Chickasaw

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Unit: Water Resources

Introduction to the Unit

This lesson will introduce students to the importance of water ecology. Chickasaw National Recreation Area was originally established, as Platt National Park, for the protection of the mineral and freshwater springs within its boundaries. In this unit, you will explore the many springs throughout the park.

Teacher Background

Chickasaw National Recreation Area is a very special place; it is a place like no other. Water, one of America's most precious resources and the most significant resource of this park is abundant here. Because of the geological events that took place in this area, a unique display of rock layer formations, springs and creeks are present.

Chickasaw National Recreation Area had its beginning as Sulphur Springs Reservation in 1902 when legislation provided for the federal government to purchase 640 acres from the Chickasaw and Choctaw Indian Nations in Indian Territory. This land was set aside"… for the proper utilization and control of said springs and the water of said creeks…" Folklore tells us that the early people who lived here referred to his area as "The Peaceful Valley of Rippling Waters." The flow of mineral and fresh water springs was a primary purpose for the establishment of the park and remains a management concern today. Early in the twentieth century, there were 33 flowing springs documented within the original 640 acres, now known as the Platt Historical District. The water discharged from the springs varied form fresh potable to highly mineralize.

Pre-Visit Activity	**The Water Cycle -** The hydrosphere surrounds all living things on Earth. Water is essential for all plants and animals to survive. The primary focus of	this lesson is to create an awareness of water, its uses, and to develop an understanding of its impact on life.
In Park Activities Ranger Lead	Travertine Nature Center and the Antelope and Buffalo Springs Trail - Trail is approximately 1.2 miles round	trip is very easy and is 1 hour long.
School Activities Ranger Lead	Show movie "Rippling Water" and discuss water cycle as it refers to spring water	
In Park Activities Teacher Lead	Visit Flower Park – Vendome Well Hillside Springs & Pavilion Springs	
Post Visit Activities Teacher Lead	**Look What's Spring Up-** This activity is a hands on lab simulation of how a spring works.	Can be done individually or as a class demonstration.
Key Vocabulary	Spring, Groundwater, Freshwater spring, Mineral spring, Precipitation,	Aquifer, Water cycle, Evaporation, Condensation, Precipitation, Water Table
Oklahoma PASS Standards	**Grade 1- 3** Science Process Standard 2 & Process Standard 4 **Grade 4-8** Science Process Standard 1 & Process Standard 3 **Kindergarten** Oral Language/Listening and Speaking: Standard 1, Standard 2, & Standard 3 **Grade 1 –Earth Science** - Standard 3 **Grade 2- Earth Science** - Standard 23	**Grade 3 - Earth Science** - Standard 3 **Grade 4 – Physical Science** - Standard 4 **Grade 5 – Physical Science -** Standard 1 **Grade 6 – Physical Science -** Standard 2 **Grade 7 – Earth/ Space Science -** Standard 5 **Grade 8 –Earth/ Space Science -** Standard 4 **High School – Environmental Science -** Standard 1, Standard 4, & Standard 5 Science Process Standard 1
Essential Questions	1. Where does a spring come from? 2. What is the difference between freshwater spring and a mineral spring?	3. What is an aquifer? 4. What makes a spring work? 5. What is a spring?
Other Suggested Activities	Rock formations Geologic timeline	Water Conservation Water Pollution