

Teaching About Floodplains Using Ward's Science Floodplain Simulator Basics



**Scenario 1:
Natural Headwaters**



**Scenario 2:
Parking Lot Headwaters**

A short PowerPoint presentation is a good medium to cover background information on floods and floodplains.

Scenario #1. Simulator has natural headwaters (sponges) Water is poured over natural headwaters and flows down river. A “stream gauge” is read as the water flows. The stream gauge makes it possible to create an Excel Spreadsheet hydrograph that can be projected on screen. Kids serve in different roles i.e. “rainmaker”, “gauge reader”, “recorder”.

Scenario #2. Activity is repeated with a parking lot at the headwaters.

Other Scenarios can include use of a detention pond or levee.

Short versions of the activity can be completed in 20 minutes, while longer versions last 1 hour. Activity works well for 4-6 graders but can be adapted for other ages, even adults.

Prepared by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

For more information, call Mary Guokas, Floodplain Outreach Specialist at 406.444.1343
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Students using the Floodplain Simulator in Mr. Slead's class, Helena. Spring, 2011

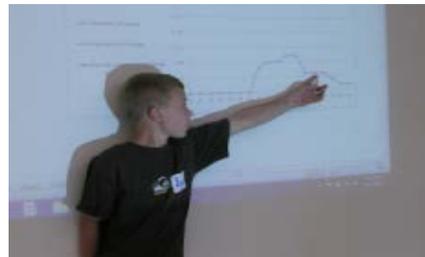
(I think it was 2011)



A student reads the “stream gauge”



Students observing a flooding scenario.



A student explains a projected hydrograph to others.