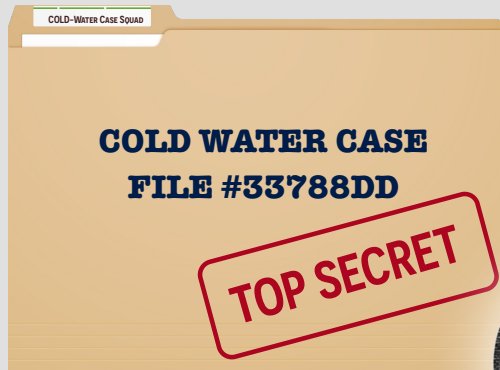


AZ

Arizona Project WET Tucson Water WSI Impact Report



2025-2026

*Developing Water Stewards Through
Student-centered Instruction and
Arizona-specific Content*



Cooperative Extension



ARIZONA
project **WET**
WATER EDUCATION TODAY



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Arizona Project WET

Impact on Water Stewardship

Arizona Project WET's Mission

It is imperative that Arizonans understand the interconnectedness of water resources from a local, regional, and global perspective. Arizona Project WET (APW) brings to the surface water-use practices that affect availability, dependability, access, and sustainability. APW program objectives, centered in the unifying theme of water, engage teachers and students while bringing real-world relevancy to science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) learning. APW supports water stewardship and STEAM literacy by authentically and meaningfully engaging educators, students, and community members. Arizona Project WET's mission is to meet the needs of our community by using relevant, research-based educational strategies and techniques in helping people develop knowledge and skills that equip them to act for water stewardship.



"Feel something. Learn something. Do something."
- Lisa Townsend, AZ Project WET Director

"My students had a much better understanding that they live in a watershed and that pollution affects both groundwater and surface water after the WSI program."

- Participating Teacher

Community Water Stewardship

For nearly three decades, APW educates, engages, and connects community members (students, educators, administrators, residents, businesses, and municipal stakeholders) through educational outreach to raise awareness of current and future challenges to Arizona's water resources and sustainable solutions to help mitigate them.

The APW team delivers water-focused programming with exceptional skill: meaningfully connecting content to participant and participant to action.

APW's goal is to meet the needs of our community by using relevant, research-based educational strategies and techniques to develop knowledge and skills that inspire action for water stewardship.

APW's programming supports creative problem-solving across the K-12 continuum, diving into real-world learning scenarios. The flow of information also relates STEAM-based content to areas of study and the many careers "in water". Finally, APW programs empower educators to implement practices that highlight and model sustainable water use.

Water Scene Investigation (WSI)

2025-26, WSI Outreach

984

STUDENTS

11

TEACHERS

39

CLASSES

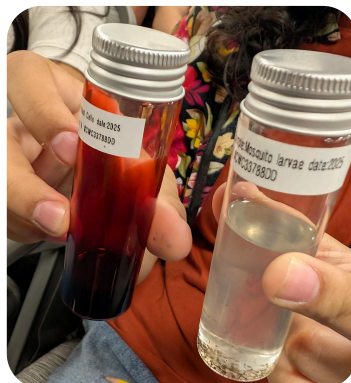
Summary:

You're on the scene with WSI. In this campy but complex Unit of Study, juvenile detectives of the Cold-Water Case Squad investigate and identify the cause of a calamity in the community. Student sleuths work together, finding the clues that protect lives and livelihood; solving the question, "What's in the WATER?" before time runs out!



Unit Guiding Questions:

How is water polluted and how can we keep human activity from compromising the viability of our watershed/water cycle systems?

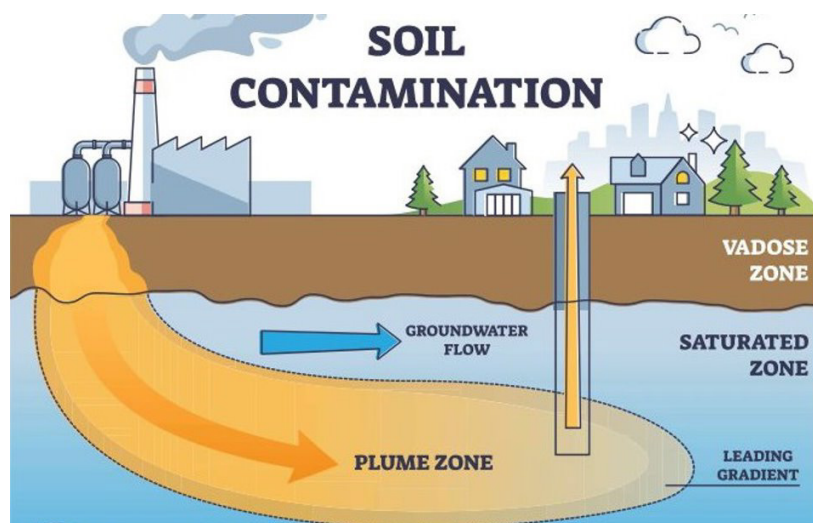


WSI Makes a Splash

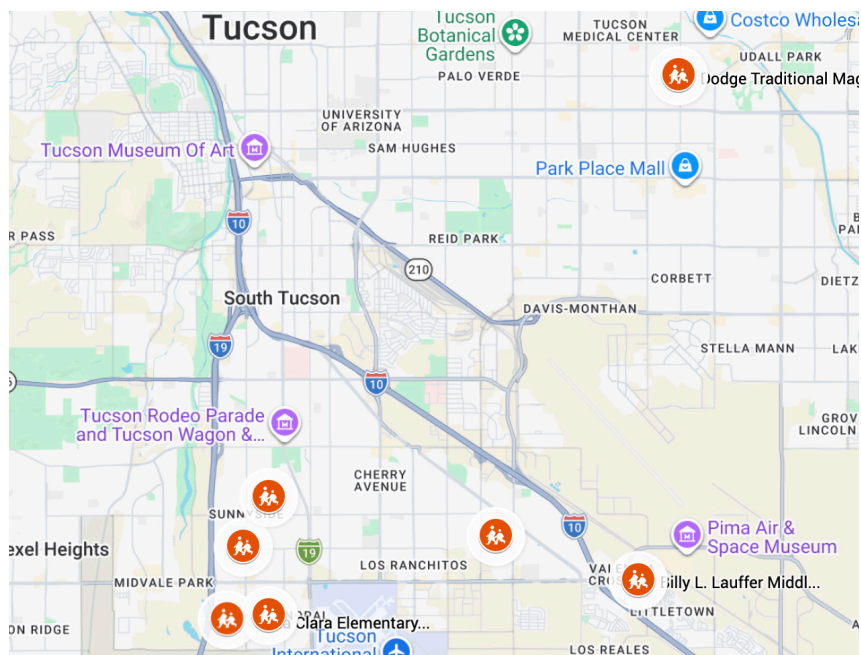


How Water Scene Investigation Works

The Unit of Study is designed to help teachers meet the 6th-8th grade science standards using student-centered, 3-dimensional learning. The Arizona WSI Curriculum Unit puts students at the center of their own water case, observing the phenomena that relate to the environment in which they live. Launching the unit, an interactive case file leads into the processes driving possible water contaminants and builds clear relationships between this and the water cycle, watershed, groundwater and the importance of sustainability.

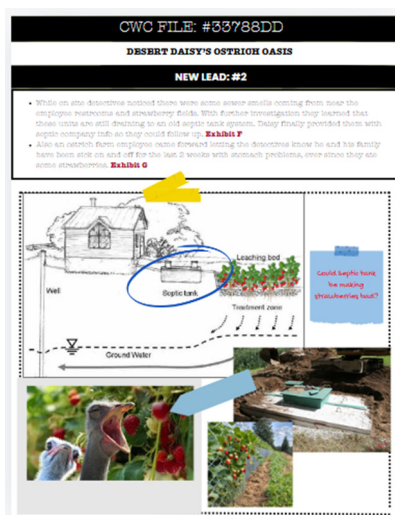


WSI Dives Into the Classroom



By the end of this unit of study students will:

- **Analyze** data to solve a mystery and identify potential groundwater pollutants.
- **Identify** surface forms of pollution and consider ways to reduce urban runoff and the flow of contaminants in water throughout a watershed.
- **Detect** the role of water in human/animal wellness and connect environmental health challenges to threats associated with a changing climate.
- **Conclude** that past solutions, developed with the best intentions, may create contemporary problems.
- **Act** as environmental stewards, conserving and keeping water clean through both behaviors and available technologies, supporting resilient solutions that benefit the (biodiverse) community.



"The WSI Program was engaging and helped students think critically and work through real-world problem-solving. It supported collaboration and scientific reasoning skills in a meaningful way.

- Participating Teacher



YOUR IMPACT

Water Scene Investigation



2ND YEAR OF A NEW PARTNERSHIP!

While we have over 17 years of partnership with Tucson Water, this was our second year bringing this newly revamped unit of study to 6th-8th grade classes within the Sunnyside

Unified School District. This was a collaborative effort between Arizona Project WET, Sunnyside USD, and Tucson Water, that allowed us to engage 984 middle school students and 11 teachers from 8 schools.



*Average Increase in Student Understanding:

10%

GRAVITY MOVES WATER UNDERGROUND

168%

I AM A WATERSHED MANAGER

183%

WE LIVE IN A WATERSHED

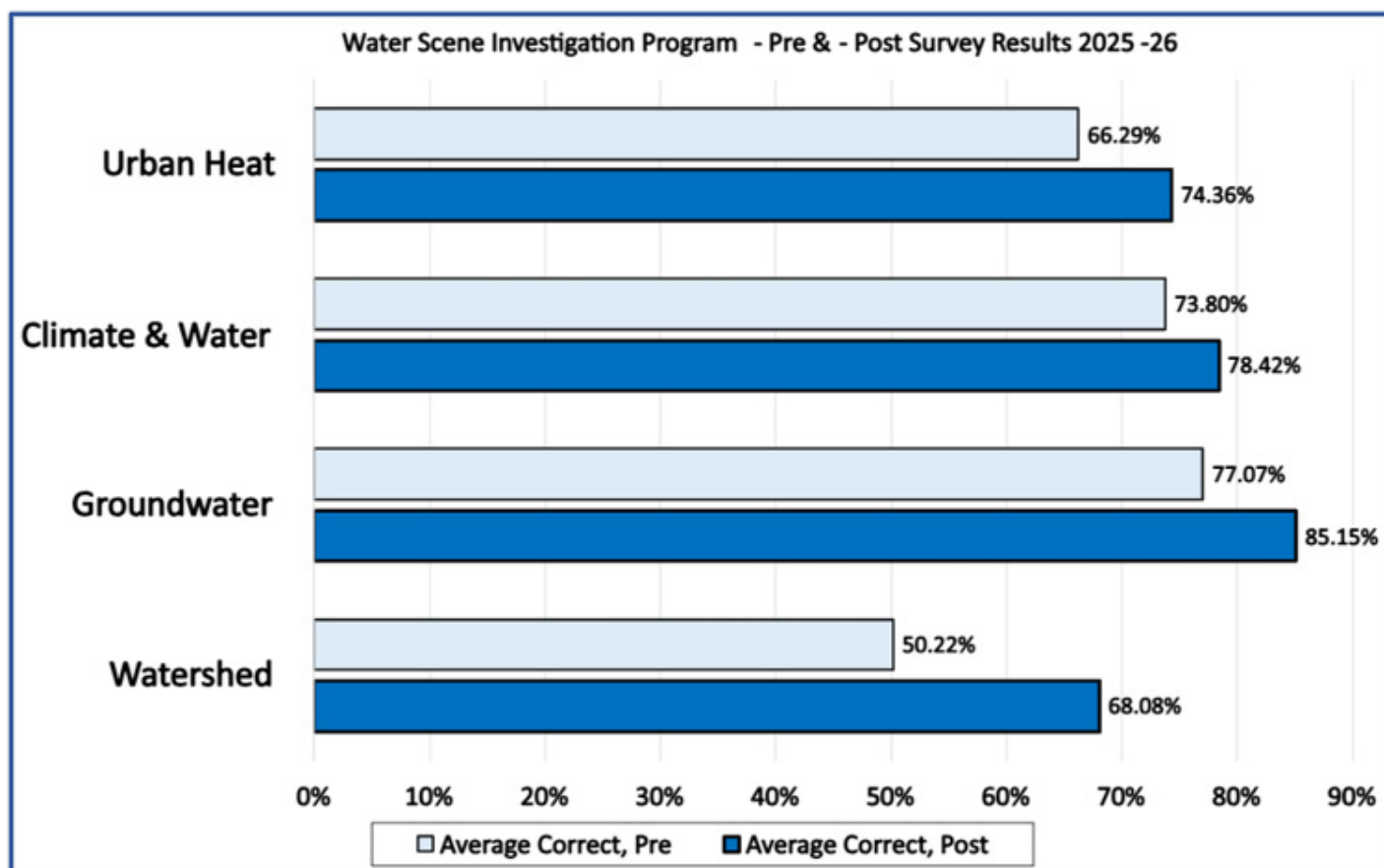
*Results from
2025-26 Pre &
Post Student
Survey

Results You Can See



MAKING WAVES

Teachers were asked to have students take a pre and post survey as part of the WSI program. The graph below displays the difference between the average correct answers before the unit of study, versus the average correct answers after the unit of study was completed.



Results from 2025-26 WSI Pre & Post Student Survey

EDUCATOR ENRICHMENT

Teacher Trainings

The water scene unit of study kicks off with the teacher professional development workshop, which all teachers new to the program attend. During this workshop, APW instructors connect teachers with tangible reference points and supporting resources in physical science, engineering, and environmental science through exploration, inquiry, and technology.

Educators receive:

- Examples of how to lead activities and lessons
 - Relevant background knowledge and content
 - The Arizona Project WET Water Scene Investigation Curriculum and other resources
- These materials are designed to enhance and extend student learning in the classroom.





Thank you!

The 2025-2026 revamp of the Arizona Water Scene Investigation Program was an outstanding success as we engaged 984 middle school students and 11 teachers from 8 schools through interactive water conservation education.

As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, we are excited to strengthen this partnership with Sunnyside USD as we continue to expand our reach across Southern Arizona!

We sincerely thank you for your ongoing support and assistance, which make this meaningful and important work possible.



Our programs are made possible through the generous support of sponsors, municipalities, and dedicated community members who collaborate to increase water stewardship across Arizona. We deeply appreciate your commitment to APW's programming!

AZ



Arizona Project WET WSI Impact Report

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