



PROJECT: TOILET AND NON-TOILET PAPER

INTRODUCTION

This lesson was crafted to help students understand why some solids are designed to go down the drain and others are not. The goal of every Central San lesson is to help students think more critically about “what happens to our dirty water after it goes down the drain?”

In this activity, students will:

- Build comfort with close observation of wastewater.
- Observe how different forms of solids behave when submerged.
- Predict what might happen to certain solids after they go down the drain.
- Make informed choices about what we each put down the drain.



MATERIALS



- ▶ 2 clear plastic or glass containers with lids. Recycled food containers work great! Try cleaned jars of: peanut butter, salsa, jam, tomato sauce, milk, or juice.
- ▶ 1 square of toilet paper.
- ▶ 1 equal sized piece of paper product that is not designed for the toilet. This could be a tissue, a napkin, a paper towel, a disinfectant wipe, etc.
- ▶ **Scissors. You may want to cut your paper towel, napkin, etc so that it's the same size as a square of toilet paper.
- ▶ Water.
- ▶ Piece of paper for sketching.
- ▶ Pen, colored pencils, crayons, or markers.

PREPARATION

- 1 Make sure you have a space near your computer that you can work.** We don't want our water too close to our electronics.
- 2 Prepare your containers.** Wash and remove enough of the label that you can see clearly into the container.
- 3 Fill both containers half-way with water.** Seal with the lid.
- 4 Make sure they are watertight.** Give each container a shake to make sure that water does not spill out of them.
- 5 Prepare your other supplies.** Gather your toilet paper, “non-toilet” paper, and sketching supplies together.

If you have any questions, contact Ben Lavender at blavender@centralsan.org

