



Action Projects

With the many challenges facing the Chesapeake Bay today, it is easy to wonder if there is anything that one person can do to help. In reality, there are many ways that individuals can lessen their impact on the Bay. One thing each person can do to improve the health of the estuary is conserve water. When people wash dishes, brush their teeth, or flush a toilet, the water they use flows to a treatment plant and eventually gets put back into the watershed. When we reduce the amount of water that we use, we reduce the amount of treated water that reenters the Bay.

Another thing that each person can do to lessen their impact on the Bay is conserve electricity. When light switches are left on all night, power plants need to work overtime to supply power. These plants create chemical pollutants that enter the atmosphere from smokestacks and fall back to the ground with rainfall. The less power electrical plants need to provide, the less pollution they create.

There are many other ways that individuals can help the Bay. Carpooling, for example, cuts down on the amount of automobile exhaust entering the atmosphere, which lessens the amount of chemical nutrients entering the estuary. Recycling paper, aluminum, and other materials conserves resources and helps slow the rate of deforestation and clearing of land for mining. Getting involved in community projects to clean trash from roadsides, restore habitat on a local stream, or plant Bay grasses in shallow parts of the Chesapeake help improve habitat for plants and animals. Educating your friends and family about how they impact the Bay encourages them to get involved with improving the health of the environment.

Ultimately the health of the estuary depends on the activities of the individuals who live within its watershed. By making simple lifestyle changes, YOU can take an active role in restoring the health of the Chesapeake Bay!





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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS: Read the text on the previous page, then answer the following questions in complete sentences. Write your answers on the lines provided.

1. What happens to the water that you use after flushing a toilet?

2. Explain how the following actions help improve water quality in the Bay:

Conserving Electricity:

Carpooling:

Recycling:

Community Projects:

Education:
