

# Hydro Van Gogh

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## Art and Aquifers

Students of all ages can learn about aquifers while expressing their artistic side with the opportunity to become Hydro Van Gogh by painting an aquifer. Students also learn about groundwater contamination and how to protect groundwater.

**Key Topics:** Aquifer, Contamination/pollution prevention, Earth science/geology, Groundwater, Recharge, Water quality

**Grade Level:** This activity can be adapted for many age groups

**Duration:** 30 - 45 minutes

### Objectives:

Learn about aquifers and pollution prevention.

### Items Needed:

- Aquifer map and/or aquifer model
- Canvas panels (recommended 5" x 7") **OR** large sheets of paper
- Oil pastels **OR** acrylic paint

### Activity Steps:

1. Using a map of an aquifer and/or an aquifer model, explain how an aquifer works. Identify the different sections of an aquifer. The **Aquifer in a Cup** activity is a fun, hands-on activity ideal for this.
2. Pass out a canvas panel or paper to each student and one set of oil pastels or paint for every 2-3 students.
3. When students draw pictures of what their world looks like around them they typically draw their family, trees, animals, houses, etc. For this activity, students will be asked to imagine that they are a water drop that lands on the ground and seeps into an aquifer. Ask them to paint what their world looks like.
4. Encourage each Hydro Van Gogh to take their masterpiece home and explain why it is important to protect groundwater to their families.



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