

Inquisitive students learn about water



Young scientist Zackary Pomfret demonstrates how his solar still works.

At the Redd School in northwest Houston, students are challenged to combine their knowledge about science, math, social studies, environmental issues, and the world we live in to create practical, common-sense Science Fair projects.

Zackary Pomfret, who has participated in the State of Texas' WaterWise program and Texas A & M's Junior Master Gardener program, Level 1, came up with just such an experiment.

Zach's parents worked with him on the science methodology for his project, which began with the question, "How well does solar water distillation clean water?"

After researching the topic, the student built a solar still from scratch and confirmed that solar water distillation could indeed clean out minerals, salt and chlorine from the water.

Redd School principal Denna Baskin compliments Zack on his effort. "This project demonstrates the value of hands-on science -- utilizing currently developing technology of non-polluting solar energy to address the problem of water contamination here and in communities around the world".



One of the difficult things about statistics is trying to visualize them. Learning that we each use an average of 175 gallons of water each day is fine, but just how much water is that? To find out, a group of Redd School students took 175 gallon jugs and arranged them into a pyramid to demonstrate how that much water "stacks up". This usage only includes water we use at home and to drink, but NOT what is used to grow and process our food, create electricity for homes and manufacturing, for livestock and irrigation. Within the boundaries of the Authority, our residential water usage amounts to about 70 million gallons a day!

