

A boy has to decide about how to dispose of a **green blob**

he has concocted. What will happen
if he dumps it into a stream?
Where does water come from
and where does it go?
This film illustrates the water cycle
and raises many questions about
environmental responsibility
and the consequences of our decisions.
This multi-award-winner
is designed for children aged 5 to 12.

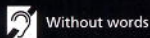
This film is also available as part of the **Look Again Series**,
a two-volume video series designed to stimulate thinking
in children aged 5 to 12.

9 minutes 52 seconds
Order number: C 0089 043

Director: **Bill Maylone**
Producer: **George Johnson**

Produced and distributed by the National Film Board of Canada

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Without words

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JOURNEY OF THE BLOB



VHS

C 0089 043

FROM THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

JOURNEY OF THE **BLOB**



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Water follows a cycle in its journey through the environment.

- What observations did you make about water in this film?
- What do you think happens to water after it goes down the drain in your house?
- Where did you see water being used in the film?
- What are some other ways that water is used?

When we dispose of chemicals and other waste in the environment, they do not vanish forever.

- How do you think the boy felt when the blob came out of his garden hose?
- Why do you suppose the filmmaker decided to tell the story of the blob's journey?

Everyone makes choices about how to dispose of waste.

- What observations did you make about the boy's behaviour in the film?
- What decision did he make? Why do you suppose he decided to throw the blob in the creek?
- If you were the boy, what might you have done?
- What are some of the choices you make about the garbage in your home?
- Why do you think we are sometimes called a "throw-away society"? What do you think about this label?

The decisions we make about waste disposal affect the environment.

- What observations did you make about the behaviour of the other living creatures in this film?
- Why do you suppose they reacted that way?
- What might have happened if the blob had been an oil slick?
- What might have happened if the blob had been a toxic chemical?

SAMPLE ACTIVITY PLAN

Important concepts

- Our decisions and actions have consequences for the environment.
- Water follows a continuous cycle.



Concept and
Direction
Bill Maylone

Editing
George Johnson
Charles Wilkinson

Cinematography
Tom Turnbull

Music
John Forrest

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Additional
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Bill Schmalz

Special Effects
Bill Maylone

Sound Editing
John Ogis

Producer
George Johnson

Executive Producer
Barbara Janes

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Before viewing

- Collect water samples from three or four areas in the community (e.g. a drainage ditch, a household tap, a lake, an ocean, or a river). Observe and compare the samples. Make hypotheses about the similarities and differences observed among the samples.
- Make hypotheses about how the water got to each point and where it might go next.

While viewing

- Observe the journey of the blob.

After viewing

- Retell the journey of the blob. Imagine other events that might have happened on the journey which are not shown in the film.
- Create a story map showing the blob's journey.
- Discuss the boy's decision and its consequences.

Follow-up Ideas/Getting Involved

- Create a branching story map for a drop of rain water, showing some of the journeys it could take.
- Take a field trip to look for signs of pollution in local areas.
- Compare an orange and a styrofoam container. Discuss reasons why some people are concerned about the use of styrofoam.
- Make a list of all the objects thrown away at your house in one day. Classify the items on your list. Make hypotheses about what happens to them after they leave your house.
- Research the waste management system in your community.
- Make a chart grouping chemicals in your home according to the information on the containers.
- Design a class project to influence an environmental issue in your community (e.g. litter in the school yard). Address the following questions:

What is the problem?

Do we need more information about this problem?

If so, how might we get it?

Where and how might we help solve the problem?

What actions are possible?

What might hinder our success?

What can we do to be sure of success?

Where shall we start?