

320 words



Come to the steamboat “**SPLASH**” for **S**tudent **P**articipation in **L**earning **A**quatic **S**cience & **H**istory. As the whistle blows, this authentic stern-wheeler goes on a 2-hour voyage of fun and learning, featuring environment-based science, social studies and technology. Bring your group to see where Washington crossed the river to New Hope, canal boats crossed, wildlife flourishes and millions of people get drinking water. **SPLASH** offers special activities for school, camp or youth groups: interactive watershed model, water testing, water physics and chemistry, water safety, bird spotting and historical role-playing.

SPLASH takes passengers back in time to the river’s rich history and its story of changing ecology—from George Washington’s crossing the Delaware to the wildlife that inhabit the water and shores—from patriots to plankton and herons. Once a vibrant waterway for commerce, the river now supplies drinking water for 17,000,000 people and is a recreational and educational gem for students, boaters, fishermen, photographers, artists, writers and scientists of all ages. **SPLASH** boards in Lambertville, NJ, and seats 49 passengers on covered and open decks. It is a Coast Guard certified vessel with a crew of scientists and engineering professionals. Students see the steam engines and learn first hand about this historic vessel, a replica of a local 1880 steamboat. Our educational programs can be tailored for any school or youth group. We typically trace rain water to the river to the faucet, while teaching river ecology (with an “enviroscape” watershed model), water chemistry (with test kits), water physics (steam engine) and water safety (life jacket use), all adjusted to student grade level. Teachers can also conduct their own lesson, such as microscopic viewing of plankton. Standard interactive components include bird watching and historical role-playing (e.g. choosing federation over confederation and then electing George Washington as first President). Take advantage of this unique opportunity for environment-based learning. Call to discuss trip logistics, financing (typically \$19 per person, \$695 minimum) and classroom preparation, info@SteamboatClassroom.org, 609-921-6612).