



Article Guide: The Rise of the Mill Creek – How Cincinnati is restoring its dirtiest waterway

<http://scienceovereverything.com/2018/05/09/mill-creek/>

Part 1: A Dirty History

Directions:

- Read the section of the article titled “Who were Neanderthals?”
 - Box vocabulary words or words that you have not seen before
 - Underline in the text where the focus questions are addressed
- Answer each focus question

Focus questions

1. Why was the Mill Creek attractive to early industries in Cincinnati?

2. Why were factories and other business able to dump their waste into the Mill Creek?

3. When the EPA completed its first comprehensive survey in the 1990’s, what evidence of pollution did they find?

Part 2: Getting Clean

Directions:

- Read each understanding question
 - Think about what you would need to know to answer that question
- Read the section of the article titled “Getting Clean”.
 - Box vocabulary words or words that you have not seen before
- Answer each understanding question

Understanding questions

1. Slowing down a river has allowed for more species of fish, invertebrates and mammals to return to the Mill Creek. What is the advantage of living in slower moving stream? Why would these species want to live there?

2. Explain how the return of mammals, bird of prey, and other top predators indicate a positive change in the Mill Creek’s ecosystem.

Part 3: The Future of the Mill Creek

Directions:

- Read the section of the article titled “The Future of the Mill Creek”
 - Box vocabulary words or words that you have not seen before
 - Discuss with a partner how you would address the extension questions.
 - Write a response to the extension questions
3. Imagine that you are part of an environmental task force for the city of Cincinnati. How could you convince the mayor to build a new sewer system that does not dump into the local watershed, despite the high construction costs? What would be the economic, social, and environmental advantages of a healthier Mill Creek ecosystem?
