How Polluted Water Affects Food

This simple project for grade level kids will demonstrate the impacts of ‘contaminated’ water on the food cycles. You’ll plant a few seeds in separate containers and water each with a designated liquid to see if it will grow or not. Afterwards, talk about the pollution that makes it to the ocean and how it may impact the sea life. You can also talk about the importance of fresh water to human, plants and animals in addition to how concrete and streets turn good rainwater into polluted water because of the oil and chemicals that come from cars, construction and trash.

Materials: Sunflower seeds, cups, Soil, Water, Juice, Salt, Soda,

1. Fill your cup with some soil
2. Plant your sunflower seeds in the soil
3. Label each of the sunflower cups in with what you will be giving them to drink
   Have one for water, one for soda, one with salt water and one with juice.
4. Until you see a sunflower plant begin to grow, notice and talk about which ones grew and why.
   Use this as opportunity for discussion and finding solutions! Sunflowers and seeds for food and fruit must have pure, clean water in order to grow. This is how pollution hurts nature and people because we need clean water to grow healthy too. By reducing our pollution, we are making sure nature keeps growing so people and animals can eat.