

# Pollution in Our streets

## Focus

Pollution tends to be perceived as a big idea that robs students of any power to take action. This activity asks students to focus on a local level and links research with action activities

## Procedure

- Investigate a single pollutant finding out why it is considered a pollutant. Illustrate learning by drawing it, describing it, and designing a street sign to prevent people creating this pollutant in the future.
- Take students on a walk to explore their local neighbourhood, record the pollutants they notice, e.g. litter and identify any possible sources of pollution eg. cars, factories, overflowing bins, deciduous trees, dogs etc.

## Some questions for discussion and research:

- Q How do sewage systems work, and where does the water end up?
- Q What is the difference between stormwater and sewage systems?
- Q How has the environment that humans have built and its stormwater system changed the way that water moves through the natural environment?
- Q How does stormwater carry pollution through the catchment system into the ocean?
- Q What sort of pollutants may be contained in runoff from rural areas?

Currently, only a small portion of rainwater that falls on urban areas is captured and reused.

- Q What are some ways/ideas for capturing and reusing stormwater?

## EXTENSIONS

- Design a robot to fix up our most polluted waterways.
- Design a city of the future that has no stormwater pollution problems.