PRE & POST ACTIVITIES

THE ELIZABETH RIVER PROJECT
LEARNING BARGE
What is water?
Water is the most common substance on the Earth. Every living thing contains water. Two atoms of hydrogen and one oxygen.

Why is water important?
People, animals and plants all need water to survive. It is also serves as cooling rains and misty breezes. There would be no life without water.

Why do plants need water?
Plants make food to survive. Water travels through the plants’ roots and carries important minerals from the soil to the leaves. Water also helps plants to stand up straight.

How much water is in living things?
Every living thing has water in it. The human body contains 65% water.

How much of the Earth has water on it?
70% of the Earth surface is covered with water.

How much of Earth’s water is salty?
97% (3% is fresh...2% of that is frozen in glaciers, 1% is usable to us)

Does the amount of water on Earth ever change?
No. The water cycle recycles it over and over.

How much rain falls in the United States each year?
30 inches.

How much rain falls in Hampton Roads?
45 in.. Norfolk 46 in., Portsmouth 46 in. Virginia Beach 44 in. and Chesapeake 44 in.

What is a river?
A large natural stream of water that is larger than a creek and is usually characterized by having branches.

What is an estuary?
A partially enclosed body of water where freshwater, from rivers and streams mixes with salt water from the ocean.

How much freshwater flows into an estuary?
It varies from season to season and year to year and is combined with the daily rise and fall of the tides.

Are estuaries good habitats?
Yes. They are among the most productive habitats on Earth. They serve as a nursery, feeding ground for fish, shellfish, birds and more.

How is Elizabeth River water used?
Not for drinking, she is salty. Military, business and industry use her for transportation and economic reasons. Community uses her for recreation, beauty, homes, transportation and livelihood. She is also an excellent place for scientists and students to research and learn for she is rich in science, nature, history, culture and economics.

What’s important to remember about the Elizabeth River water?
Water is the universal solvent, because it dissolves more substances than any other liquid. This means that wherever water flows, whether through the ground, inside trees and flowers, over the skin, through our bodies or animals or fish it carries substances along with it. These substances could be valuable or they could be toxic.