

## The Incredible Journey

*Working together to help illustrate the "Big Picture" of our water movement.*

Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District in cooperation with Purdue Extension and the Hancock County Solid Waste District provided an Incredible Journey through the Water Cycle for attendees of the Hancock County 4-H Fair, July 7 – 14, 2006. When we think of the water cycle, we often imagine a circle of water, flowing from a stream to an ocean, evaporating to the clouds, raining down on a mountaintop and flowing back into a stream. Taking the Incredible Journey – pretending you are a water droplet helps us to understand the water cycle as more than a predictable two-dimensional path. And even though water does circulate from one point to another in the water cycle, the paths it can take are variable. Children and adults traveled to nine stations, clouds, lakes, animals, soil, groundwater, glacier, plants, rivers, and ocean.

Over the week...we heard comments of

"I have to go back to clouds again??" from one child. Others were very excited about heading to a glacier – since it was very hot the week of our fair!

Parents interacted with their children and commented on how neat of an activity this was – learning and having fun doing it. By the number of Incredible Journey cards we went through it is estimated that we had about 2,250 children and adults traveling and learning about the water cycle throughout the week.

Jerry Jackson, our DNR Conservation Officer assisted in the booth throughout the week...wheeling the children in to pretend they were a water droplet. As they traveled from station to station, they wrote down what they had spun on the Incredible Journey Boards. Then brought their cards up to make water bracelets to take home and remind them of the value and the importance of taking care of our water.

Another display we had was the

**Water Resource ~ Visualizing Our Water World** – illustrated in the photo.

Materials:

1000 pasta pieces

food coloring

**Blue - 970 pieces – Represents Saltwater**

**Green - 20 pieces -**

**Represents Frozen Fresh Water**

**Red - 10 pieces - Represents Fresh Water**

**(of which = the following used for or stored in.....)**

**6 - Lakes, Rivers, Streams**

**1 - Electricity**

**1 - Clothing, Manufacturing**

**1 - Food Production; Crops**

**AND**

**1 - Freshwater to drink, bathe, wash car, etc.**

**Created by *Cindy Beckner, 2003***



Helping people understand that this one little piece of red pasta represents the water we use everyday – recycling it over and over again...and if we don't take care of it...what would we do?

This is an eye-opening experience for many adults and children. I also discuss with children when I give presentations the understanding of percentages (math skills) of water in our world.