Water for Texas

A water user group game developed by the Texas Water Development Board

The object of the *Water for Texas* game is to teach students, from the range of 2nd grade to adult, about their location in Texas, the different water user groups in their Regional Water Planning Area, and how they can help conserve the amount of water people use in the municipality group. Here's how the game was developed for the activity in Region K:

- Show the students a large map of Texas, with the Regional Water Planning Areas.

- Have the students point to where they live on the map and introduce the county name and regional water planning area they live in.
- Tell the students they are going to play a game which will show who uses the most water in their region.
- Introduce and give examples of the following water user groups: municipal, manufacturing/mining, irrigation, steam-electric, and livestock.

Region K Information according to the *2012 Water for Texas* State Water Plan:

Region K Projected Water Demand 2010	Acre feet of water	% of water in the Region
Municipal	268,643	25
Manufacturing/Mining	68,782	6
Irrigation	589,705	54
Steam-electric	146,167	14
Livestock	13,395	1
Region Total	**1,086,692**	**100**

- From this information, adjust the percentages into seconds that can be used for a relay race.
- For Region K, another 10 seconds was added to each water user group so the kids would have more time to run.
- Each color will have different times, because the amount of water each group uses is different.
- Do not tell the students which water user group they are.
- Divide the students into 5 color coded groups. Any color can represent any water user group. Here is an example for Region K: *Note: Blue & Purple are together as a group to represent irrigation because Region K has a very large irrigation water user group.*

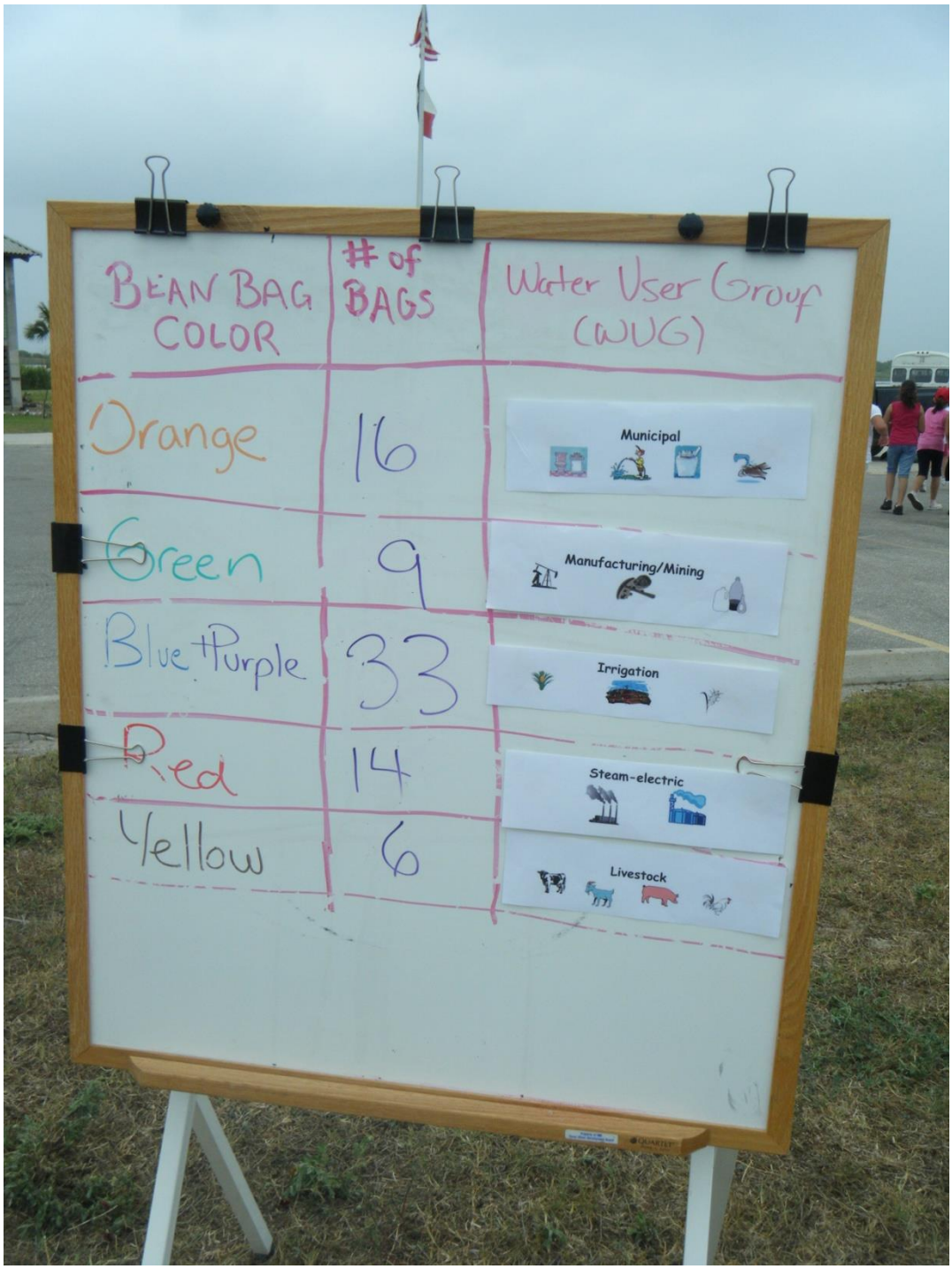
Bean Bag Color	Number of Seconds	# of Bean Bags	Water User Group
Orange	35		Municipal
Green	16		Manufacturing/Mining
Blue & Purple	64		Irrigation
Red	24		Steam-electric
Yellow	11		Livestock

- Place the divided groups into a large circle with the "source" of the water (the bean bags) in the middle of the circle.
- Have a bucket for the groups to drop the bean bags off at their original starting point and from the water source at all five locations, with a color indicator of which color they should be grabbing.
- Using a timer, have each group go individually for the number of seconds

Bean Bag Station

Water Source

- When you yell "go," using municipal as an example, the team has 35 seconds to run to the source to grab an orange bean bag and drop it off at their stations until you yell "stop!"
- After each bean bag color group has gone, record the number of bean bags collected on a white board.
- Re-introduce the water user groups and examples within each category.
- Have the students guess which color represents the water user groups. This is an example of Region K:



- Note that the number of bean bags is similar in spread to the percentages for the region.
- Varying on the group age, discussion may go into methods of reducing municipal water use , efficient irrigation conservation, and proper grazing for animals.
- All in all, the students get some exercise, and hopefully walk away knowing about the different water user groups, where they live, and ways they can save water around their home!