STOPPING RUN AWAY RUNOFF COOPERATIVE LEARNING

Objective: For students to understand the importance of vegetation in controlling water pollution. (Demonstration Project)

Background: III A.

Subject: Science.

Skills: Observation, Recording, Inductive Reasoning

Materials: 3 one pound coffee cans
3 identical glass jars or clear plastic cups
1 and 1/2 cups gravel
Coffee can half filled with dirt
Dried leaves

Procedure: 1. Teachers should punch 8 holes in the bottom of each coffee can. The holes should be on the circumference of a 2 inch circle.

2. -Leave can #1 empty.
-Place 3/4 of an inch of gravel in the bottom of can #2 and add 2 inches of dirt on top of the gravel.
-Place 3/4 of an inch of gravel in the bottom of can #3, add 2 inches of dirt on top of the gravel and cover the dirt with 1" of leaves.

3. Place each can over a glass or jar making sure that the holes in the bottom of the can line up with the glass or jar. Assign a student to act as record keeper at each can.

4. Pour exactly one cup of water into each of the three cans. Using a ruler, record the amount of water in each jar after 5 minutes, 15 minutes, 1 hour and 24 hours.

5. Beginning with step 4, repeat the experiment 2 more times.

Discussion: How does soil find its way into waterways? How can erosion be prevented?

Extension: Students might find an eroded piece of land near the school to rehabilitate or a stream bed which could use restoration by use of rocks and plantings.