

The Wondrous Wanderings of Wendy Water



A Project SAVE
Environmental Reader Series

South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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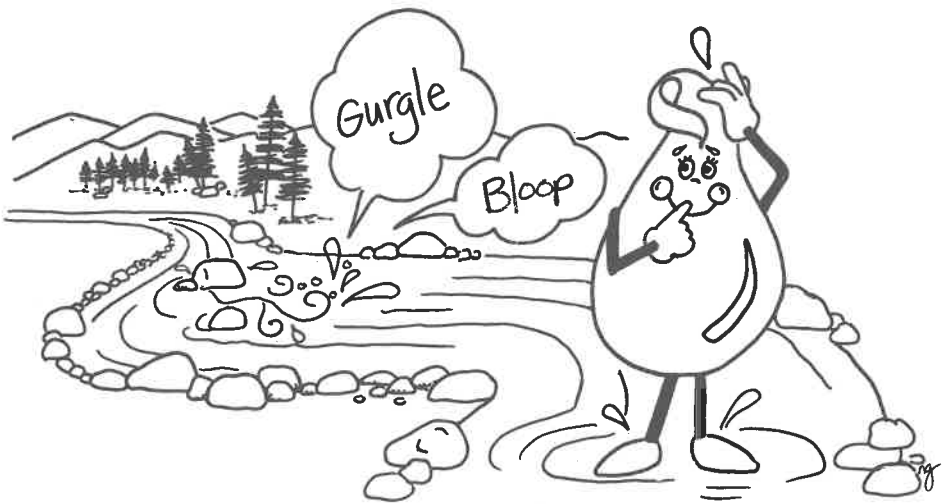


Our story begins in a bubbling stream high in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Here we find our little friend Wendy Water. She is resting in a quiet water pool with her other water drop friends.

We will take a journey with Wendy down the stream. Before we do this, we must find out how Wendy and her friends got into the pool.

Water in the Black Hills comes from springs located in stream banks. **Springs** are usually small areas in the earth where water trickles out from under the ground. When many springs add water, a **stream** is formed. Water in the stream can also come from rain or snow.

When there is enough spring water, rain or melting snow, the stream will start to flow. Water in a stream can run fast or slow. When a stream runs fast, it makes a gurgling or bubbling sound.



Sometimes a stream slows down and the water becomes quiet. This area or place in the stream is called a **pool**.

Water in fast running Black Hills streams is usually cold. In the pools it is usually warm.

The next time you visit a stream, listen when you approach the water. Do you hear the gurgling or babbling sound?

Look at the water. Is it clear or is it dirty? When the water is clear you might see some animals swimming in the stream.

Feel the water in the stream. Is the water warm in the pool? Is the water cooler in the fast running part of the stream?

In our Black Hills streams we can find many animals. The rocks in a stream are home to tiny animals.

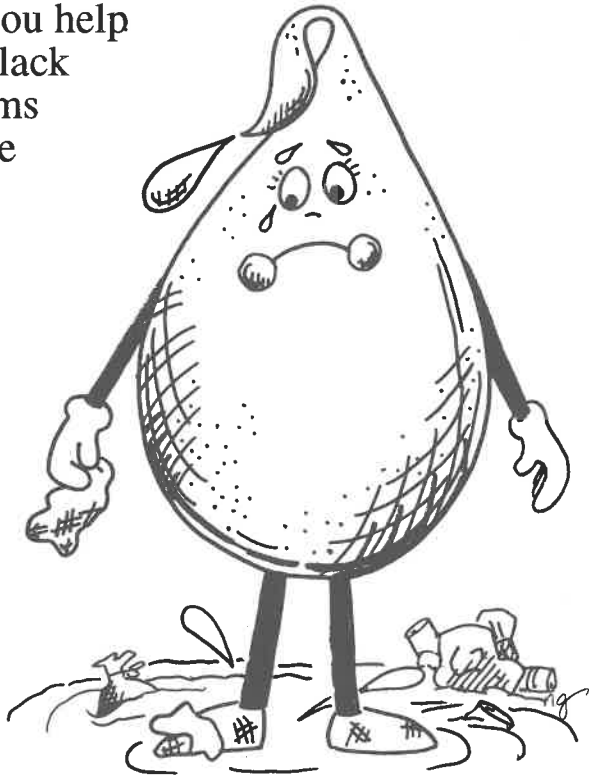
Pick up some rocks from the stream.

Turn them over and look for tiny animals that may be attached.



Animal and plant life depend on Wendy and her water drop friends. All life needs water.

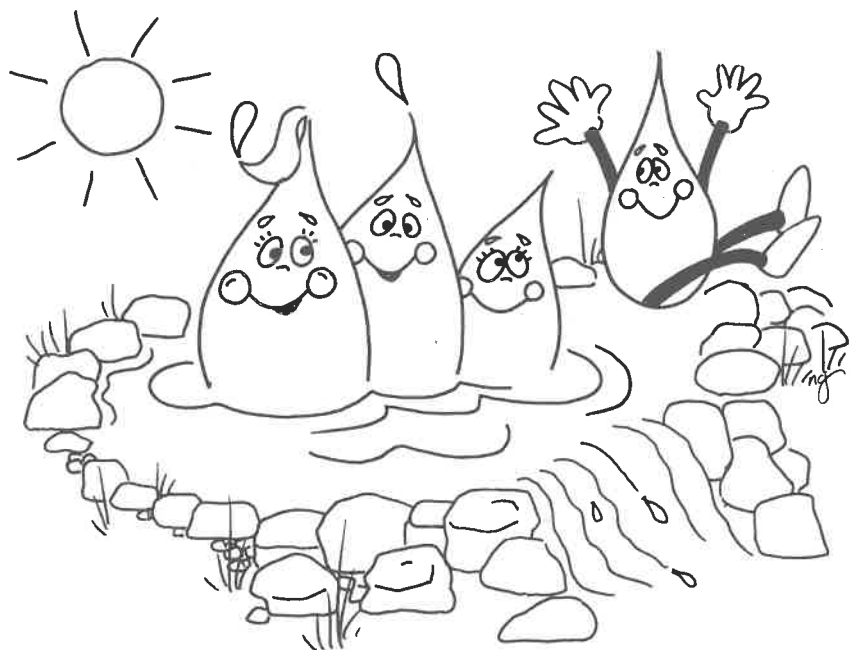
The water must be clean so the birds, deer, turkey, trees, grass and man can use it. How can you help keep the Black Hills streams clean? One way is not to litter! Another way is to make sure you do not throw picnic food near or in the water.



Plants that grow near a stream help keep it clean. A blanket of plant life such as grasses, shrubs and trees protects the stream. The plants hold the soil. Then, when there is a heavy rain, the soil will not

wash into the stream.

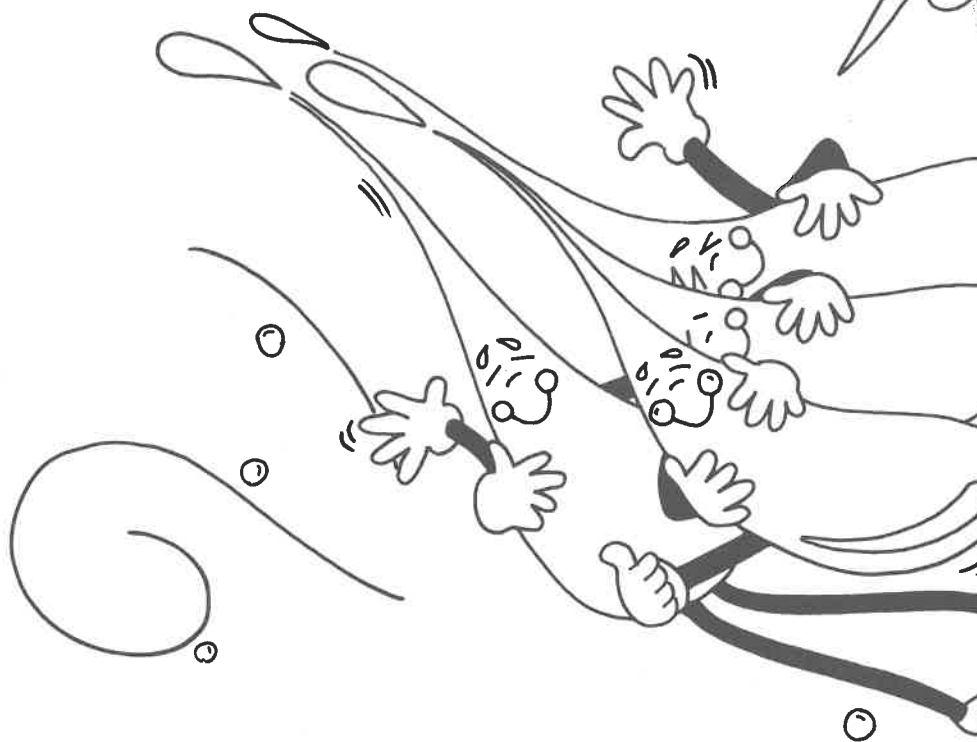
Soil that is carried into the water is harmful to the animals and plants that live in the stream. Dirty water can plug up fish gills so fish can't breathe, and sometimes the soil that runs into the water carries poisonous chemicals.



Back to our friend Wendy Water. She and the other water drops are in the warm pool. **Water drops cling tightly to each other.** When water from other springs or rain is added, the pool fills up. Wendy and her friends will flow out of the pool.

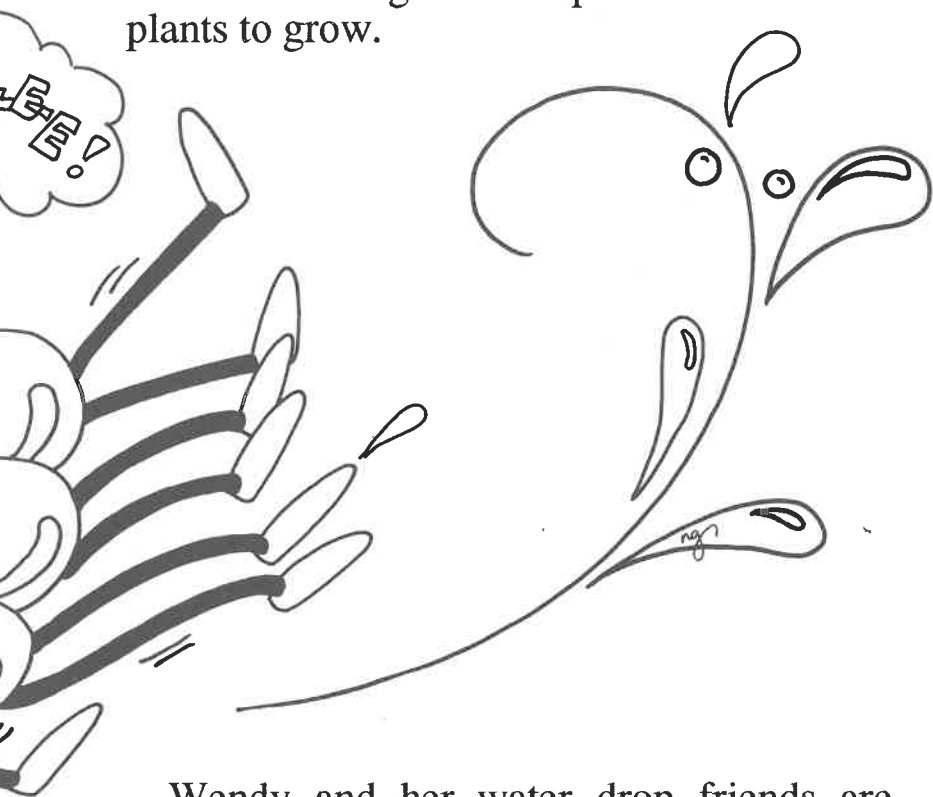
They start their journey down the beautiful Black Hills stream.

Wendy and her friends slowly flow out of the pool. When they first start the journey it is not fast. As they flow downhill Wendy and her friends are in for a great ride!



Wow! What a neat ride Wendy and her friends are taking. Their trip through the Hills is one of many wondrous adventures water droplets take.

They tumble over rocks, flow by plants growing in the stream, and wind their way down the hill. The sun sparkles off the water. This light is important for water plants to grow.

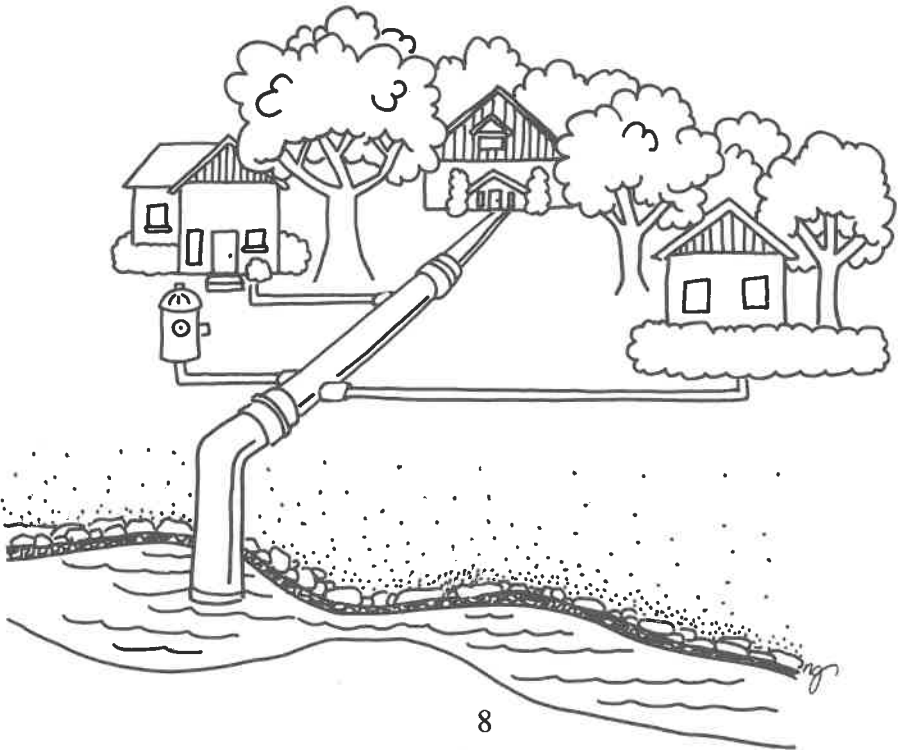


Wendy and her water drop friends are important. They are home for fish. Other animals drink water from the stream. Wendy and her friends are water for plants. Some plants grow in the stream and some on the banks. Many of the plants on the banks get their water from the stream.

Streams run through places in the hills that are not so steep. **In this flat area the water flows so slow a pool is formed.** Wendy and her friends again delay their journey for a time.

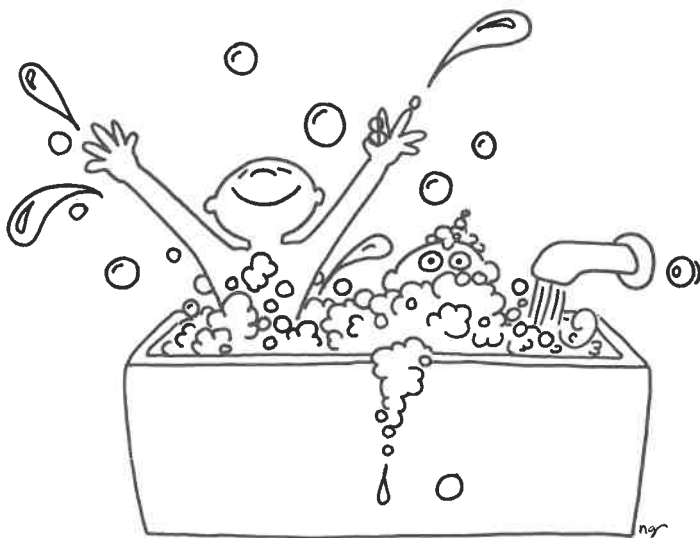
Water in a pool keeps moving. It will flow out of the pool and spread into the soil around the pool.

Water that seeps into the ground from rain, or streams, is called ground water. People who live in the Black Hills use ground water for drinking, bathing, cooking and cleaning. They put a pipe in the ground and pump the water to their homes.



Let's follow Wendy from the pool to the house. First Wendy moves into the bank of the stream. She dodges in and out between the tiny pieces of sand and soil. The water drops remain here or return to the stream.

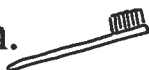
People who need water put a large pipe into the ground near a stream. A pump pulls the water into the pipe. Many smaller pipes are attached to the large pipe. The water runs through the smaller pipes to many homes.



When you turn on the faucet Wendy and her friends will be used in the kitchen, bathroom, or outside.


SAVE Wendy and her water drop friends.
When they come to your home do the following things.


1. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.






2. Fix faucets that leak.



3. Take a shower rather than a bath.
Save water  by shutting off the shower while you scrub with soap.

4. Grow  plants in your garden or lawn that require less water.

5. Use ice cubes  or keep a jug of water in the refrigerator for a cold drink. 

6. Shut off  the water after you are done playing or drinking.

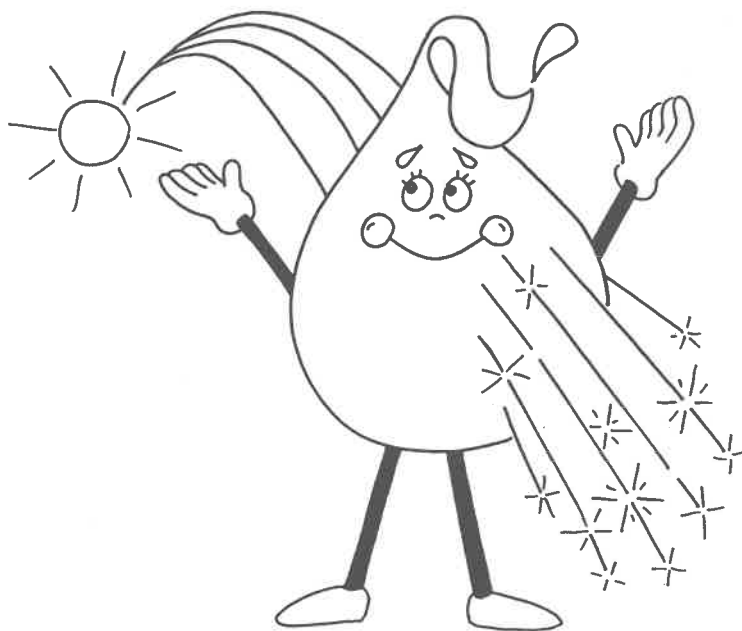
7. Use only enough water to wash and rinse dishes.



You have followed Wendy on a short trip. The trip started at a spring in the Black Hills. The trip ended beside a stream under the ground. Below are the facts to remember.

- There are areas of fast and slow moving water in the Black Hills
- Animals live on rocks in streams.
- Fast moving water makes gurgling sound.
- Slow moving areas of water are called pools.
- The place where water comes out of a stream bank is called a spring.
- Plants hold soil in place. This keeps the stream clean.
- Water that enters the ground along a stream is used for our home.
- Littering is bad for a stream.

When you visit the Black Hills ask your parents to stop at a stream, so you can explore the many wonderful things that happen there.



*We hope you liked the story about
Wendy Water's Wonderous Wanderings.
Please write to us and tell us
what you liked most.
Send your letter to the address
on the back cover.
Thank you.*

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