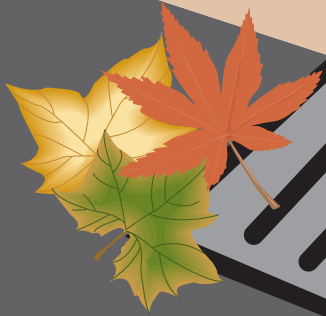


what you should know about **storm drains**

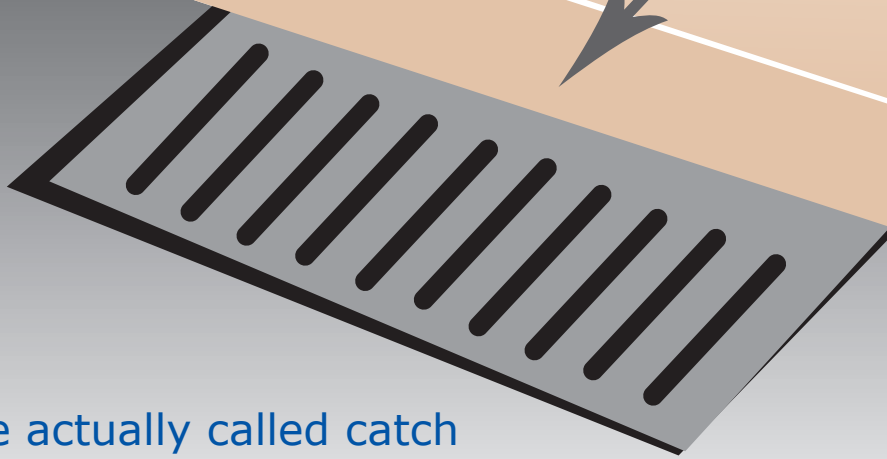


activity book

 Boston Water and
Sewer Commission

Did you know...?

Did you know that the grates you see in the streets are **NOT** sewers?



They are actually called catch basins or **storm drains**. Their purpose is to allow **stormwater** (rain) to flow into Boston Harbor and local rivers so that our streets don't flood.

Activity ○ Make as many words as you can out of **storm drain**

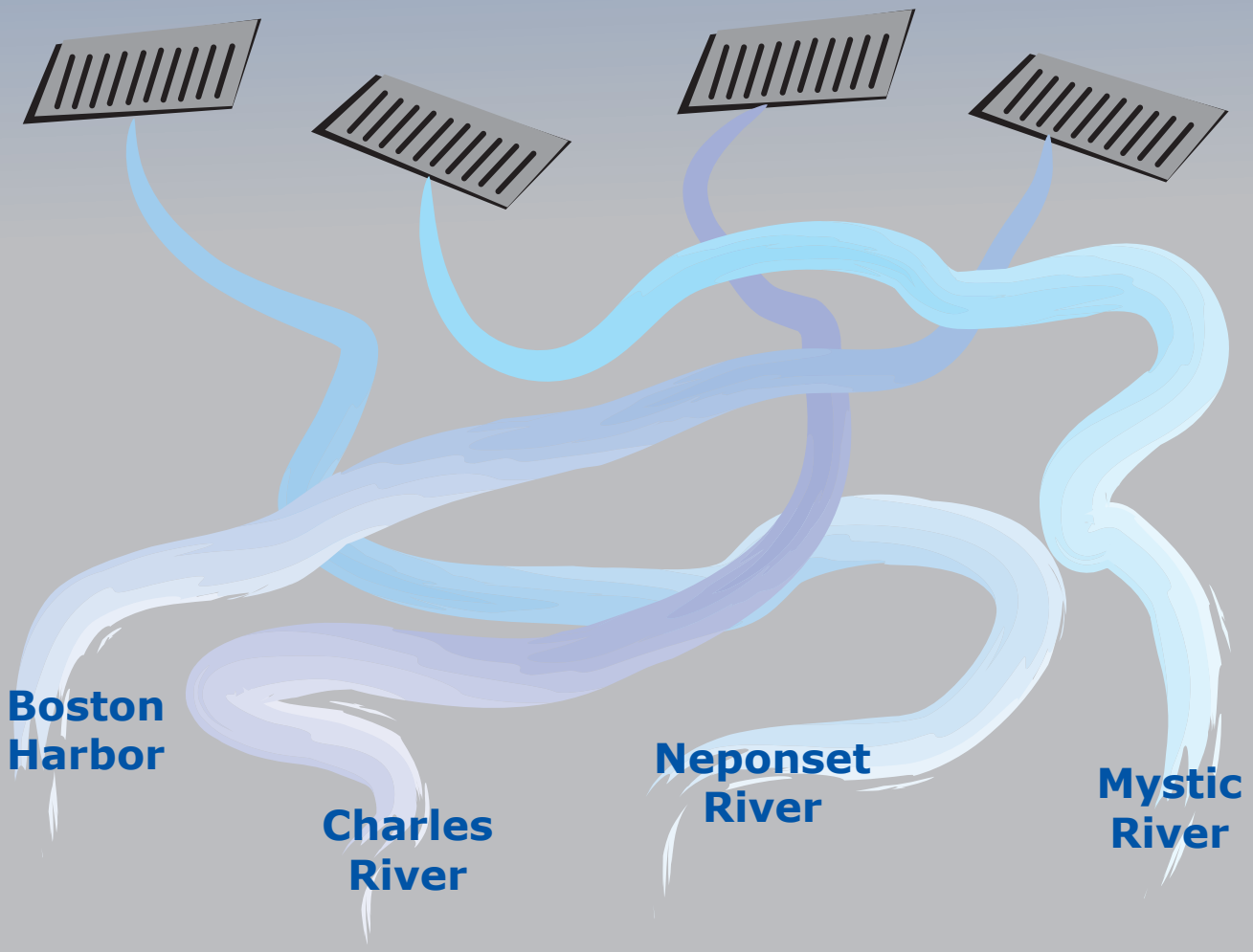
rain,

Where does the stormwater go?

When it rains, stormwater enters storm drains and is carried off to local **waterways**.

Activity:

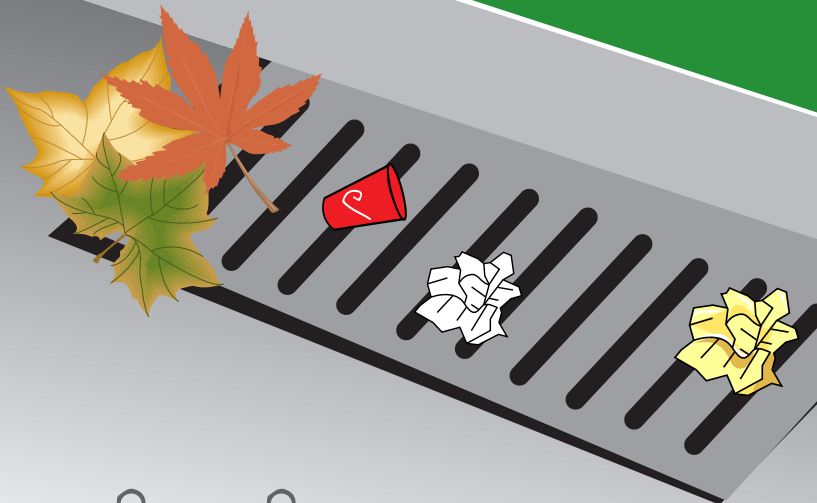
Follow the paths of the storm drains to find out where stormwater can end up.



The Problem:



Leaves and things that people throw on the ground, like candy wrappers, fast food cups and other **trash**, can end up **gathering** at the top of storm drains.



Activity:

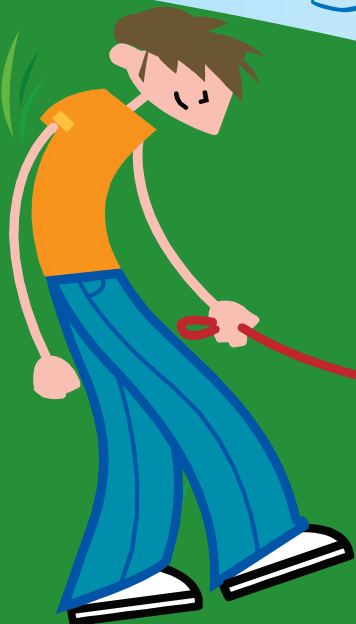
Critical Thinking: Circle the letter of the answer you think is correct.

Why is it **not** ok for trash to gather at tops of storm drains?

- a) It can clog the tops, preventing stormwater from entering the storm drains. This can cause street flooding because the rain has no place to go.
- b) Trash can fall into storm drains and get carried away in the stormwater to local waterways. This can cause water pollution.
- c) All of the above.

Illegal Dumping:

It is also important that people **don't** purposely **dump trash** or **chemicals** in storm drains. It is both harmful and **illegal**.



Motor oil, paint, pet waste, antifreeze, grease, gasoline, trash, cigarette butts can all lower water quality, be harmful to the **health** of fish and humans, and make **beaches** unsafe.



Activity:



How many potential pollutants can you find on this page?

Answer: There are at least 5 potential pollutants on this page. 1) Dog-Pet Waste 2) Leaf 3) Paint 4) Motor Oil 5) Paper *Bonus: 6) Car-Oil or Other Leaks



What is BWSC doing?

Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) is helping to end the pollution of our waterways by:

1) **Educating** people like YOU.

2) Installing cast iron plates with a "**Don't Dump**" message in sidewalks next to storm drains.



DON'T DUMP
DRAINS TO
BOSTON HARBOR

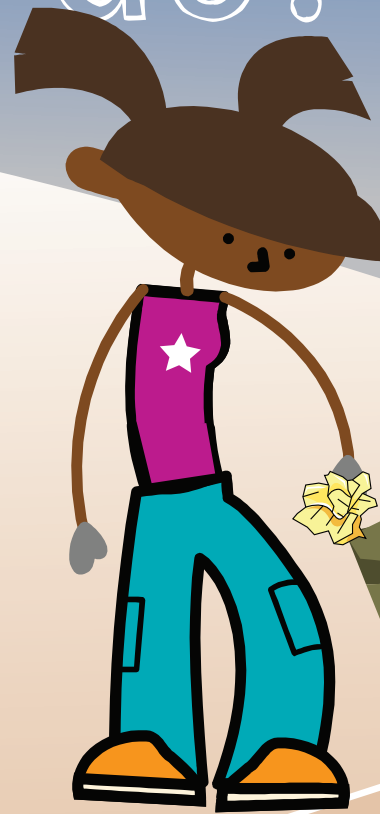


3) Organizing **community** groups to **stencil** "Don't Dump" messages next to storm drains.

What YOU can do?

You can help by doing any or all of the following:

- 1) Always **dispose** of trash properly or **recycle**. Never dump into a storm drain!



- 2) Pick up after your pet. **Scoop the Poop!**

3) **Tell** others!

- 4) If you see someone dumping into a storm drain, have an adult call BWSC to **report** it.



**Boston Water and
Sewer Commission**

For more information or to set up a storm drain stenciling activity in your neighborhood, contact the Community Services Department at 617-989-7000 or visit us online at www.bwsc.org.