

# Pennsylvania, A River Sojourn

## Study Companion

*Traveling from river to river, Pennsylvania, A River Sojourn reveals the stories of people who are intimately acquainted with the rich heritage of these incredible waterways. Produced in a video-magazine format, GreenWorks takes viewers across the Commonwealth to spotlight people who have taken up the challenge of protecting the environment and preserving natural resources.*

*This study companion is intended to help teachers and parents who home school their children plan out discussions and projects with their students. The video segment guide should be used to help determine which stories to share with your students.*

*For more information, please contact:*

GreenWorks  
1420 Walnut St, Ste 1304  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

(215) 545-5880  
[talktous@greenworks.tv](mailto:talktous@greenworks.tv)  
[www.GreenWorks.tv](http://www.GreenWorks.tv)



## **“Pennsylvania, A River Sojourn” Video Segment Guide**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 00:00 | Introduction ( <i>a map and overview of Pennsylvania’s major rivers</i> )  |
| 01:56 | The Delaware River ( <i>an introduction to the Delaware</i> )              |
| 05:23 | Tourism ( <i>an innkeepers relationship to the environment</i> )           |
| 09:53 | Eel Fishing ( <i>a field trip to an eel weir</i> )                         |
| 16:55 | The Schuylkill River ( <i>an introduction to the Schuylkill</i> )          |
| 17:43 | Rail-Trails ( <i>a trip down the Schuylkill River Trail</i> )              |
| 19:45 | Dragon Boat Racing ( <i>breast cancer survivors getting on the water</i> ) |
| 29:01 | The Susquehanna River ( <i>an introduction to the Susquehanna</i> )        |
| 29:47 | Early Clean-up Efforts ( <i>an interview with a local historian</i> )      |
| 32:04 | Petroglyphs ( <i>an explanation of the river’s ancient rock carvings</i> ) |
| 38:42 | The Three Rivers ( <i>an introduction to the Three Rivers</i> )            |
| 39:42 | Canoeing in Pittsburgh ( <i>creating “water trails” in the city</i> )      |
| 43:20 | Rowing Teams ( <i>how clean-up efforts have helped recreation</i> )        |
| 51:47 | The Youghiogheny River ( <i>an introduction to the Youghiogheny</i> )      |
| 52:23 | Whitewater Rafting ( <i>a business selling adventures on the Yough</i> )   |
| 55:21 | Conclusion ( <i>a wrap up of the program</i> )                             |

## Working on Our Rivers

### *Discussion Questions*

- 1) What types of businesses connected to rivers are mentioned in *Pennsylvania, A River Sojourn*? What other types of businesses rely on rivers and water?
- 2) What businesses in your community use a lot of water?
- 3) Why would someone want to work in a job directly on or close by to a river? Why might someone not want to work on a river?
- 4) Clean rivers and a clean environment can be good for tourism. In what ways could increased tourism benefit your community?
- 5) Should businesses be responsible for conserving water and keeping rivers clean? Why or why not?

### *Activity*

Make believe that a bottled water company proposes building a factory on the banks of a local river. They want to take water from the river, bottle it and sell it out of state. Make a list of all the potential “Pros” (positive benefits) and “Cons” (negative consequences) of this proposal. Would you approve the proposal as is? If not, are there any promises the business could make that would help you change your mind?

## Recreation on Our Rivers

### *Discussion Questions*

- 1) What types of recreational activities are mentioned in *Pennsylvania, A River Sojourn*? What other types of recreational activities could people take part in on a river?
- 2) Why is it important for people to spend time outdoors?
- 3) What reasons could people recovering from illnesses have for wanting to take part in recreational activities on a river and for being part of a team?
- 4) What different reasons would someone involved in river recreation have for wanting to keep rivers and the environment clean? How could a rowing team, for example, get involved in cleaning up a river?
- 5) If you wanted to get out on a river near your community, but it was too dirty to go swimming in, who do you think should be responsible for cleaning it up?

### *Activity*

Do some research to figure out what rivers, lakes, forests or parks are in or near your community. Choose one, and pick your favorite recreational activity that is possible in that area. Describe how that recreational activity would be affected if each of the following scenarios took place, and things people could do to try to address the problem.

- 1) People used the area as a place to illegally dump things refrigerators, broken computer monitors and old beer bottles.
- 2) People let their dogs go to the bathroom there, without ever cleaning it up.
- 3) A developer bought up the area and posted "Private Property" signs.
- 4) A report came out saying that your recreational activity was scaring away wildlife in the area.

## Protecting Our Rivers

### *Discussion Questions*

- 1) What reasons are there for wanting clean rivers and a clean environment?
- 2) Do you care whether or not the streams and rivers in your area are clean? Why or why not?
- 3) What is meant by the term “steward for the environment”?
- 4) What are some ways that kids in your age group could get involved in protecting rivers and the environment?
- 5) Have you ever done something to protect the environment? If so, what?

### *Activity*

Below is a list of situations that you may face at some point during your lifetime. Choose one, and decide what you would do in the situation. Write down what your reactions would be, and try to address the following questions: What is wrong with this situation? Where should you go to learn more about it? Who should you talk to for help? How does what you do and don't do affect different people? What, ultimately, are you going to do?

- 1) Your neighbor dumps car oil into the storm drain near his house.
- 2) You see people throw litter on the ground during a school picnic in the park.
- 3) Your pen pal writes and tells you about a major oil spill in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Spain.
- 4) Your younger cousin wants to know more about rivers.

## River Resources for Teachers and Parents

### *Websites*

#### **Pennsylvania Environmental Education Centers**

[http://www.pcee.org/Useful\\_EE\\_Aids/Facilities\\_1Main.asp](http://www.pcee.org/Useful_EE_Aids/Facilities_1Main.asp)

*A county-by-county directory of environmental education facilities in Pennsylvania.*

#### **Watersheds.tv**

<http://www.watersheds.tv>

*Your ultimate source for watershed news, projects and volunteer efforts.*

#### **Pennsylvania State Parks**

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/index.htm>

*A directory of state parks, as well as recreational and volunteer opportunities.*

#### **Earth Force**

<http://www.earthforce.org/>

*Helping young people find solutions to environmental problems.*

#### **Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and River (POWR)**

<http://www.pawatersheds.org/>

*A comprehensive list of watershed groups and resources throughout the state.*

### *Books*

Adler, Robert, Diane Cameron and Jessica Landman, *The Clean Water Act 20 Years Later*. Island Press, 1993.

Beatty, Christopher, *The Susquehanna River Guide*. Ecopress, 1998

Brubaker, John and Jack Brubaker, *Down the Susquehanna to the Chesapeake*. Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002.

Caswell, Christopher, *The Greatest Sailing Stories Ever Told*. Lyons Press, 2002.

Glennon, Robert Jerome, *Water Follies: Groundwater Pumping and the Fate of America's Fresh Waters*. Island Press, 2002.

Goldsmith, Stephen and Ryan Streeter, *Putting Faith in Neighborhoods: Making Cities Work Through Grassroots Citizenship*. Hudson Institute, 2002.

Grossman, Elizabeth, *Watershed: The Undamming of America*. Counterpoint Press, 2002.

Jacobson, Cliff, *Canoeing and Camping: Beyond the Basics*. Globe Pequot Press, 2000.

*Watersheds of the World: Ecological Value and Vulnerability*, Ed by Carmen Revenga. World Resources, 1998.