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Today's Story



A group of children at Turner Middle School in Southwest Philadelphia is putting the finishing touche mural in their building. The mural depicts Cobb's Creek, which flows near the school, and its relation and represents work the kids have been doing in the creek since September. Brad Linder has more.



Cobbs Creek's Keepers

A group of children at Turner Middle School in Southwest Philadelphia have to keep Cobb's Creek clean.
March 4, 2002

8th grade math and science teacher Phyllis Green says most of her students in the Cobb's Creek area, but few of them realized it fed into their drinking water as it flows from the creek into the Delaware River, which is a major source of drinking water for the area. She took them on weekly trips to the creek to test water quality, and to clean up trash.

"Then we came back and asked them to actually interpret their results," says Green. "We asked them what they did they think was happening and why did they think it was happening? They came up with the idea to design a website, to let other people know."

Two students, Michael Hayes and Nathaniel Pembleton developed a website, with pictures of the class at work, and comments from other eight graders involved in the project.



"We originally designed the web page to let everybody know what's going down at Cobb's Creek on how they're polluting it and what we can do to help," says Pembleton.



Working with artists from the non-profit program, the 8th graders also create a mural showing the history of pollution in the city of Philadelphia and its relationship to the city of Philadelphia water flowing through their neighborhood and emptying into the Atlantic Ocean.

NetworkArts artistic director Josey Stamm says the mural will serve as a resource for future 8th grade classes in the school.

"And it was everything from electrical power plants to overpopulation," she says. "And then they were able to sculpt the life that would be found in the Delaware Estuary, and some of the aquatic invertebrates you'd find at Cobb's Creek."



Stamm says the mural will serve as a resource for future 8th grade classes in the school.

Links

Additional Story

Hear more about the mural the kids put in their school.

Additional Soundbite

Some of the children in the class tell what they've learned in the project.

Additional Soundbite

NetworkArts Mural Artist Josey Stamm says the mural at Turner Middle School will be a resource helping all future classes at the school learn about their watershed.

Cobb's Creek Restoration Project website

Created by Miss Green's 8th grade class at Turner Middle School.

NetworkArts

Is a Philadelphia-based non-profit group working on environmental education projects involving mosaic murals as a learning tool.



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