



# Investigating Groundwater:

## The Fruitvale Story



### IN A NUTSHELL

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for Public Understanding  
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**Cost:** \$19.95 + s&h teacher's  
guide  
\$196.00 + s&h for complete kit

### SUBJECTS

Health  
Science  
Social Studies

The book provides a structured series of lessons and activities in which students learn about groundwater and investigate a case of groundwater pollution. In the first two of the book's seven sections, students learn and experiment with basic facts about groundwater, such as water movement and concentrations of chemicals. In sections three through five, students study and plan additional research on a groundwater contamination situation in the fictional town of Fruitvale. Working in small groups, students plan their own course of action and find the information necessary to determine the source of the pollution. The final two sections involve the students in role-playing activities, where they act out a town meeting to decide how best to clean up the contamination. Supports include student sheets, masters of handouts and other project materials, complete instructions for setting up the experiments, background information, an achievement test, information on obtaining supplies, and a glossary. Illustrations consist of maps, charts, drawings, and photographs.

**Grade Level**  
6-9

**Length**  
84 pages

**Date Published**  
1991

THE BOTTOM  
LINE

"An inquiry-based, problem-solving approach to learning about the environment and the results of poor decision making."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Factually accurate. Provides different viewpoints and allows students to make their own decisions.	
	Depth	Students learn concepts in stages. Examines short- and long-term issues.	
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Makes use of both critical and creative thinking skills. Applies skills to issues. Uses interpersonal and group skills.	
	Action Orientation	Role-play gives an example of citizen involvement resulting in change.	Does not relate to learners' own community or personal behaviors.
	Instructional Soundness	Very learner-centered. Clearly states goals and learner outcomes. Accommodates different learning styles.	All activities are designed as classroom activities.
	Usability	Package is long-lived, clear, and easy to use. Can be adapted to different situations or locations.	

"Very usable, even for teachers with little science background."

"Raises awareness of the problem and then follows through to a solution."