part of everything

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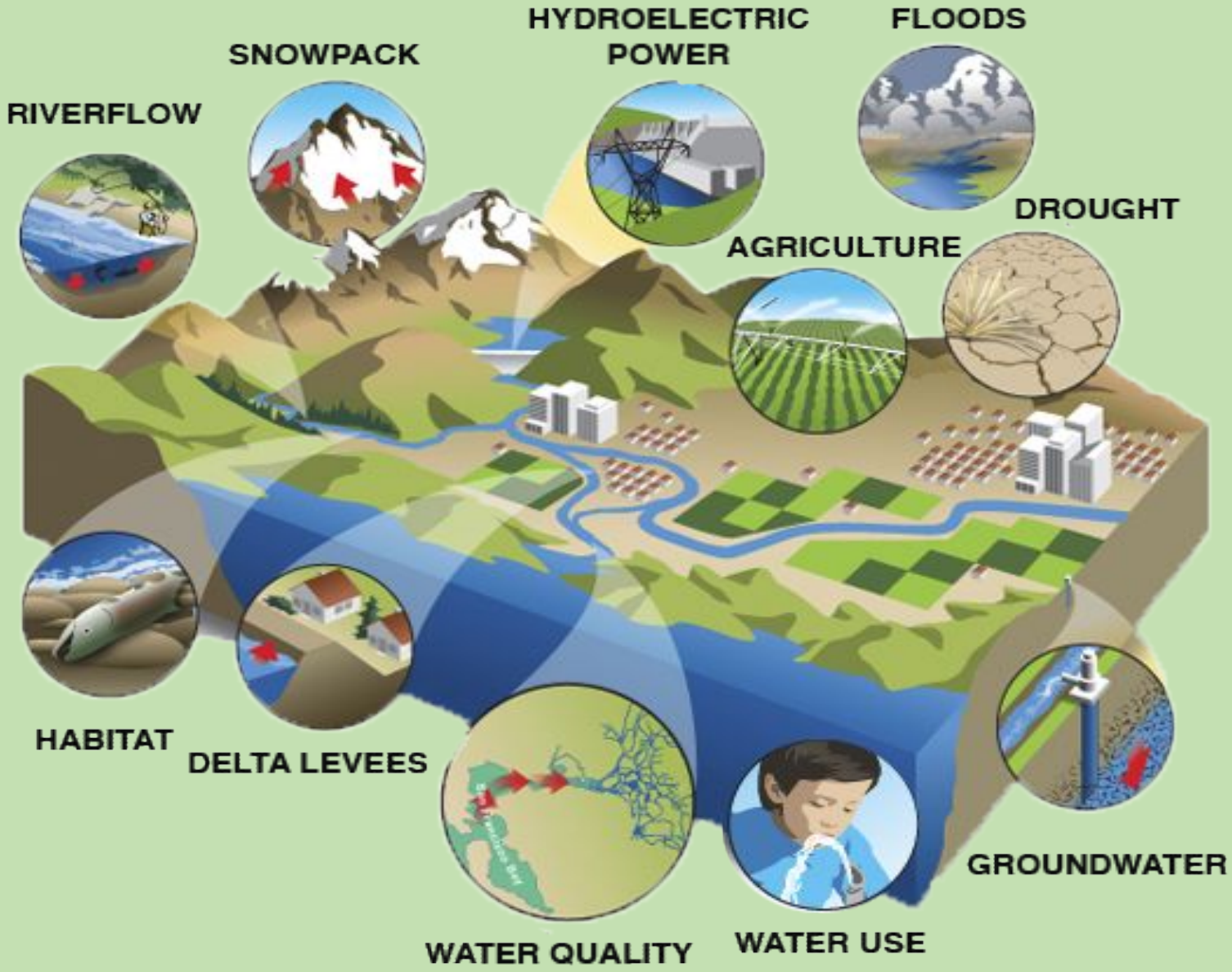
New agreement signed between the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) with National Project WET in April, 2026

ICEC Steering Committee:

- Linette Bernard – Iowa Coordinator and National POC
- Peg Steffen – ICEC Board Member
- Tiffany Morgan – ICEC Board Member

Project WET Integrates Knowledge of Complex Water Issues

PWET creates publications, materials and digital resources that address water topics ranging from conservation to water quality to water distribution. Materials are designed for both K-12 education and the general public.



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WATER EDUCATION TODAY

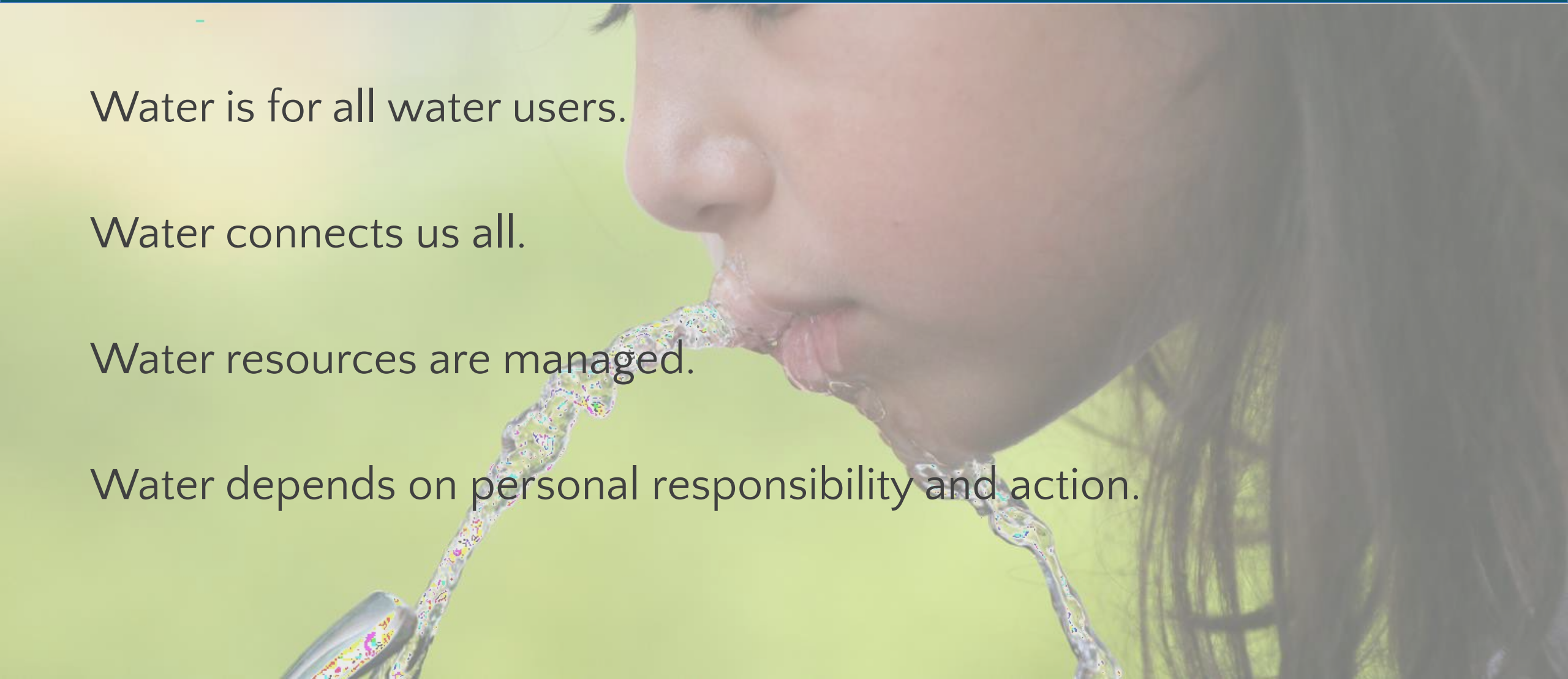
Mission

- To advance water education to understand global challenges and inspire local solutions. The Project WET Foundation envisions a world in which action-oriented education enables every child to understand and value water, ensuring a sustainable future.

Goal

- Project WET facilitates and promotes awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources through the dissemination of these classroom-ready materials and through the establishment of internationally sponsored Project WET programs.

Project WET Core Beliefs



Water is for all water users.

Water connects us all.

Water resources are managed.

Water depends on personal responsibility and action.

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Project WET believes that:

- Water moves through living and nonliving systems and binds them together in a complex web of life.
- Water of sufficient quality and quantity is important for all water users (energy producers, farmers, and ranchers, fish and wildlife, manufacturers, recreationists, rural and urban dwellers).
- Wise water management is crucial for providing tomorrow's children with social and economic stability in a healthy environment.
- Awareness of and respect for water resources can encourage a personal, lifelong commitment of responsibility and positive community participation.

A little EE History

1969-Ohio's Cuyahoga River catches fire

What happened after that?

1970- First Earth Day celebration in United States

1972- Clean Water Act

1973- Environmental Protection Agency

1976- Project Learning Tree created to address need for high quality EE materials

1977- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) meets in Soviet Georgia (Tbilisi)

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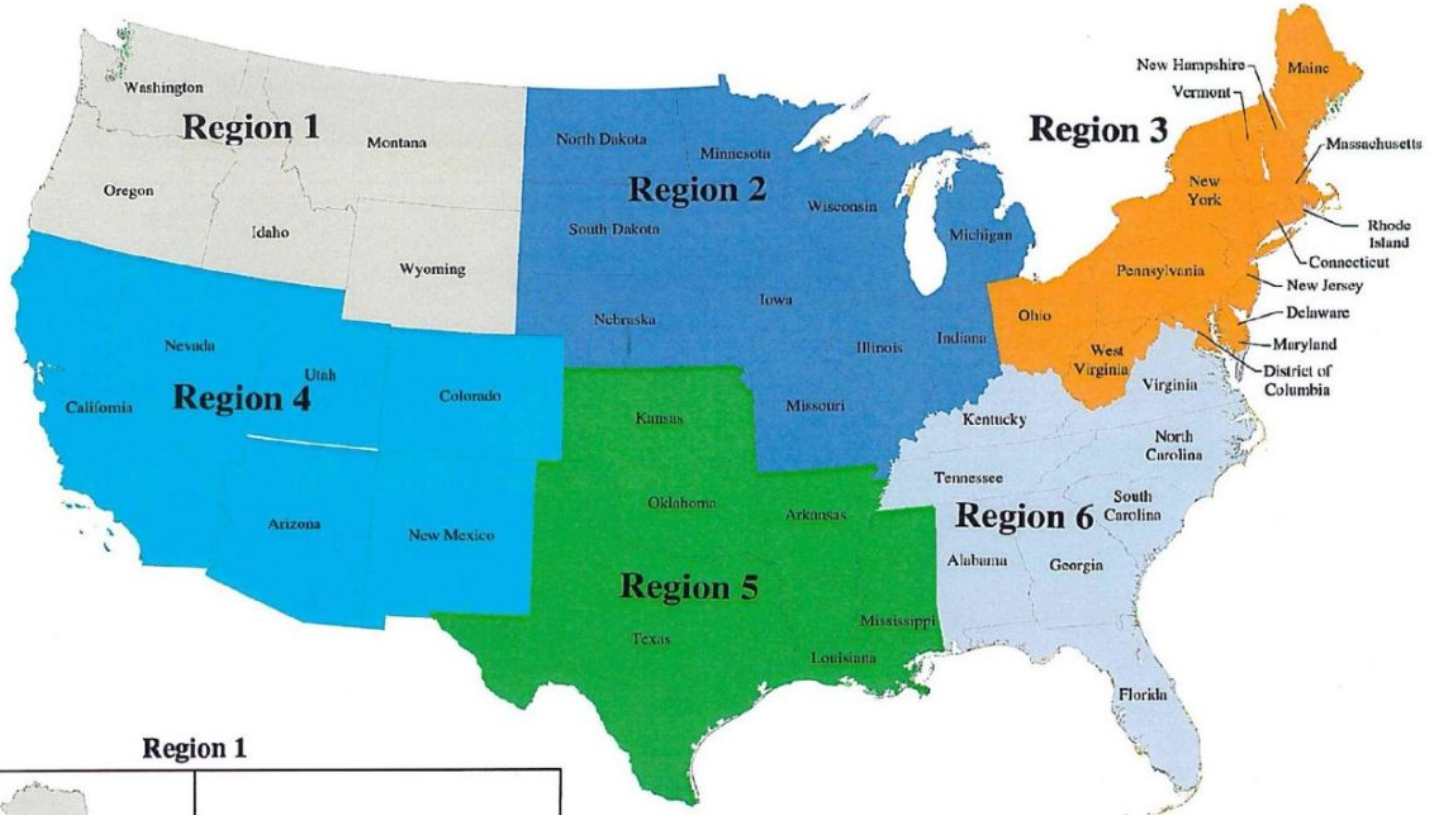
WATER EDUCATION TODAY

Phase I: 1984 — 1989. Project WET program was established in 1984 by the North Dakota State Water Commission in the agency's planning division to educate the public about water resources and its management. Based on significant interest from teachers and youth, the commission focused part of its education efforts on reaching children through teachers and non-formal educators.

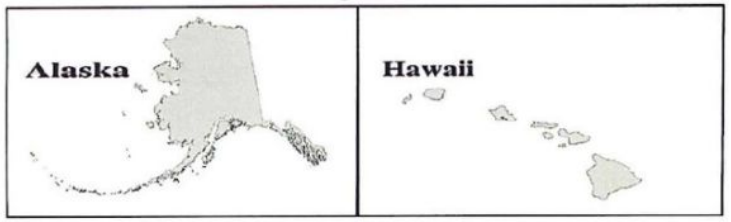
Phase II: 1989 — 2005. Project WET network expansion (all 50 states, plus Washington, D.C., and 19 countries. Project WET published over 50 water education guides and books for children and teachers between 1995 and 2005.

Phase III: 2005 — present. The Project WET Foundation was established on July 1, 2005 as a 501(c)(3) organization and is located in Bozeman, Montana, USA. Project WET is supported annually by the thousands of individuals and organizations who purchase Project WET materials, grants and contracts from public and private sector donors, and founding global sponsors Nestlé Waters and Valerie Gates.

Project WET USA Network Regions Map



Region 1



2024 Impact

4.75 Million World wide

USA Impact

EDUCATORS TRAINED IN 2024

9598

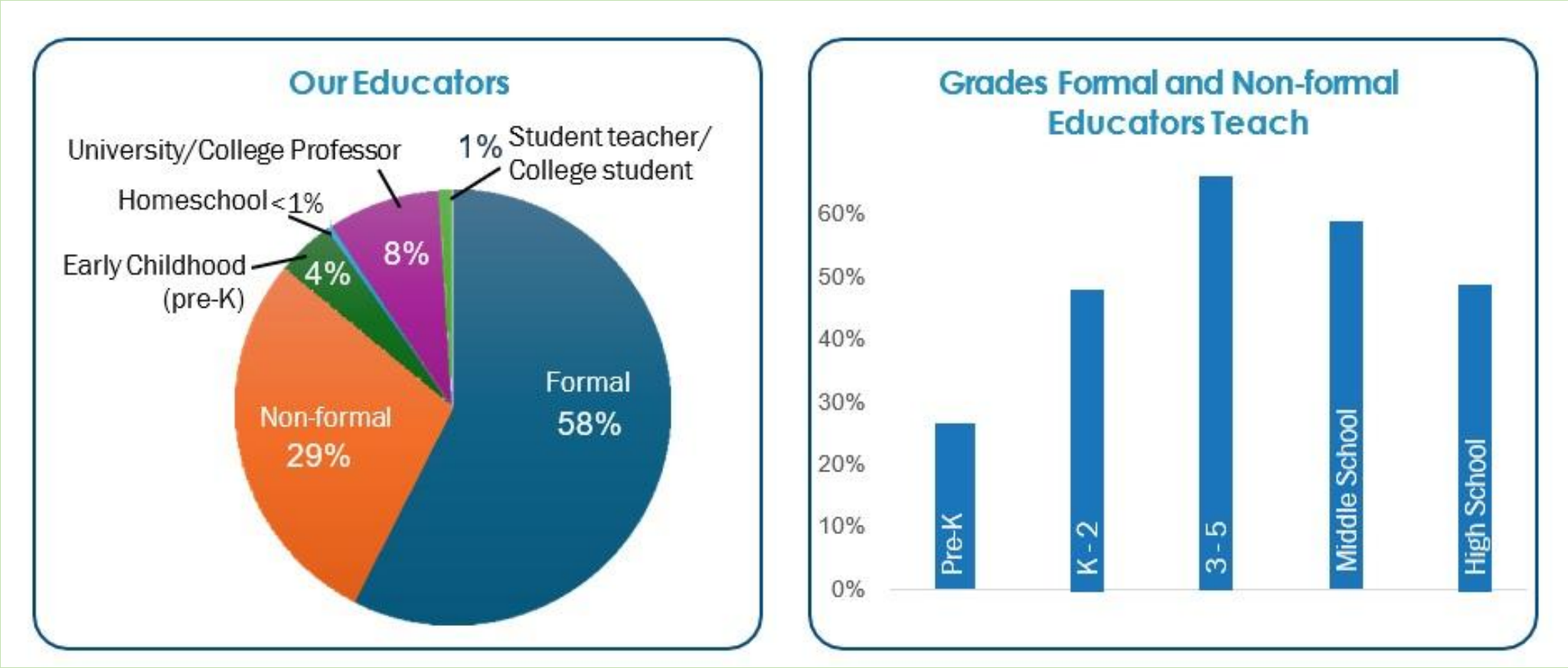
EDUCATORS TRAINED in New Guide in 2024

2769

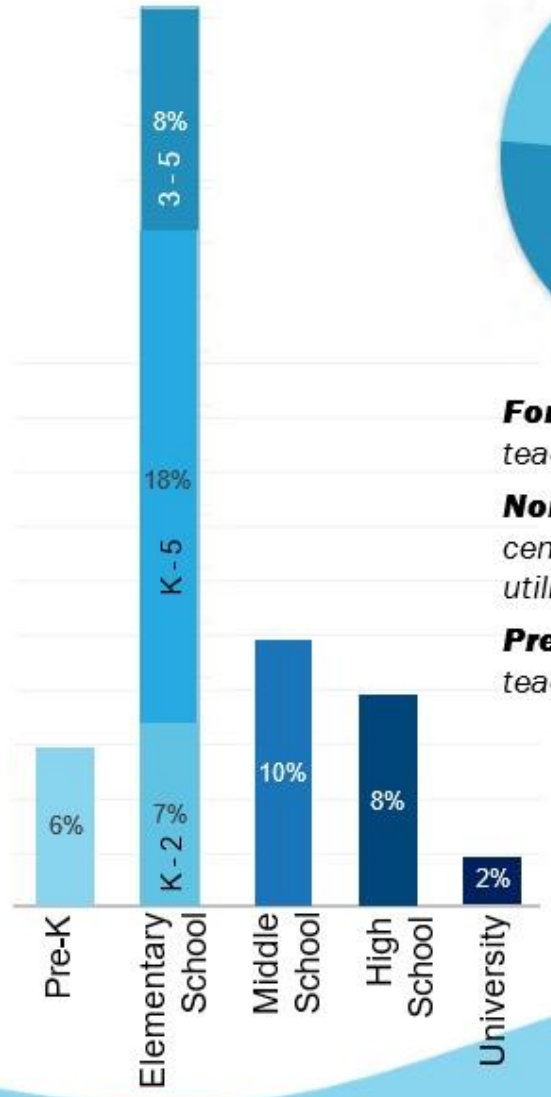
STUDENTS EDUCATED

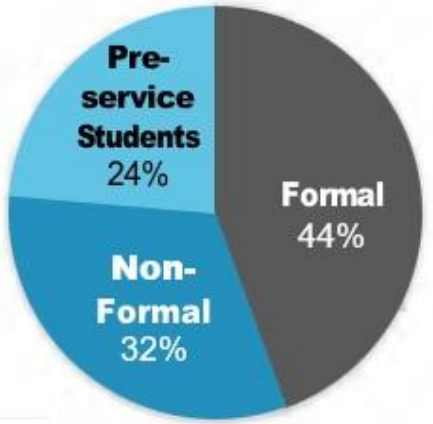
3.6 million

As part of developing the national Project WET 2025–2028 strategic plan, key audiences were surveyed to better understand who we serve, how they use Project WET, and what they need.



What types of educators did we train?





Formal = *classroom/school teachers*

Non-formal = *nature centers, afterschool, camps, utilities*

Pre-service = *student teachers/college students*

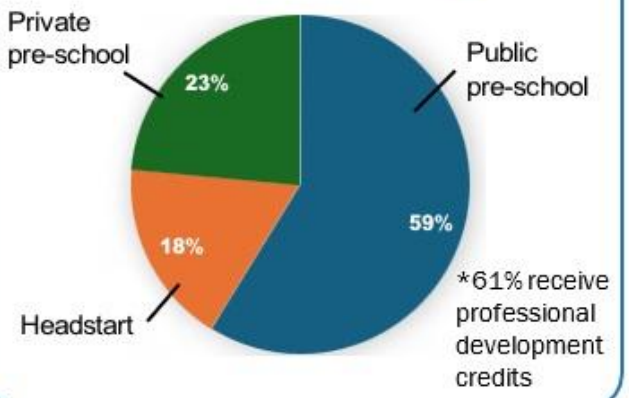
Project WET Partners' and Educators' Demographics

Age–Generally, over age 50 (>50%)

Gender–Mostly female (85%)

Race–Mostly white (75%)

Pre-K Childhood Settings



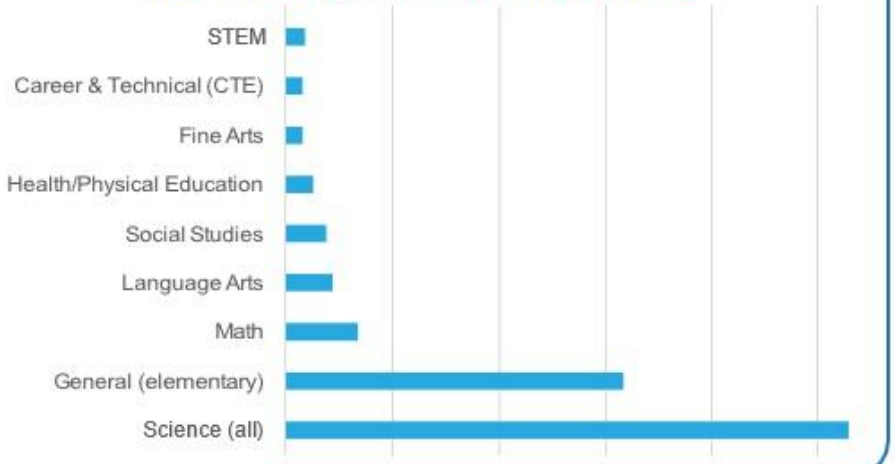
Why University Professors Use Project WET

1. Engaging and hands-on curricula.
2. Effectively teaches environmental and earth science topics.
3. Provides credentials and tools for resumes and future teaching.

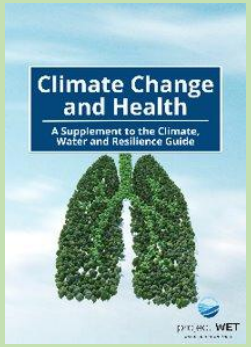
Educator Comparison

Formal	vs.	Non-formal
• pays for professional development themselves or receives it at school		• employers pay for professional development
• uses WET lessons in larger units		• uses individual WET lessons for special days or school visits
• teaches a single grade or grade band		• teaches multiple grades: pre-K to 12
• spends less than 25% of time teaching about water		• spends more than 25% of time teaching about water

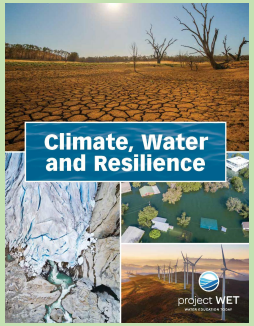
Teacher Subject Use of Project WET

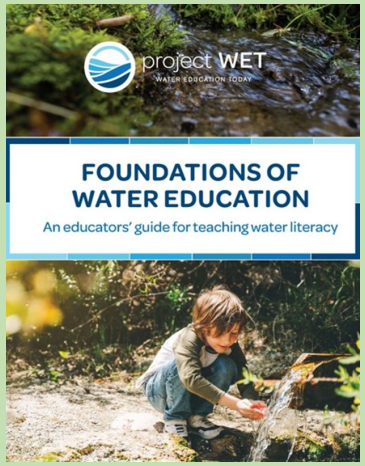


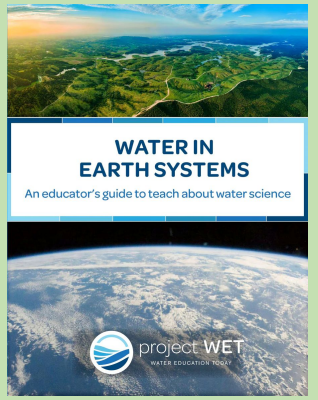
Project WET Publications



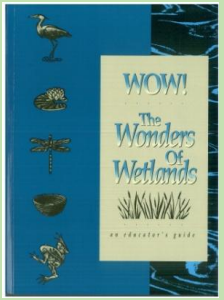
Climate Change





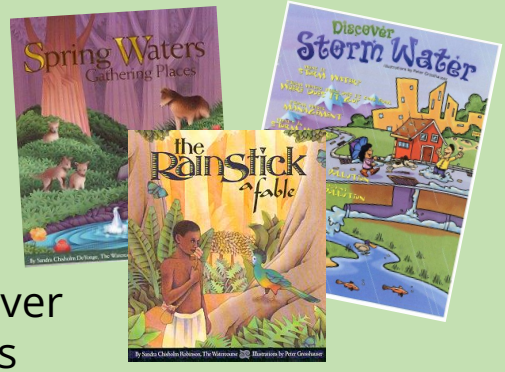


Water in Earth Systems

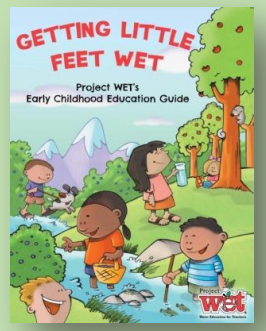


WOW (The Wonders of Wetlands)

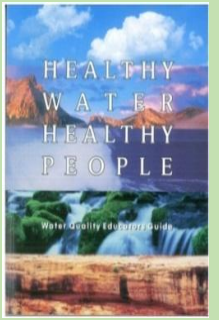
Discoverwater.org



KIDS series Discover and Storybooks



Getting Little Feet WET Early Childhood Guide

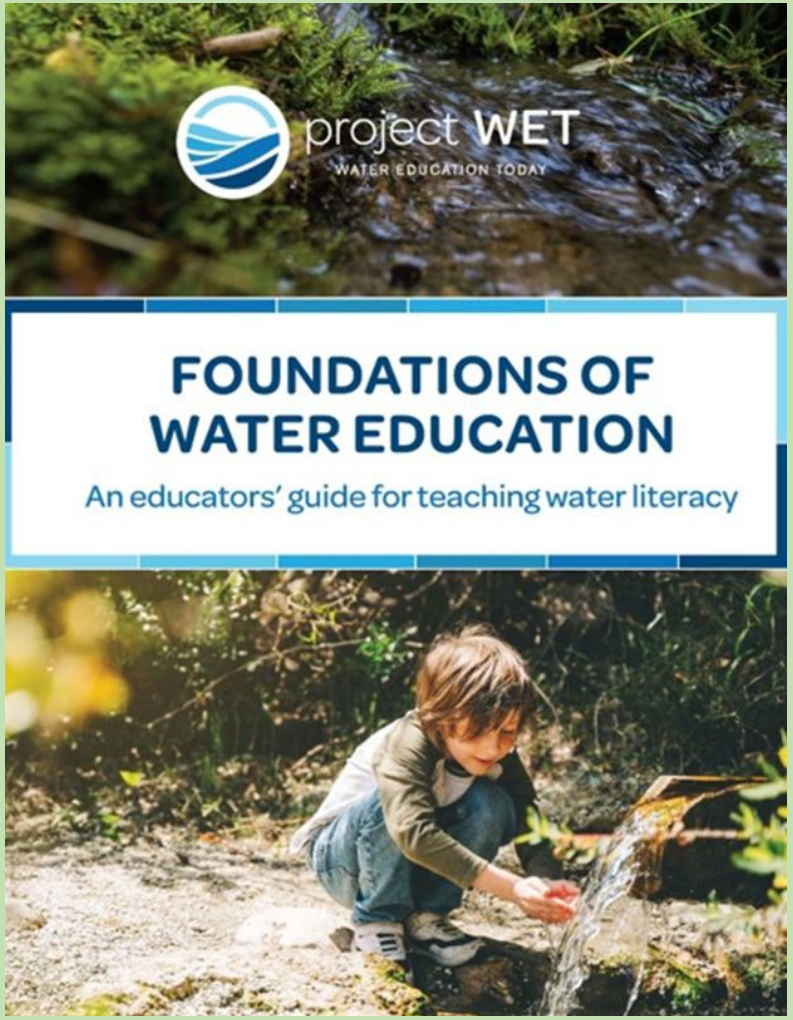


Healthy Water, Healthy People

Foundations of Water Education

12 carefully curated activities designed to help educators incorporate essential water literacy concepts into their curriculum. Covering key topics like watersheds, groundwater, ecology, and water resource management, each activity includes step-by-step instructions, academic correlations, and interactive learning experiences that foster critical thinking and problem-solving. This essential guide lays the groundwork for water education.

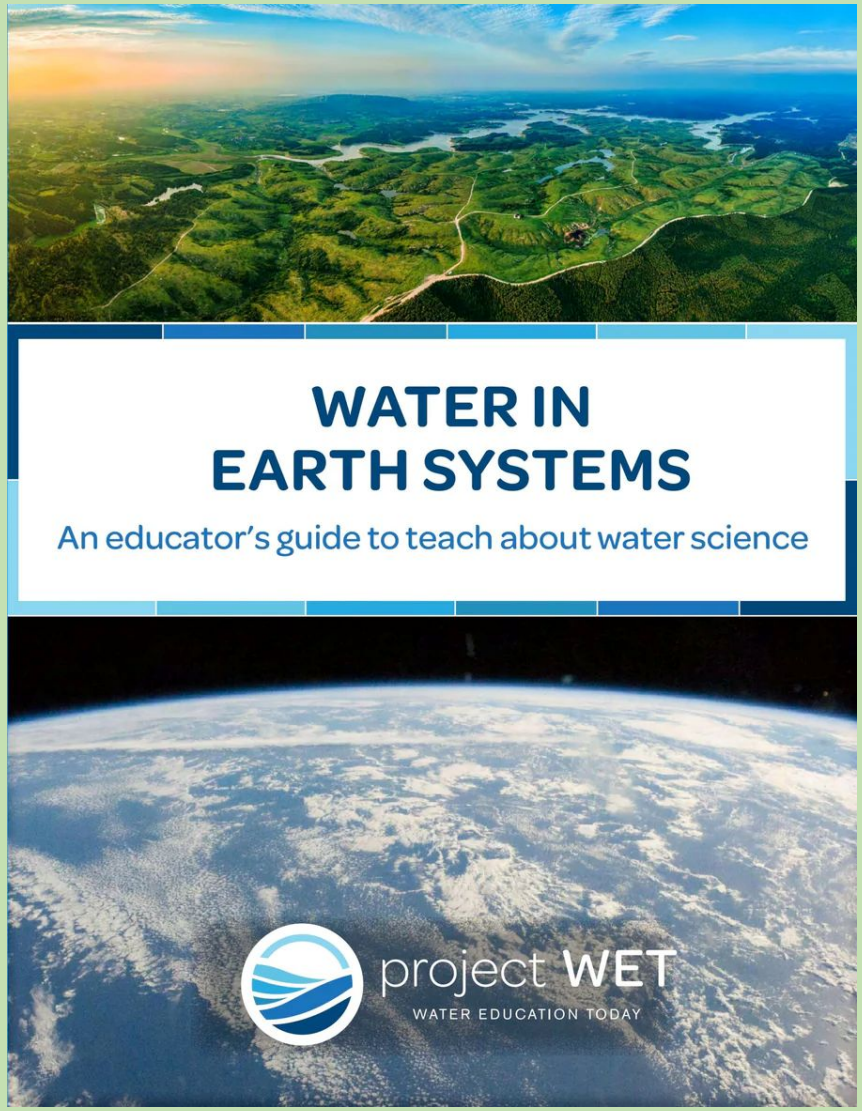
- Target audience: K-12 (formal), non-formal, and pre-service educators
- Workshop or online training required
- Comes with Portal access
- Correlated to standards
- Resources available on https://www.projectwet.org/educational-resources



Water in Earth Systems

23 activities designed to help educators effectively teach about how water behaves and influences our planet. Topics covered include the water cycle, watershed dynamics, and other fundamental aspects of water in our Earth systems. This guide provides the tools to enhance understanding of water!

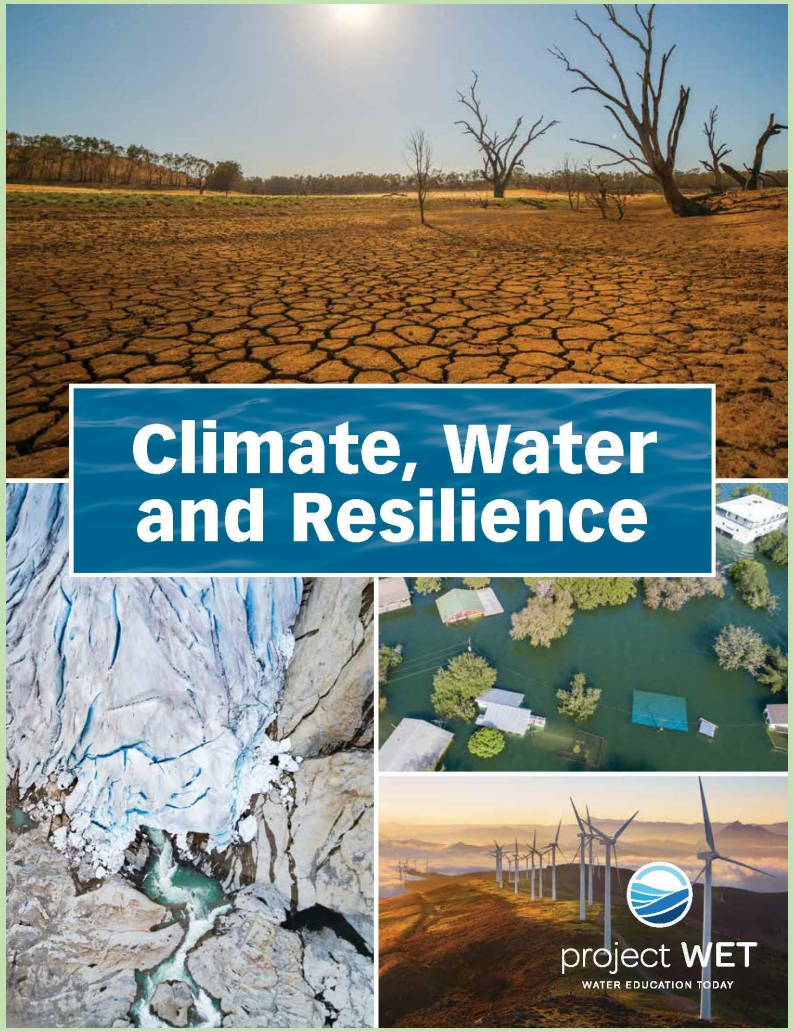
- Target audience: K-12 (formal), non-formal, and pre-service educators
- Workshop or online training required
- Comes with Portal access
- Correlated to standards
- Resources available on https://www.projectwet.org/educational-resources



Climate, Water and Resilience

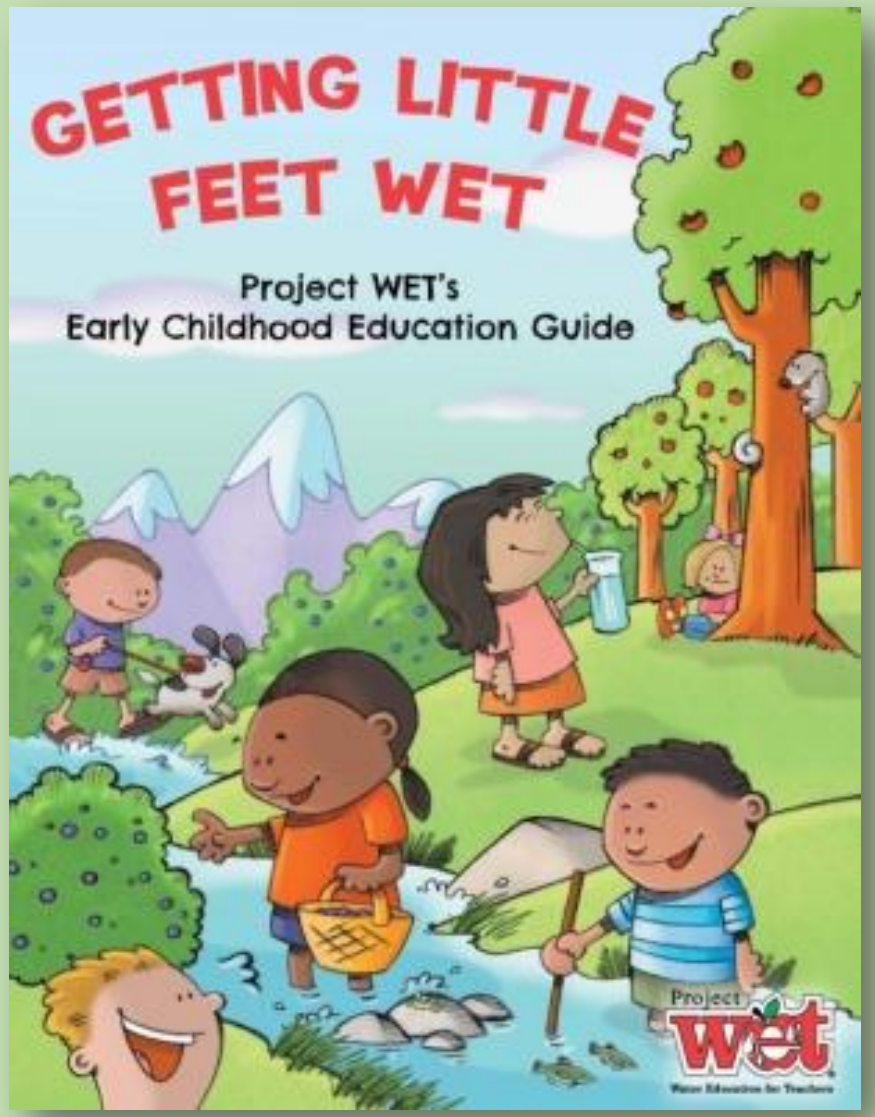
Equips educators to teach middle and high school students about climate change through interactive, science-based activities. Unlike other Project WET publications, the activities in this guide are designed to be taught sequentially, with each lesson building upon the previous one to deepen understanding. The curriculum emphasizes the critical role of water in climate systems and aims to foster informed decision-making and community resilience among students.
June

- Target audience: Grades 6-12
- Workshop or virtual training required
- Correlated to NGSS, Common Core, Climate Literacy and Water Literacy principles



Getting Little Feet Wet

Project WET's early childhood education guide. Developed in coordination with early childhood education experts, this guide provides a developmentally appropriate curriculum with lessons created specifically for young children that allow them to explore science by learning about water in our bodies, our environment, and our society. Each of the 11 lessons is divided into a PreK-K and K-2 option. All activities are correlated to early childhood standards from the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the North American Association of Environmental Educators.

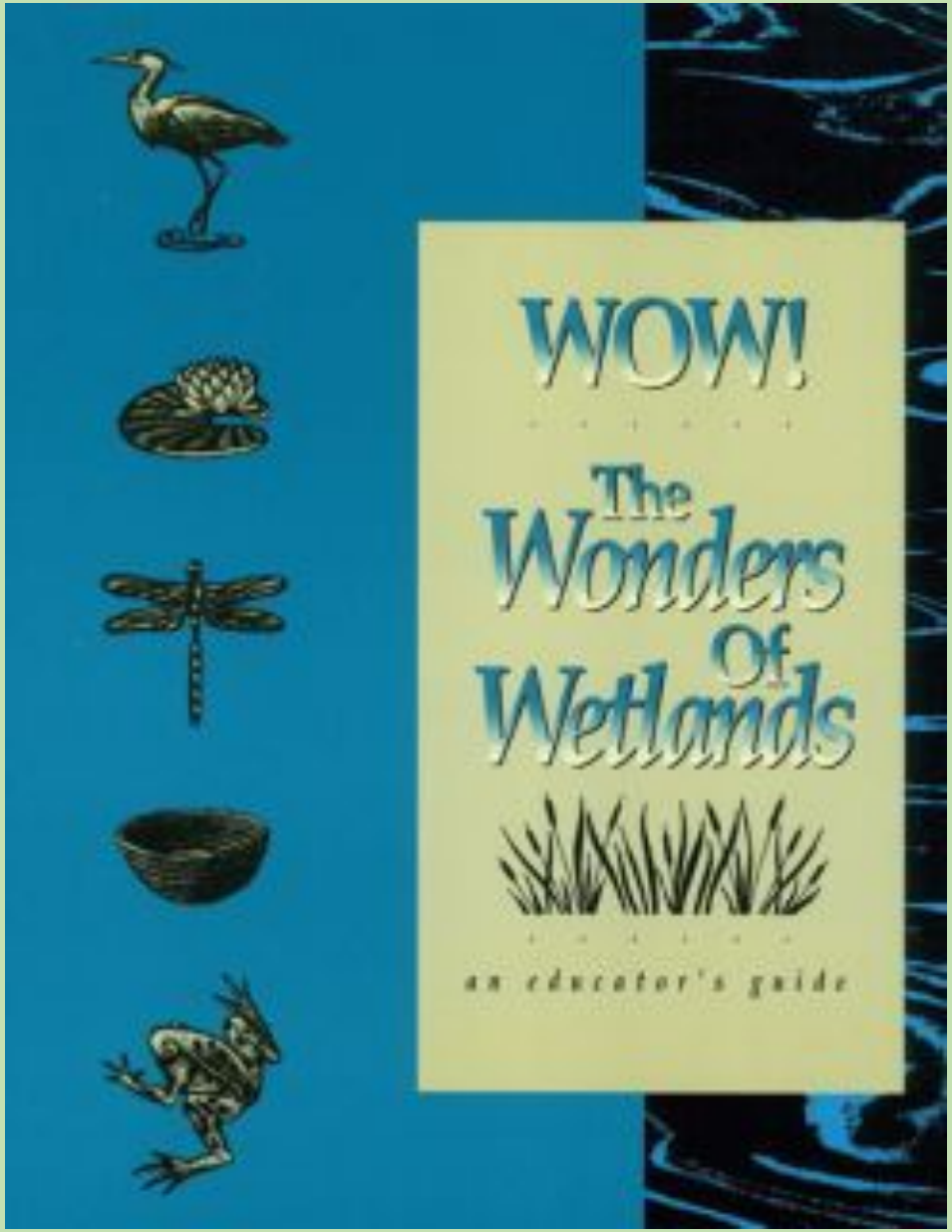


- Target age group: 3-6 / Pre-K through 1st grade
- No workshop required but many educators request it
- Correlated to EC standards
- Toolkit for Coordinators & Facilitators
- Resources Available on https://store.projectwet.org/products/getting-little-feet-wet-book

WOW! Wonders of Wetlands

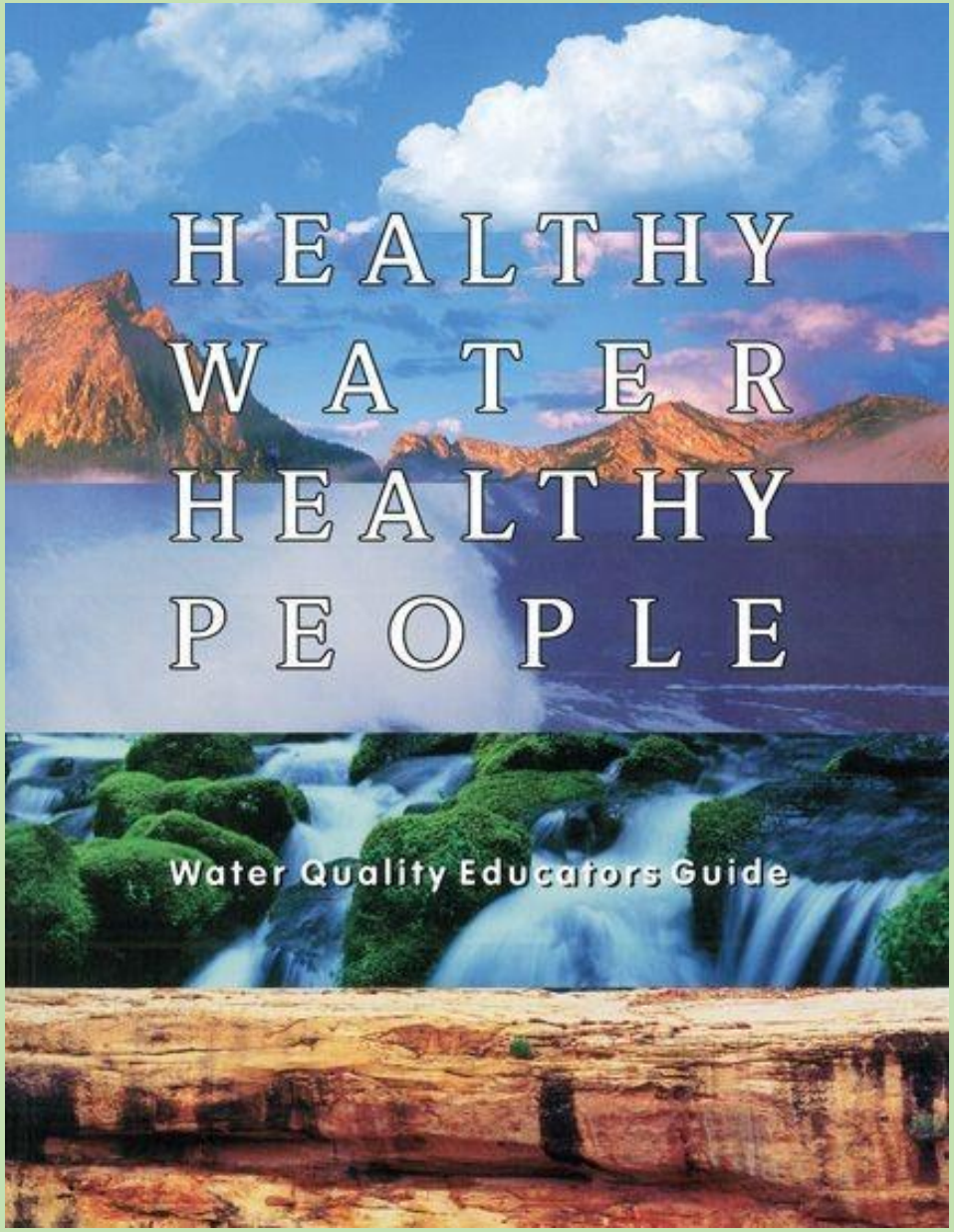
A comprehensive resource for teaching about wetlands. The guide is organized into five sections: wetlands definitions, wetlands plants and animals, water quality and supply issues, soils, and the role of people in wetland ecosystems. It also includes an appendix with detailed instructions for planning and creating a schoolyard wetland habitat, making it a practical tool for hands-on learning and environmental education.

The digital version is available at https://store.projectwet.org/products/wow-the-wonders-of-wetlands

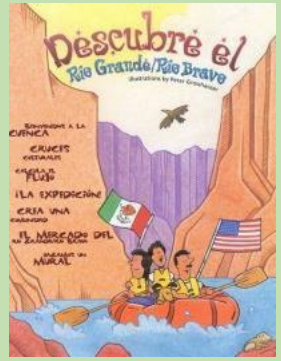


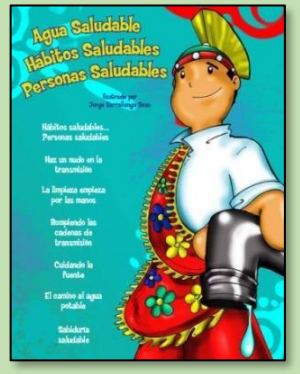
Healthy Water, Healthy People Educator

Resource designed for educators teaching students from grade six through university level. It focuses on increasing awareness and understanding of water quality issues and their connections to personal, public, and environmental health. The guide includes 25 interactive activities that address key water quality topics and align with science standards, linking these topics to real-world experiences for both educators and students.

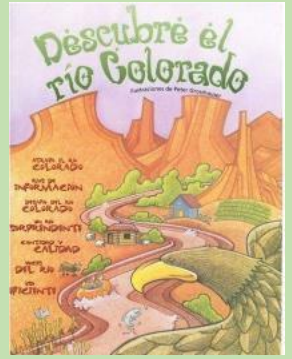


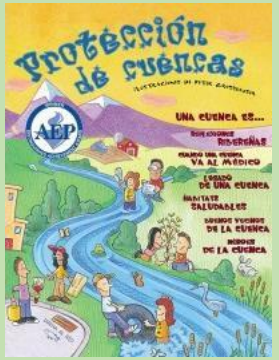
Spanish Language Guides and KIDS Booklets

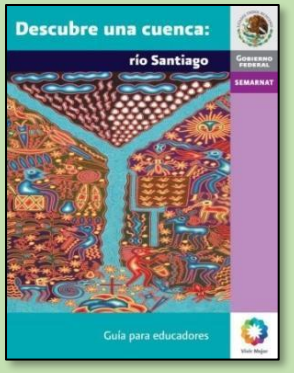




- **Watershed Protection** - Protección de Cuencas Cuadernillo de Actividades para Niños
  Find it here
- **Healthy Water, Healthy People** - Agua Saludablé, Cénté Saludablé
  Find it here
  Discover the Colorado River - Descubre el Río Colorado Cuadernillo de Actividades para Niños
  Find it here
- **Discover the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo** - Descubre el Río Grande/Río Bravo Cuadernillo de Actividades para Niños Find it here
- **Getting Little Feet WET** - Mojarse Los Piececitos
- **Incredible Journey materials -** Dice and station markers Find them here







The Water Education Portal is a companion site for *the Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide 2.0* and it's derivatives such as *Foundations of Water Education* and *Water in Earth Systems*. It is accessible to anyone who has completed a workshop in these guides.

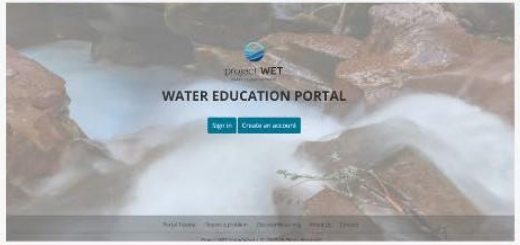
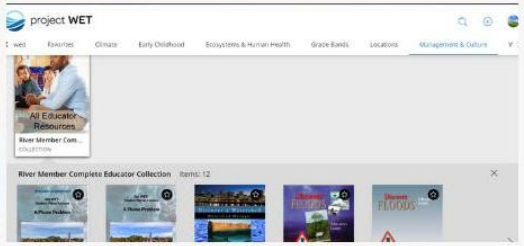
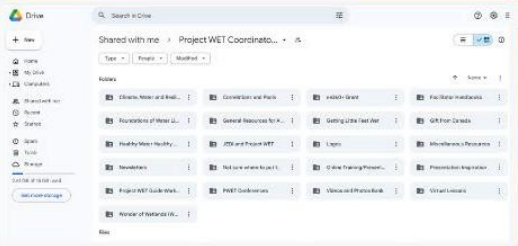
- Access is achieved by using a unique, printed code inside the cover of the guide.
- The Water Education Portal provides users with digital Student Copy Pages and detailed NGSS and Common Core standards
- Information and resources to enhance Project WET activities
- Access over 45 additional Project WET activities from the original Project WET Guide 1.0.

The **Project WET store** is open to the public. However, certain guides are only available to Coordinators and approved facilitators to purchase. Coordinators also receive special pricing on most publications.

PROJECT WET DIGITAL RESOURCES

	WET ACADEMY	PROJECT WET	DISCOVERWATER.ORG	MEMBERSHIPS
	projectwet.wetacademy.org	projectwet.org	discoverwater.org	projectwet.org/membership
Who	**EDUCATORS + FACILITATORS + COORDINATORS**	**PUBLIC**	**STUDENTS + EDUCATORS + PUBLIC**	**EDUCATORS**
More Info	Project WET's online training platform. Available thorugh a River Membership on the Project WTE store. Available for free through a Coordinator or facilitator with a special code. Coordinators and Facilitators have complimentary access.	The main website for Project WET. Find information on mission, staff, board, and partners. Under Resources find the climate webpage, early childhood information, special topic pages, memberships, digital resoures, and more!	An interactive website designed for children ages 8-12, but used by a broad variety of ages. Gamified online versions of Project WET activities. Resources for parents and educators to use with students.	Memberships provide individuals with newsletters, webinars, discounts to WET products and access to the WELL. Rain Drop = $25/annually Stream = $40/annually River = $100 annually Available for purchase on Project WET store. Coordinators and Facilitators recieve complimentary membership

PROJECT WET DIGITAL RESOURCES

	WATER EDUCATION PORTAL	WELL	GOOGLE DRIVE	PROJECT WET USA
	portal.projectwet.org	wet.kitaboo.com	bit.ly/PWET-GoogleShared	projectwetusa.org
				
Who	**TRAINED EDUCATORS + FACILITATORS + COORDINATORS**	**MEMBERS + EDUCATORS + FACILITATORS + COORDINATORS**	**FACILITATORS + COORDINATORS**	**COORDINATORS + REGISTERED FACILITATORS**
More Info	Copy pages, extra resources, standards correlations for Guide 1.0, Guide 2.0, and Foundations. Access the portal with the code on inside cover of the Foundations guide. Anyone trained in Guide 2.0 or derivative guides.	Water Education Learning Library: A library of guides, KIDS bookets, videos, and eLessons. Access varies based on trainining and membership level: • member have 7 days - 1 year access • Coordinators and Facilitators have complimentary unlimited access	Workshop & program resources such as agendas, PowerPoints, photos, logos, copy pages, and more! Upload your own resources to share with others. Look through folders or search the drive for something specific. Please make a copy ordownload if you are going to edit any documents.	Coordinators recieve access from Project WET. Facilitators get access from their Coordinator. Register your worksops to be on Project WET's website. Access paper and digital evaluation forms. Can act as a workshop log and data collection.

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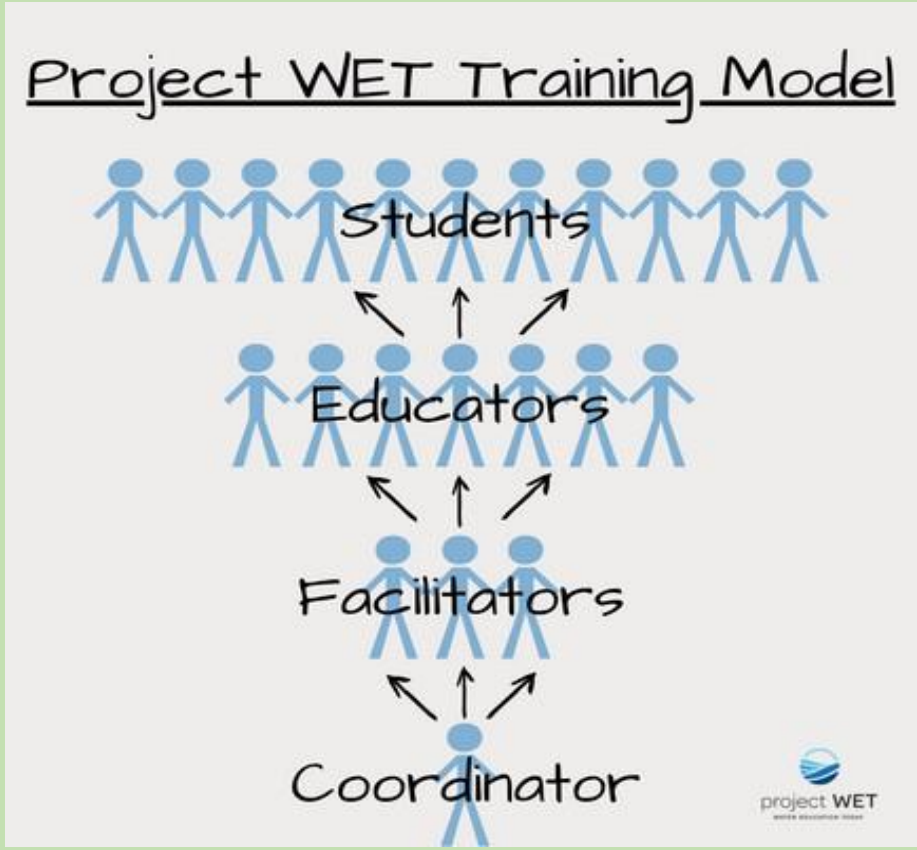
WATER EDUCATION TODAY

Getting Started

A **Project WET Facilitator** is trained to lead Project WET workshops. Facilitators are responsible for organizing and conducting workshops, gathering sign-up and evaluation information to be given to their Coordinator, and disseminating Project WET materials to educators during workshops.

Facilitators may be current or recently retired teachers, water or natural resource agency education outreach staff, nature center or museum education staff, or professors using Project WET in their courses.



Coordinator: Provides leadership training, compile annual reports, participate in national teams, administer state-wide programs

Workshop Requirements for trained facilitators

- Introduce participants to the goals and mission of the Project WET program, including an overview of the Project WET program history and local sponsors.
- A Project WET workshop must include enough time for participants to experience activities and learn how to practice and apply them. Some states require a minimum of 6 hours of professional development training in order for teachers to receive Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits, if offered. Project WET has no minimum time requirement.
- Bring local water-based phenomena and/or water management challenges into sharper focus for participants by modeling a minimum of 3 Project WET activities that will also make the information meaningful to students.
- Highlight how the knowledge, concepts and skills in each activity can be applied to local watershed challenges and potential student action projects.
- Explain how Project WET meets educational standards. Provide state standards, if you have them.

Workshop Requirements for trained facilitators

- Provide a “splash through the guide” to familiarize participants with Guide features, online Portal, and individual activity components to aid educators.
- Introduce participants to additional Project WET resources, DiscoverWater.org, other Project WET guides, KIDS books).

- Every workshop must include an opportunity for participants to evaluate their workshop experience.
- The standard Project WET evaluation collects basic participant demographic information, type of educators, audiences they serve and approximate number of students they teach annually, in addition to assessing the workshop.

Potential Funding

Iowa REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) Dissemination Grants are specific awards deployed to replicate, share, and expand highly successful Conservation Education Program (CEP) projects across the state. These transfer conservation and environmental curricula/tools to other educators and programs in Iowa.

- Award Limits: Up to $10,000 per awardee.
- Funding Pool: Drawn from a larger up-to-$50,000 fund reserved exclusively for implementing successful education plans.
- Applications are due on February 20th.

Indicate Your interest in joining the Iowa effort

IOWA
project WET
WATER EDUCATION TODAY

The first facilitator training will consist of a 2-hour virtual introduction, a homework assignment, a 2-hour virtual follow-up and a 2-hour face-to-face final training at the ICEC Winter Workshop on Saturday, February 6, 2027, in Altoona. CEUs and graduate credit may be available.

Filling out the Google form indicates your interest in becoming a facilitator and providing Project WET workshops in your area.