Natural Resources and Ecosystems
Resources

Activities

Connecting Classrooms and Communities through Watersheds:
http://www.geoteach.org/teacher_resources/lessons/Connecting%20through%20Watersheds.pdf
This unit includes four 50-minute classes and a service-learning project all focusing on watersheds.

San Antonio River Authority
http://www.sara-tx.org/education_outreach/classroom_activities.php
A variety of elementary and middle school classroom activities on topics of water cycle, water quality and testing, watersheds, aquifers, and more.

Activity 7: Celebrate Your Region:
http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/explore/discoverEarth/activities/Activity7_Packet.pdf
Children, ages 10 to 13, celebrate their region of the United States and consider the ways in which climate makes it a unique place. In Part A: Climate Postcard, children each create a postcard about a climate-related aspect of their region, such as weather, clothing or gear, or a plant or animal typical of the area. Facilitators have the option of mailing the postcards to another library in a "pen pal" arrangement. In Part B: Recipe for a Region, teams of children identify a type of food unique to the region and select a recipe that features that ingredient in children's cookbooks. The children discuss their collective efforts as a regional meal that is suited to the climate of the region.

Who Dirtied the Water?
www.msichicago.org/fileadmin/Education/learninglabs/lab_downloads/
In this activity by the Museum of Science and Industry, children are read the story of an imaginary place, where the activities of wildlife and people influence the area's lake. At a key point in the story, each child adds a "pollutant" to the "lake" — usually eliciting an "ewwww!" from the audience! An aquarium or other large container is used to simulate the lake, and common materials like paper, vinegar, and molasses represent the pollutants. The story is used to start a conversation about pollution in our lakes, rivers, oceans, and groundwater. Appropriate for ages 8–13.

Cleaning Water
www.nasa.gov/pdf/146846main_Cleaning_Water_Educator.pdf
A NASA educational activity building a water filtration system to clean the dirty water.

Other Resources

Texas Parks & Wildlife: Texas Regions
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/kids/about_texas/regions/
This site describes the different Texas regions at a level suitable for middle school students

A teacher's notes and resources on human activity and ground water:
http://podcast.arpisd.org/users/jones/weblog/dc57a/

Data: TX streamflow conditions: http://waterdata.usgs.gov/tx/nwis/rt

A teachers' brochure project and resources on the effects of weathering, erosion, and deposition on ecoregions in Texas:
https://sites.google.com/a/springisd.org/ms-gilliam/files-for-7th-grade-life-science/dal-projects/oh-deer-we-have-a-pig-problem/texas-ecoregions

Teacher's Powerpoint on erosion and deposition in Texas ecoregions:
http://kisdwebs.katyisd.org/campuses/MRJH/teacherweb/7thScience/Teacher%20Documents/Let's%20Move%20to%20Texas%20Project/EcoRegions%20Weathering%20Erosion%20and%20Deposition.pdf

Teachers' Texas Ecoregions Notes:
http://kisdwebs.katyisd.org/campuses/BDJH/teacherweb/burnetter/Lists/Calendar/Attachments/177/Texas%20Ecoregions%20Notes.pdf

Teacher's powerpoint on Catastrophic effects on Ecosystems
http://www.slideshare.net/lseman/catastrophic-events-impact-on-the-ecosystem-nx-power-lite