



TWDB Kids: K-12 Educational Resources

The **TWDB Kids** website, www.twdb.texas.gov/kids, is the gateway to the agency's K-12 educational resources. TWDB Kids features teachers' guides, visualizations, games, and other activities to help students learn about key water resource concepts.

The place to begin water education is in the school classroom, because school programs can result in both short- and long-term water savings. The information students learn is often shared with their parents and affects household water use patterns. Youth educated about water resources are also more likely to make lifelong behavioral changes.

TWDB scientific research forms the cornerstone for these programs. Units are developed for specific age groups and range from coloring books for younger children to complete curricula for older students. They come with teachers' guides and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) guidelines, along with web quests, games, and lessons.

The **Water for Texas** coloring and activity book is a popular publication that engages young children in exploring Texas water resources. It features Grandpa Lizard, Sally Mander, Amanda Armadillo, and Billy the Bull. Aimed at K-3 students, the coloring book emphasizes the importance of water resources and water conservation. Coloring books may be ordered from the TWDB or downloaded as a PDF from the TWDB Kids website.

Major Rivers is a multidisciplinary program that includes a teachers' guide, colorful and engaging student workbooks and take-home leaflets, and an introductory movie. Major Rivers, along with his horse, Aquifer, have been visiting Texas 4th and 5th grade classrooms for more than 25 years.

The program teaches students where water comes from, how to protect water resources, and how to use water wisely. Major Rivers is available as free, downloadable PDFs, though classroom packs of 30 preprinted workbooks and take-home leaflets may be ordered. The download link and order form are available on the TWDB Kids website, and student materials are available in both English and Spanish.

Raising Your Water IQ is an inquiry-based, hands-on approach to teaching middle school students about Texas water resources. This free program has a teachers' guide and includes lessons on watersheds, water cycles, water treatment, groundwater, water in Texas, and wise water use.

Water Exploration, www.waterexploration.org, is a web-based water education program for Texas high school students. By using a project-based learning approach, Water Exploration encourages students to conduct research and build an understanding about water science and critical water-related issues. Service learning is also incorporated by challenging students to partner with community members to design and conduct a school water audit. This connects the students to their community by raising awareness about important water-related issues.

Know Your Texas Water is a resource for teachers and parents who would like to know more about Texas water. It features web quests, animations, maps, and other tools based on the TWDB's research, including the state water plan.

Games featured on the TWDB Kids website include:

- H2Oparody – a water version of Jeopardy in a PowerPoint format.
- Water IQ: Know your water – kids can guess how many gallons of water each listed activity uses.
- Water for Texas – teaches students 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.

For more information about TWDB Kids programs, contact staff at 512-463-8830 or consedu@twdb.texas.gov.