

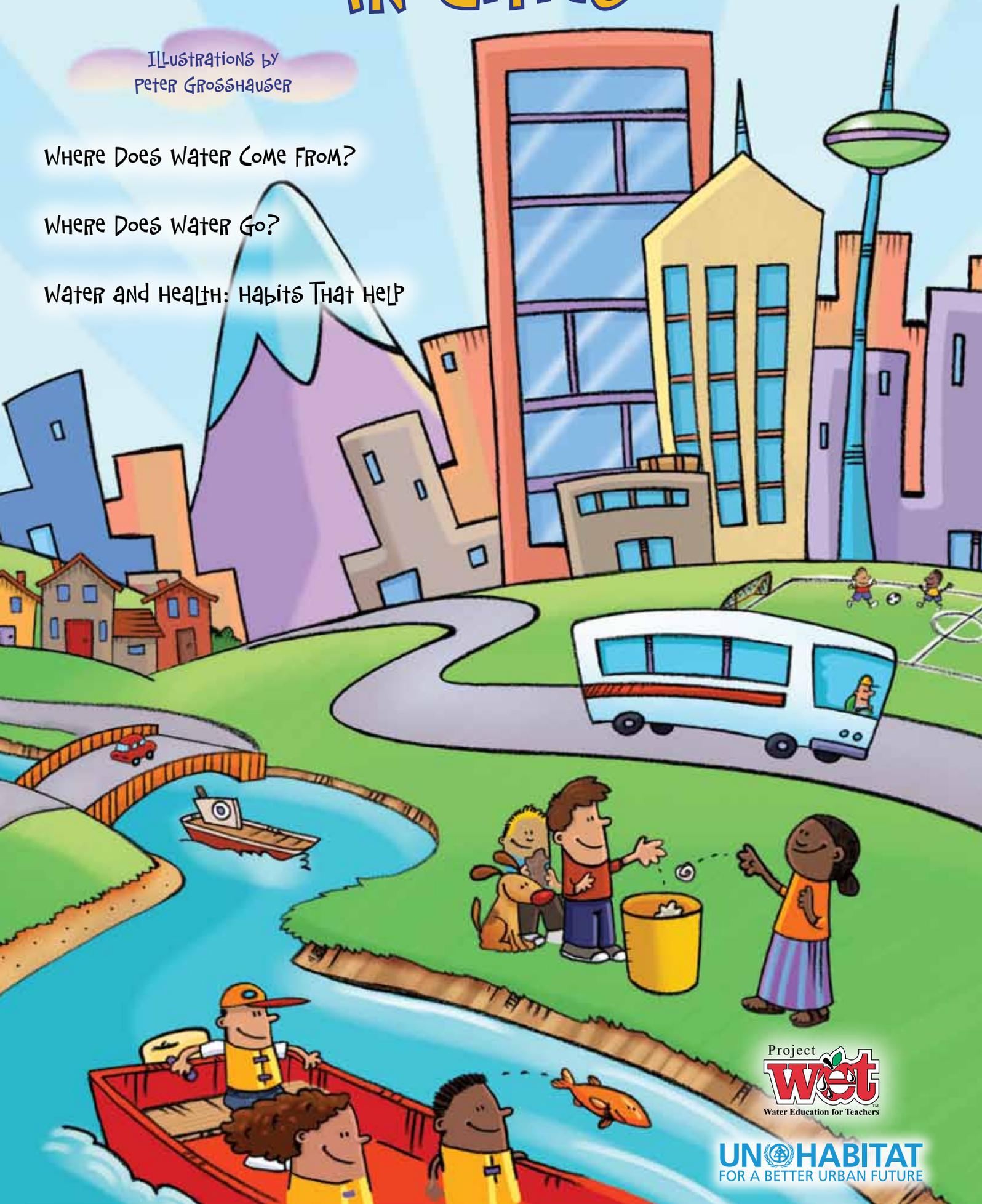
# Water and Sanitation in Cities

Illustrations by  
PETER GROSSHAUSER

Where Does Water Come From?

Where Does Water Go?

Water and Health: Habits That Help



Project  
**wet**  
Water Education for Teachers

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



# WHERE DOES WATER GO?

Water comes into our cities from a source, and we access it through different distribution systems such as faucets, wells, trucks and bottles. We then use water for all of our needs like bathing, cooking, cleaning, drinking and toilets. But where does the water go after it disappears down the drain? When disposed of properly, the

water we use runs through pipes to wastewater management systems where it is cleaned before it reenters natural water systems such as rivers, lakes and oceans. Water we use is cleaned and reused by others who live downstream. Because of this, it is important to dispose of wastewater and potential water pollutants properly.

START

1B—A city bus leaked oil onto the road and oil was washed into the river. Add 1 bean to the river.

1

1A—You threw your trash in the trash can so it wouldn't wash down a drain or into the river. Remove 1 bean from the river.

2A—You poured your leftover paint down a drain leading to the river. Add 2 beans to the river.

2

2B—You picked up garbage from the street and disposed of it properly so it wouldn't wash into the river. Remove 1 bean from the river.

3B—You picked up after your pet and disposed of the waste in a garbage can. Remove 2 beans from the river.

3

3A—You sent your used oil to be disposed of at a hazardous disposal site. Remove 2 beans from the river.

5A—You participated in a community clean-up event. Remove two beans from the river.

5

4A—The sewage pipe from your apartment building was not hooked up properly and leaked sewage into the street and river. Add 2 beans to the river.

4

4B—You recycled your paper, plastic and cans in the correct recycling bins. Remove 2 beans from the river.

5B—You disposed of a dirty diaper in the trash can so it wouldn't pollute the river. Remove 1 bean from the river.

FINISH

## PLAY THE WATER USE GAME

Learn how daily actions can help or harm a river

1. Find one bottle cap for each player, a coin or other flat object and about 30 small objects such as beans or pebbles. Place the beans along the river to represent pollution.
2. The youngest player starts by moving his or her bottle cap to station 1 and flipping the coin. Depending on the result of the flip, the player follows the instructions from either 1A or 1B.
3. The player with the most beans—representing the person who removed or prevented the most pollution from going into the river—wins!



Over the last 20 years, Mexico City has greatly increased access to water and sanitation, and now almost all houses have piped water and more than 8 in 10 houses are connected to a sewer.



A program launched by state and municipal governments in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, aims to prevent beach pollution by catching and diverting sewage waste from Rio's six city beaches by 2014.

# Water and Health: Habits That Help

## WORD BANK

purify  
recycle  
teeth  
face  
animal waste  
garbage receptacle

soap  
pollutants and  
insects  
storm water  
water  
mosquito net

You probably know that you need water to stay healthy, but did you know that water needs YOU, too? Just as water helps your body work when you drink, or helps clean germs off when you wash your hands, you

can help water by keeping it clean and protecting it from pollution. The habits in this picture will help keep you and your water safe and healthy. Fill in the blanks using the word bank to learn the healthy habits.



When you turn off the water when brushing your \_\_\_\_\_, you save water.



When you cover your water tank, you prevent \_\_\_\_\_ from getting into the tank.

When you put your garbage in a \_\_\_\_\_, you keep it out of local waterways.



When you \_\_\_\_\_ water before you use it, you make sure it is safe for you and your family.

When you \_\_\_\_\_ your trash, you allow it to be reused and keep it out of local waterways.



When you keep oil, paint and other garbage out of \_\_\_\_\_ and from going down a storm drain, you help keep water clean.



When you sleep, a \_\_\_\_\_ over your bed will protect you from mosquitoes that grow in standing water.

When you walk your pet and scoop up its \_\_\_\_\_ to throw away in the trash, you prevent the waste from getting into everyone's water supply.



When you wash your hands with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you clean off germs.



When you wash your \_\_\_\_\_ with soap and water, you can help prevent eye diseases.



The local water utility in Sydney, Australia, first introduced a water conservation program in 1995. Today, the city uses about the same amount of water as it did in the 1970s—even though 1.3 million more people live there.



The Nile River provides 95 percent of water in Egypt, including in its capital, Cairo. To protect the river, the government in 2012 launched a campaign to remove illegal buildings from which pollutants flow into the river.

