

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

TEACHING GOALS

1. Encourage students to work with their community to carry out projects.
2. Explore teamwork.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

1. Inform the community about actions that can be taken to conserve a river.
2. Strengthen the sense of community responsibility for the river.
3. Gather as many people as possible to carry out sustainable development activities in the region.

AVENUES OF EXPLORATION FOR PROMOTING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. First, have a brainstorming session to draw up a **list of names** of people, groups, organizations, businesses or companies who have some interest in the environment, young people or quality of community life. Keep your focus broad; put as many names on the list as possible and decide later whether or not they can help you. The important thing is to consider all possible community partners for your project.
2. Have your students ask their parents about other resources that could be added to the list.
3. Below is an incomplete list of people and organizations to consider.

FOR VOLUNTEERS OR MATERIALS

- parents and families of students
- other teachers at the school
- volunteer clubs in your city
- senior citizens clubs
- youth movements (Scouts, Katimavik)
- environmental clubs of other educational institutions
- gardening clubs
- outdoor clubs of other educational institutions
- your local city council
- service clubs (Lions, Optimist)
- community and parish centres
- Sign up on line for Volunteer Canada at <http://volunteer.ca/en/home>. Membership gives you access to a network of volunteers willing to help you. Please note that membership is free for the first 30 days but subsequently costs \$100 per year.

Planning time: 2 to 5 hours

Activity time: 2 to 5 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Funds: Low (- than \$50)

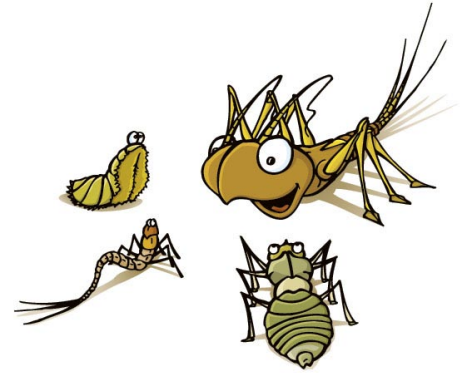
Suggested materials: none



**YOUTH
WORKING
FOR RIVERS**

FOR FUNDING OR SPONSORSHIP

- local businesses (groceries, hardware stores, gardening centres)
- local banking institutions
- your school principal
- your school foundation
- companies specializing in outdoor activities (e.g., Mountain Equipment Coop)
- fundraising drive organized by the students

**FOR HELP AND ADVICE**

- your local city council
- the Regroupement des organisations de bassin versant du Québec (ROBVQ)
- your local watershed organization
- other teachers at your school
- forestry associations

4. Once your list is complete, we suggest you **create a project portfolio** containing all the documents about your action and information that answers the questions **Who? What? Where? Why? How? and How much?**

The purpose of the portfolio is to explain the nature and scope of the project to your community. It will also demonstrate that your project is serious, structured and concrete to interested parties.

5. **Find the contact information** of the resource personnel on your list and contact them by telephone or e-mail. Discuss your project and solicit their help. If they appear open to the idea, set up a meeting to explain your specific needs and to determine how they might participate in the project.
6. Throughout the various stages of your project, maintain **good communications** with your partners. Keep them motivated by informing them of new developments that concern them. If necessary create a student committee in charge of project communications.
7. Ensure that you **repeatedly acknowledge and thank everyone who helps you** (for example, in the media, on posters, or by way of thank-you letters).
8. Since **one good deed deserves another**, indicate your and your students' availability if one of your partners needs assistance.



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