

Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____



RISE to Action for Clean Water Activity Book



A project of RISE St. James Louisiana in partnership with The Story of Stuff Project created in honor of Black History Month, February 2025.

The art is inspired by the video "Sharon Lavigne's Story of RISE St. James Louisiana" in The World We Need video series.

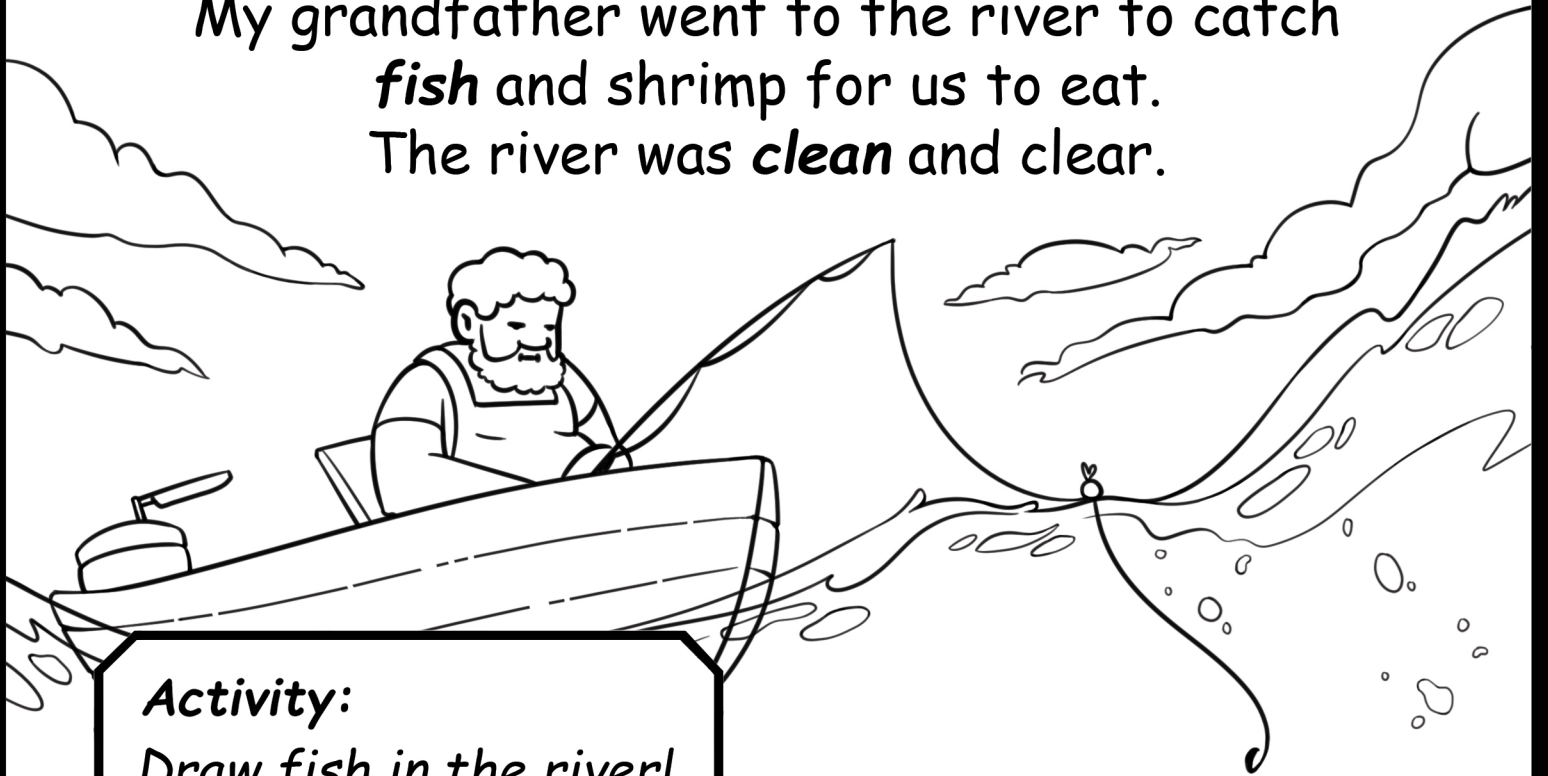
Watch this video at bit.ly/sharonstjames



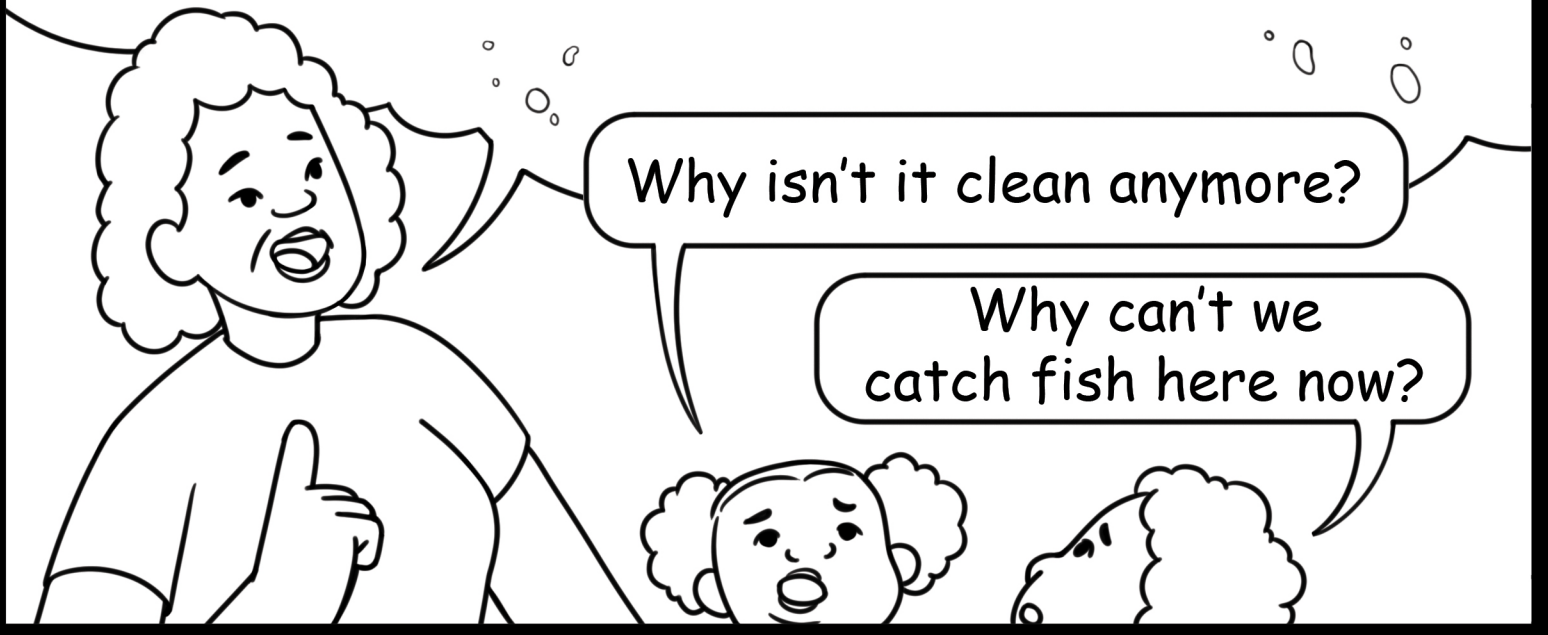
Grandma, why is the *Mississippi* River brown?

The river wasn't always brown...

When I was a young girl, the river was beautiful.
My grandfather went to the river to catch
fish and shrimp for us to eat.
The river was *clean* and clear.

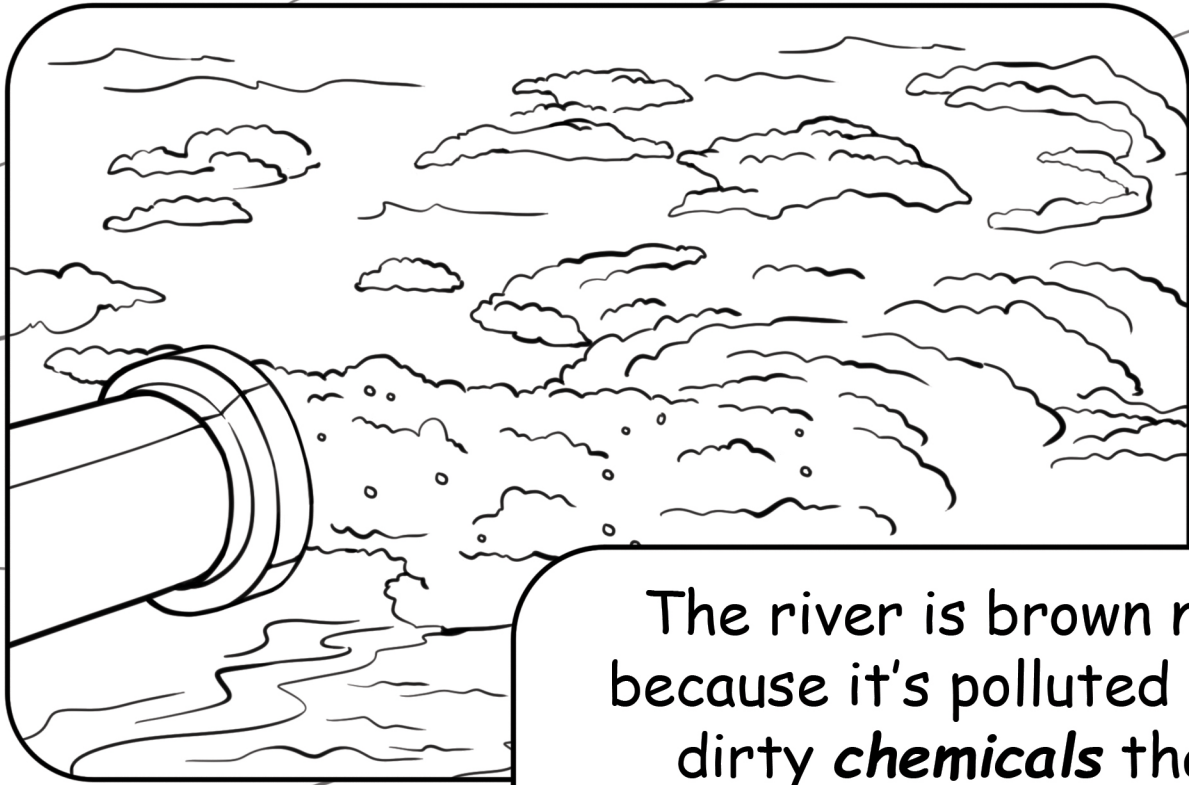


Activity:
Draw fish in the river!



Why isn't it clean anymore?

Why can't we catch fish here now?



The river is brown now because it's polluted with dirty **chemicals** that make the **water** unsafe. Those chemicals in the water make people sick.

Grandma,
where did the chemicals
come from?





One day, the big *industries* came into our town and made chemicals that polluted the river. The water inside our homes comes from the Mississippi River, so the *pollution* got everywhere.



The industries polluting our houses and communities caused so many problems. We have to **drink** water from **bottles** since the water in our homes isn't safe. We can't eat the fish from the river.




So many people here got sick from the pollution that they started calling our home *Cancer Alley*.



Grandma,
I love our *community*.

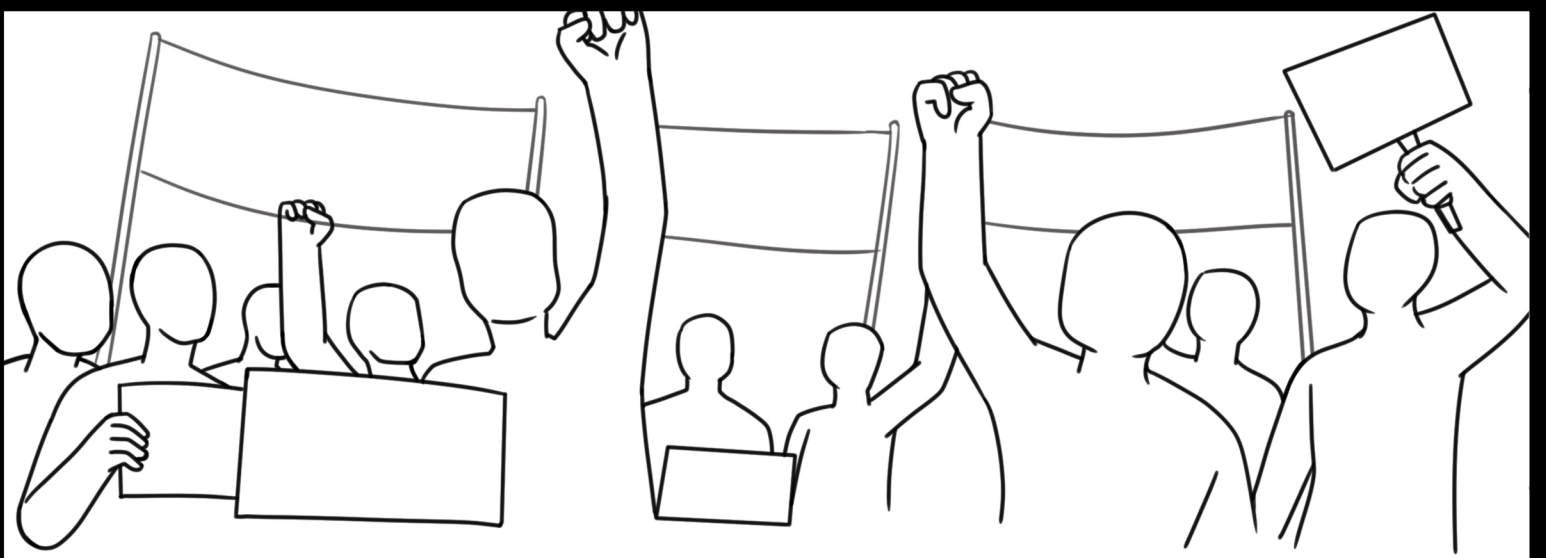
How can we make
our water clean again?

How can we stop
the industries
from polluting?



First, we pray, which gives us strength, courage, and connection to God.

Then, we *organize* with our neighbors and make a plan together to stop pollution.



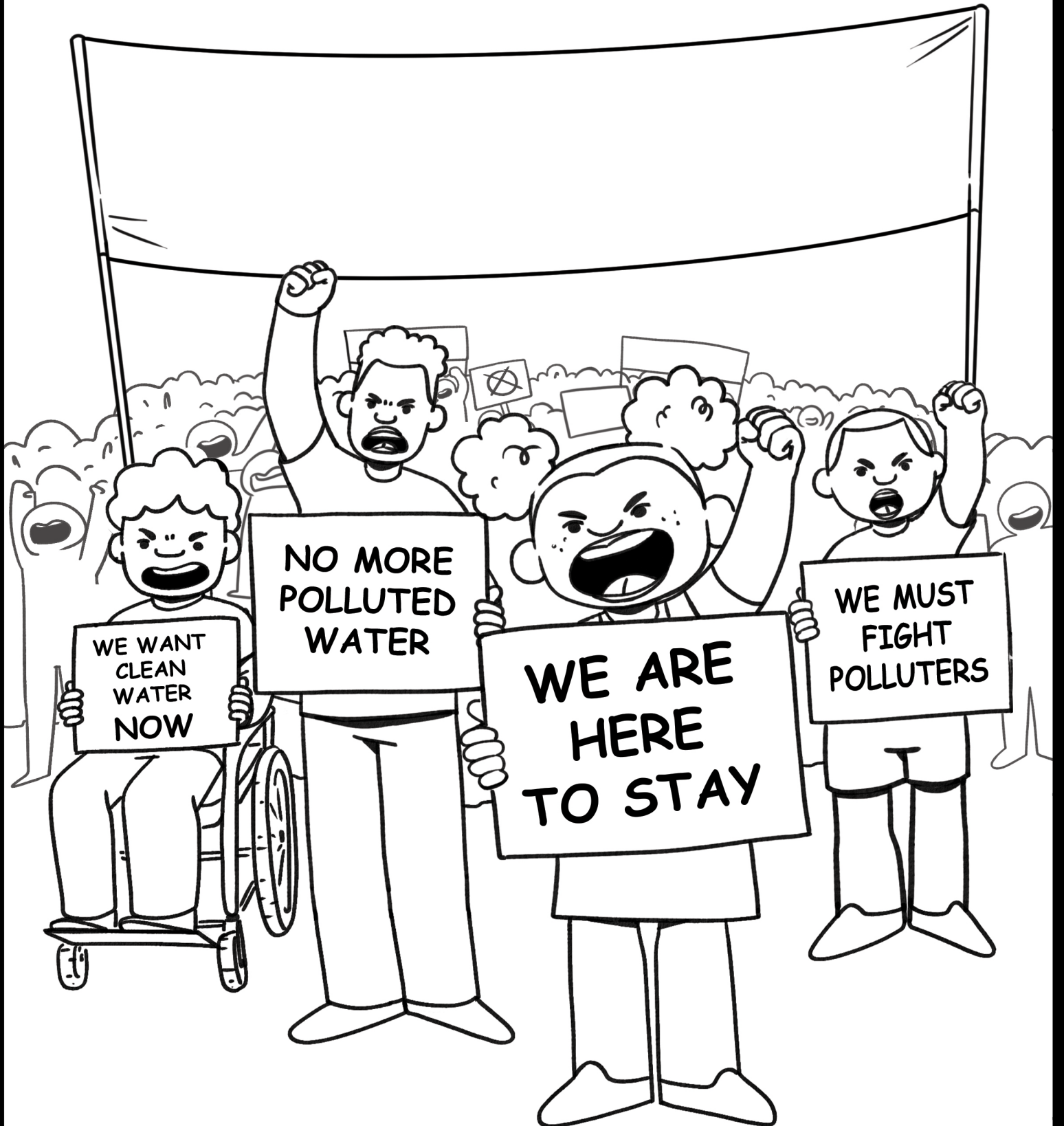
Our voices matter.

We can stand up for our community and take action.
We can talk to our parents, teachers, and friends,
and tell them what's happening.
Together, we can make a *difference*.



Activity:

Draw a protest sign or write what you believe.





We will keep going.

We will keep fighting.

Someday, our river will be clear and beautiful.

Someday, we'll have clean water to drink again.



Word Search

T	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	O	Y	Q	O	O
J	U	A	X	Y	R	N	Z	O	W	E	W	D	C	Z
B	M	J	O	C	P	E	V	T	V	I	B	Q	H	D
O	I	Z	F	G	G	C	T	O	X	Z	E	Q	E	I
T	M	D	I	N	D	U	S	T	R	I	E	S	M	F
T	Q	D	I	S	M	U	I	X	F	W	F	C	I	F
L	M	I	S	S	I	S	S	I	P	P	I	K	C	E
E	H	T	N	F	X	D	N	R	P	X	S	S	A	R
S	P	O	L	L	U	T	I	O	N	N	H	H	L	E
S	S	L	X	X	N	N	Q	N	A	T	U	S	S	N
H	D	Q	G	O	W	Z	P	O	Y	B	D	V	G	C
C	L	E	A	N	A	V	X	D	R	I	N	K	Q	E
C	Y	U	H	P	T	G	E	X	I	G	Y	X	F	S
Z	Y	V	R	T	E	T	Q	S	Y	I	L	F	S	A
V	O	Y	Y	X	R	G	O	R	G	A	N	I	Z	E

Word Bank

Mississippi

Industries

Difference

Chemicals

Pollution

Community

Organize

Bottles

Water

Drink

Clean

Fish