

Activity E2

Urban Design



S.T.E.A.M is an abbreviation for Science Technology Engineering Art and Maths and is an integrated approach to learning that encourages learners to make connections between concepts and thinking which can be applied to solving real world problems.

Whether you are new to STEAM or not, these easy to manage projects all about water will encourage critical thinking skills and scientific processes all while having lots of fun along the way.

Background Information

Monitoring rainfall is important for managing our water supply here in Cairns. There are also many other ways rainfall affects our decisions particularly when it comes to designing our homes and urban landscapes - including streets, parks and gardens. Take a walk around your house, school or neighbourhood and think about the ways rainfall has impacted on design and function of buildings and streets. This can be fun to do on a rainy day, as you watch how water moves through the streetscapes and environment.

For this activity you will need:

- Paper for notetaking
- Pen/pencil
- Pictures of houses/buildings/streets for collage

Explore more...

Put together a picture collage of all the innovations around the home that help to manage water flow and rainfall.

How do surfaces affect where water goes - for example, is there a difference between grass and bitumen?

Take a closer look at the roads, roofs, gutters and drains. Is there much variation? How and/or why do you think designs vary?

Did you know? All the rain that falls on our roads isn't treated and is channelled into our creeks and rivers which lead straight out to the Great Barrier Reef.

REMEMBER

You can protect our waterways, by picking up litter, cleaning up after your pets and by washing your car on the lawn.