

School Name: Mesa View Middle School
Area of Science: Air and Water Pollution
Project Title: Gold King Mine Spill

The Animas and San Juan Rivers were contaminated with lead, mercury and arsenic from the Gold King Mine located North of Silverton, Colorado, and happened August 5th, 2015. Three million gallons of old mine water spilled into the Animas River and spread approximately 375 miles from Colorado through New Mexico, the Navajo Nation to Lake Powell in Arizona and possibly beyond. In September of 2016, the EPA declared the King Gold Mine a superfund site.

This spill is an important subject because the Animas and San Juan Rivers provide habitat and water for both people and animals. The contaminants may cause birth defects, shorter life spans and reduced overall health and quality of life.

We will do research via libraries, the internet, scientific books and journals. We will use NetLogo to simulate short term contamination of the water ways from the superfund site and trace it as it progressed.

We will use Net Logo to analyze our results and draw conclusions
We will talk to experts in water pollution such as the San Juan Water Commission, San Juan County GIS and other city, county, state and federal resources.

We want to learn more details about the short term distribution and contamination of the water shed.

Team Members

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Sponsoring Teacher(s)

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Project Mentor(s)

- Tamara Gabrel
- Terrill Henegar
- San Juan Water Commission
- San Juan County GIS

Revised
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