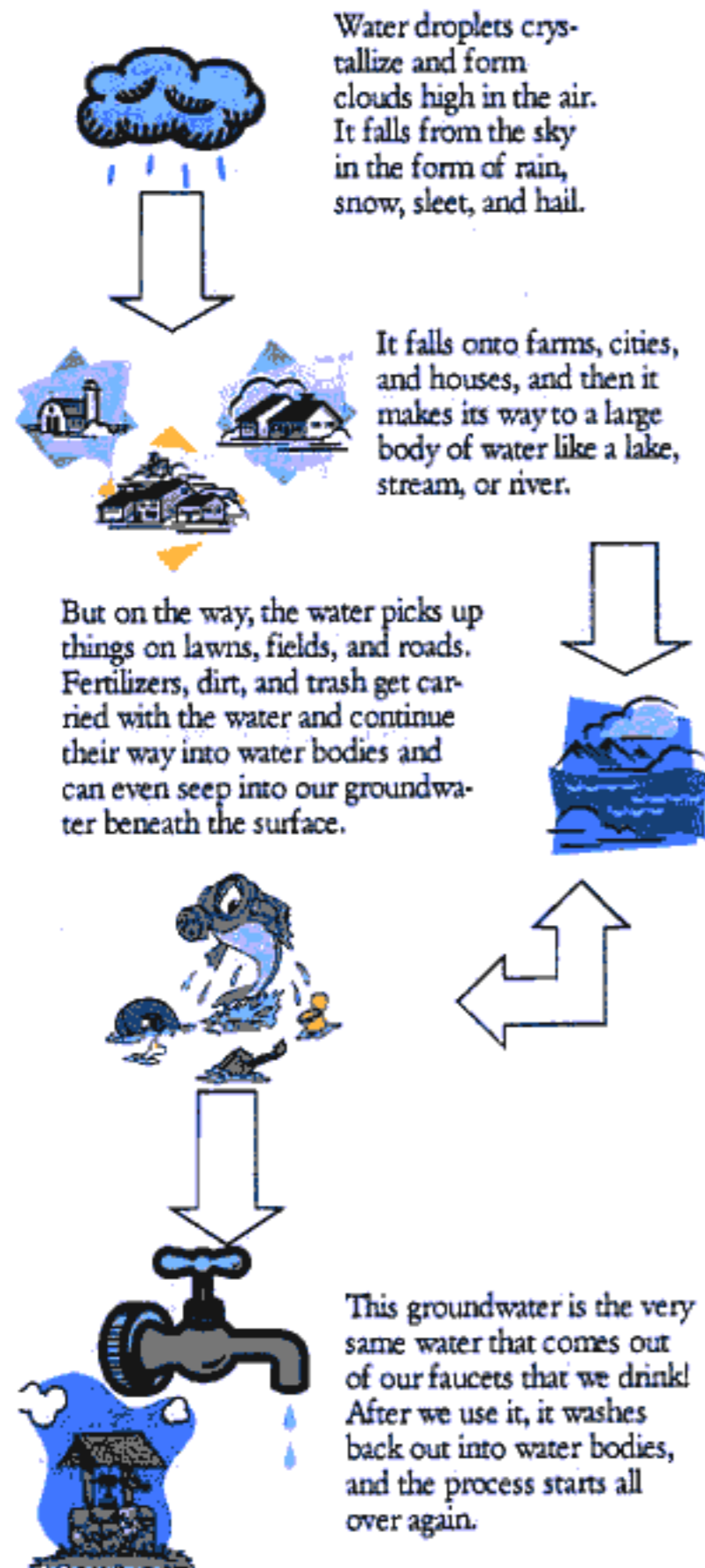


The Water Cycle



Our Mission

Protecting Soil & Water for Generations; not only today's generation but future generations." In order to do this, we must work closely with the community, identifying areas of need, and then partnering with others who have similar goals. We do not take the protection of our environment lightly. It is an important task, and if our nation is to retain its productivity, we need to protect our soils, maintain our water quality, and implement technologies and practices that are environmentally friendly. By working together, we can make a difference in the protection of our natural resources.



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Managing Our
Natural Resources

Stormwater



**Where does our
water go after it
hits the ground?**



Hi! I'm Wade the District Duck, and I'm here to help you learn about protecting our water.



Why is protecting our water so important?

Because all living things depend on water to survive! Our planet, Earth, is made up of 3/4 water, and our own bodies are 2/3 water!

We all use water every day for many different things: to take baths, to do laundry, to water our lawns, to drink, to cook. We even depend on water to create electricity!

But there's a problem...

We haven't been taking very good care of our water or our Earth, and pollution is poisoning our water so that we can't use it anymore. One of our biggest problems is with the water cycle and something that we call stormwater.



Stormwater is rain that falls onto surfaces like roads, sidewalks, parking lots, and roofs. When it falls, it picks up other things on these surfaces. Some of these things are pollutants and are dangerous to water, like:



Trash and litter



Fertilizers or pesticides from your lawn



All of these things can wash into rivers or lakes and be harmful to plants, animals, and the environment. These pollutants can also get into your drinking water!

What Can I Do to Help?

- Never throw anything into storm drains! Storm drains are meant for rain water, and anything else that goes down ends up in our lakes and streams.

- Don't litter. Trash can easily be washed into storm drains and cause problems. Throw litter into trashcans where it belongs.



- If you use fertilizer on your lawn, make sure that you don't put on too much! Extra fertilizer washes off into storm drains and then into our water.

- If you have a pet and take it for walks, make sure that you clean up after it. Pet wastes can also get into stormwater!



- Make sure that your cars or vehicles don't leak oil, gas, or antifreeze. Anything that leaks onto the driveway or sidewalk can wash into drains.



- When you wash your car, do it on your lawn. The grass will help filter out soap and other harmful things in the water.