**The Story of Freddie the Fish**

Materials:

* bowl or small aquarium
* A few rocks
* Sponge cut to looks like a small fish
* Small cups to hold: • Dirt • Raisins • Green liquid – use green paint water or green food coloring • Pancake Syrup or Soy Sauce • Sand • Parts of a Styrofoam cup, paper, a broken plastic spoon, etc Script for “Freddie Says” cut apart

**Directions**

Use a bowl or small aquarium with clean water, a few rocks on the bottom and a stick in the water to represent some vegetation. Using a rod or ruler and string, suspend the lure about mid-way down in the water. This is Freddie.

“Imagine that we’re at the beginning of <name your local river or stream>. There are trees all along the banks (sides of the river/stream). The water is cool and clean. This is where Freddie the Fish lives. Freddie has lived in this stretch of the river all his life. But now he is going on a big adventure! He’s going to travel downstream!”

Narrator Freddie Says Here he goes! (Wiggle Freddie.)

As Freddie swims downstream, he comes to a place where people will be building new, big houses. Big bulldozers knocked down trees to make way for building.

<Read Freddie Says>

It begins to rain. There are no tree roots to hold the soil in along the river bank and dirt slides down into the water.

(Dump soil in into Freddie's jar.)

Oh, no, Freddie! How is Freddie? (“Yuck!”)

It’s getting sunny and hot.

What happened?

All the trees are cut down!

2 Freddie swims on down the river. See if you can guess where he is now.

<Read Freddie Says> (Pour raisins into the water.)

Where is Freddie? (pasture, ranch or farm)

Are these good presents for Freddie?

Look! There are some big, brown animals with horns coming down to visit me! One of them said, “Moo!” Oh, look – he’s leaving me some presents!!

3 Freddie swims farther on down the river. He comes to a new place.

<Read Freddie Says> (Pour in green liquid)

Oh, no, Freddie!

Where is Freddie? (next to a golf course) Some golf courses put lots of fertilizer on the grass to keep it green. Extra fertilizer runs off into the river, especially when it rains. This hurts our rivers and streams.

How is Freddie?

I see a bunch of people hitting a little ball with a stick! Look at that green, green, GREEN grass! Hey, here’s a little stream running off of that grass. Oh, no – it’s sticky, green stuff!

4 Freddie swims beside a house. Someone is changing the oil in his car. Wait – is he pouring the oil down the storm drain along the street??

<Read Freddie Says> (Pour pancake syrup into Freddie's jar.)

How is Freddie?

That man doesn’t know that storm drains go straight into the river! Anything we pour into the street goes straight into our streams and rivers!

Oh, no! Oil is coming out of that pipe! The oil is heading right for me! My gills are getting covered in oil !!!

5 Poor, Freddie! Off he swims.

<Read Freddie Says> (Pour sand or rock dust into the water)

Oh, my! All that sand and rock dust is blowing into the water. What do you think of the water Freddie is in now? How is Freddie?

Wow, there are big trucks digging in the dirt over there. What’s all that stuff blowing into the water?

6 Freddie swims past the city park. Some picnickers didn't throw their trash into the garbage can. The wind is blowing it into the river.

<Read Freddie Says> (Sprinkle parts of a Styrofoam cup, paper, a broken plastic spoon, etc. into the water.)

How is Freddie?

Ahh, look. People are having a picnic. Oh, no! What’s all this junk in the water?? I can – hardly – get – through – all – this – litter! Yuck!

What do you think about the water Freddie is in now?

How did it get so dirty?

Does this happen in real life?

How can we keep the water clean for Freddie and other fish that live in our rivers and streams?

Original script used from: <http://www.texasthestateofwater.org/screening/pdf_docs/FreddieTheFish.pdf>