Who Polluted the Wicomico River?

(based on a Population People lesson: Who Polluted the Potomac?)

**Standards:**

*Science*

Standard 6.0 Environmental Science

Students will use scientific skills and processes to explain the interactions of environmental factors (living and non-living) and analyze their impact from a local to a global perspective.

*Writing*

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.8](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/2/8/)  
Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

**Objectives:**

* Students will be able to describe the effects humans have on local bodies of water.

**Materials:**

* Clear bowl of water
* Coffee grounds, vinegar, baking soda, food coloring, soil, fishing line, paper/plastic
* 23 canisters
* Canister labels
* Counting on People CD
* Story: *Who Polluted the Potomac?* (Wicomico River)
* Map of Maryland

**Procedure:**

1. Prepare all canisters will ingredients and labeled pollutants.
2. Place a clear bowl of water in the front of the classroom.
3. Explain that the teacher will be reading a story and all students will play a role in the story. Once the teacher passes out a canister to you, keep the canister upright and do not open it.
4. Distribute canisters to students.
5. Show all labels on the projector and read the words as a class. Explain to students that when they hear their label called, they dump it into the bowl upfront.
6. Show students on the map of Maryland where we are and where the Wicomico River is.
7. Begin to read the story, *Who Polluted the Potomac (Wicomico River)?*
8. Ask questions given throughout the story.
9. Facilitate discussion questions. (page 3)
10. Show students photos of pollution in bodies of water.
11. Explain to students that they will now write how pollution negatively effects the environment and give examples. Students will be given a rubric to guide their work.
12. Students will share their writing piece with the class.