

## Who Dirtied the Water: Boulder Edition

- Once upon a time, there was a beautiful piece of land. The land was surrounded by mountains, and had a river running through it. Fish lived in the water and the land was covered by grassland. The land and the river teemed with wildlife.
  - **Chorus:** (Wait for the group to answer each question) **1)** Would you want to swim in this river? **2)** Would you eat fish caught in this water? **3)** Would you like to go tubing in this river?
- The river carried **SEDIMENT** down from the mountains. **GRASSLAND** grew along the edges of the river. A small group of people lived on the land near the river. The people called themselves the **ARAPAHO**. The **ARAPAHO** fished for food and used the river for transportation. They also dumped some of their garbage near the river.
  - **Chorus:** (Answers will vary as participants consider each question in light of the new substances added to the river.) **1)** Would you want to swim in this river? **2)** Would you eat fish caught in this water? **3)** Would you like to go tubing in this river?
- After many years **SETTLERS** from Europe came to live on the land. The **SETTLERS** built a town much larger than the Arapaho village. Some of the town's garbage was dumped into the river. In the mountains above the river, **MINERS** chopped down trees. Without trees, rain carried soil into the river.
  - **Chorus:** **1)** Would you want to swim in this river? **2)** Would you eat fish caught in this water? **3)** Would you like to go tubing in this river?
- More and more **HOUSES** and shops were build, and the town grew. Sewer pipes were constructed to remove the waste from homes and bathrooms. The sewage through the pipes into the river. **FISHERMEN** found that nets made of plastic or nylon were stronger than those made of rope. Sometimes these plastic nets got lost in the water.
  - **Chorus:** **1)** Would you want to swim in this river? **2)** Would you eat fish caught in this water? **3)** Would you like to go tubing in this river?
- The City of Boulder continued to grow. As it did, the city build **LAUNDROMATS** where people could wash their clothes. The laundry detergents went down the sewage pipes and into the bay. People **CLEANING** their houses used poisonous cleansers and drain cleaners, which also flowed through the sewage system an into the bay. Even **SWIMMERS** left a mess as their sunscreen washed off into the river. **FACTORIES** build along the water's edge often dumped their wastes and chemicals into the water. As Boulder grew, more and more **CARS AND TRUCKS** visited. Sometimes those vehicles accidentally dumped oil into the water.
  - **Chorus:** **1)** Would you want to swim in this river? **2)** Would you eat fish caught in this water? **3)** Would you like to go tubing in this river?