



DATE: October 3, 2023

TO: Minnesota 4th Grade Science Teachers

FROM: Robyn Hoerr, Groundwater Specialist, MN Rural Water Association

RE: Groundwater & Drinking Water Educational Materials and 2024 Water Week Poster Contest Entry Information

Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) has long recognized the importance of educating youth about the value of our groundwater and drinking water resources. We at MRWA feel so strongly about youth water education that we have compiled four science lessons specially tailored for 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students. At the time of their development, these lessons were evaluated for their conformity with the State of Minnesota and National 4<sup>th</sup>-grade science curriculum standards. The four lessons each contain interactive activities for the students and web links to assist teachers' presentations and follow-up discussions. We invite you to use these lesson plans to help satisfy the State of Minnesota 4th grade science curriculum requirements. The lessons can be found at <https://www.mrwa.com/mrwa-water-week-poster-contest/>

Topics covered in the water education lessons include:

1. The Water Cycle and Ground Water Basics
2. Groundwater Movement and Soils
3. Aquifer and Groundwater Pollution
4. Our Water Resources and Conservation

Another exciting event that your 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students can participate in to increase local awareness of drinking water issues is the annual MRWA Water Week Poster Contest. Your students' entries for this contest should be submitted to your public water supply contact for your city or public water supply system. **The top entry from your school will be chosen by the public water supply system, and this entry is due to the MRWA office by February 2, 2024.** The top three posters chosen by MRWA staff from the pool of poster contest entries will be displayed at the MRWA Technical Conference in St. Cloud during the first week in March. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to view and vote for their favorite poster and contest winner! For further details about contest rules and entry instructions please see the attached flyer.

We hope that you and your students choose to take advantage of the material that has been developed and participate in the Water Week Poster Contest! If you have questions about either of these opportunities, please contact MRWA at (800) 367-6792.