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?