

# West Basin Water District

## Water Conservation Lessons

### Third Grade

All students will receive the general 3rd-5th Grade water conservation lesson with their Fall planting and a lesson-specific water conservation lesson with their Spring planting, Native American Three Sisters Garden.

#### ◆ Fall Lesson Points

- ◆ Water is a precious resource—conserve and preserve
  - Conserve everytime you use water—showers, dishes, toothbrushing, watering
  - School Gardens used Drip Irrigation and Smart Irrigation timers to water only when and how much is needed for the plants to grow
    - Water early in the day to minimize evaporation
    - Do not overwater—no water washing onto street or sidewalks
  - Preserve Watersheds—understand that all water is part of a local watershed.
    - The greater California watershed is the water that flows from the mountains down to the coast in our state rivers and creeks—this is the basis for all of our drinking water
    - With rain or irrigation or carwashing or other outdoor uses, water flows from streets, yards, etc. into creeks and oceans.
    - Pollution or poisons in our yards or streets become pollution in our water.
  - Keep our environment clean, especially don't dump pollutants down storm drains that flow straight to creeks and oceans.

#### ◆ Spring Lesson Points

- ◆ Interplanting of vegetables of different heights and shapes shades soil to decrease water evaporation—corn shades with height, squash shades with large leaves.
- ◆ Certain plants are better suited for dry climates, like in California or deserts
  - Indian varieties of corn are a much more dry, dense corn so do not require as much water. They were ground and used as flour, as compared to juicy yellow or white corn on the cob we eat now.
  - Squash with its very tough, thick leaves holds water in; prickly leaves discourages animals from eating it.
  - Native Americans laid old corn stalks on ground and added other organic matter to soil to help soil provide more nutrients and hold more water.