**Trees and Forest Floors as a Natural Water Filter**

**Subject(s):** Headstart Science

**Grade Level:** Preschool

**Activity author:** Christine Anderson, Kamiah Elementary

**Time Required:** 50 minutes

**Lesson Objectives:**
Students will observe and learn that forest floors clean and filter running water.

**Materials Needed:**
Forest floor material, 3 screen box filtration systems with different materials (dirt, sand and gravel, leaves, needles, twigs, branches, bark and other natural forest floor materials), glue, construction paper, water jug with water, drainage catch basin for each box

**Procedure:**
Begin with discussion of what a forest floor is and what are its components. Teacher will demonstrate filtration using 3 different types of forest floor materials. Pour water on to each material filtration box. Allow time for water to filter through materials by taking students back to tables and have them create a mosaic using forest floor materials on construction paper. Return to boxes to observe and discuss the water quality in the catch basin for each system.

**Overview:**
We will look at what the forest floor is, what it is made of and what it can do to running water. We are also going to make a mosaic using forest floor materials. When we complete our mosaic we will return to the boxes, look and talk about what we see happened to the water.

**Discussion:**
1. What do you think the forest floor is made of?
2. What do you think happens to water that runs through the forest?
3. Is it clean? Dirty?
4. Why is a forest floor important?