



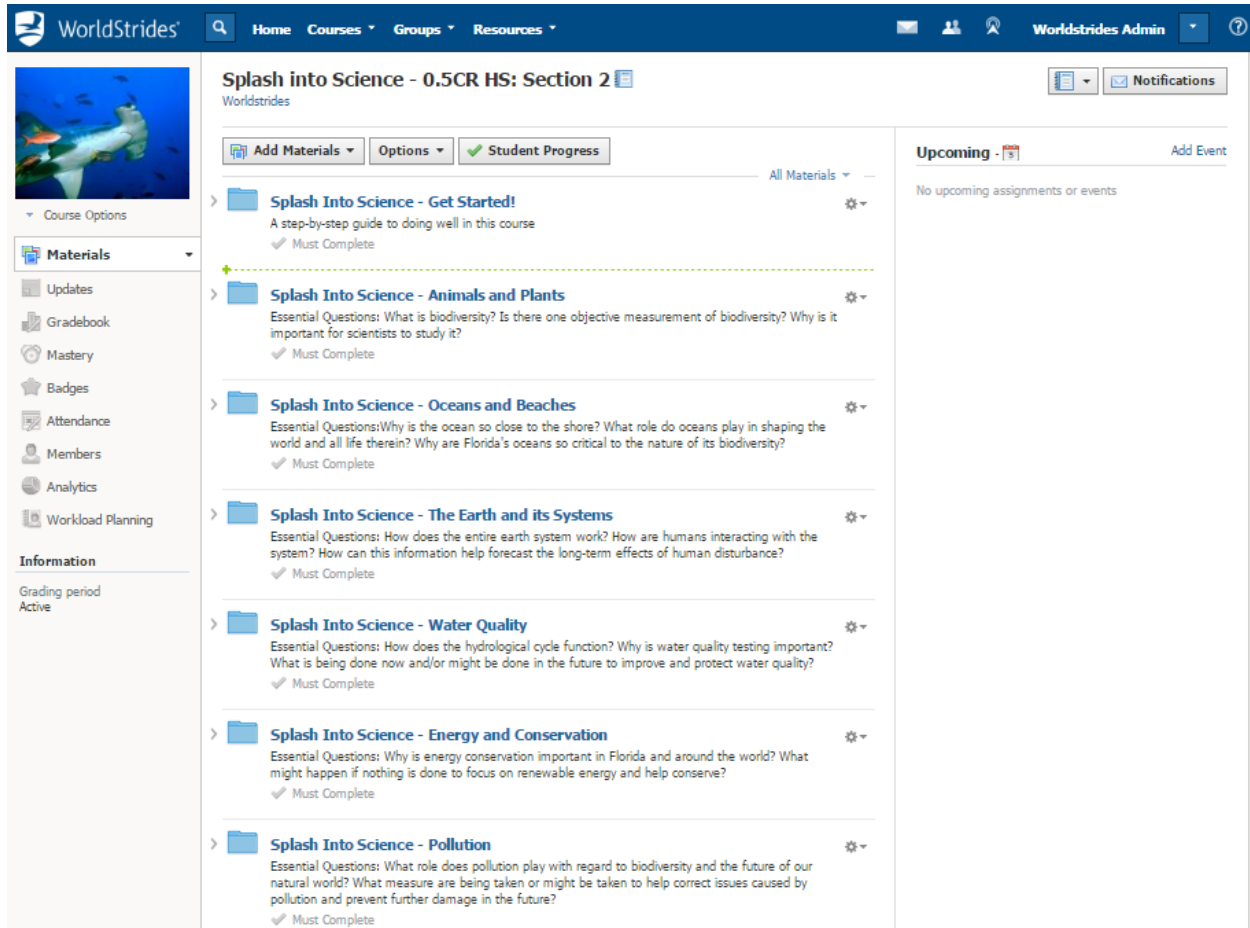
## WorldStrides Splash into Science 0.5 CR HS – Course Preview

*This resource has been prepared as a ‘sneak preview’ of the online course.  
Please contact the Curriculum and Academics Team at [discovery@worldstrides.org](mailto:discovery@worldstrides.org) with any questions!*

### Course Introduction/Overview

All courses open with student support about taking online courses, using internet resources responsibly, how to ask questions, and how assignments are graded. Students can message instructors directly within the learning management system, and they receive personalized feedback on their work. Students can monitor their progress and access their own gradebook at any time.

### Course Welcome Screen



The screenshot shows the WorldStrides course interface. The top navigation bar includes 'WorldStrides', a search icon, and menu items for 'Home', 'Courses', 'Groups', and 'Resources'. On the right, there are icons for a mail envelope, a person, a location pin, and a dropdown menu for 'Worldstrides Admin' with a help icon.

The main content area is titled 'Splash into Science - 0.5CR HS: Section 2'. It features a sidebar on the left with 'Materials' and 'Information' sections. The 'Materials' section lists 'Updates', 'Gradebook', 'Mastery', 'Badges', 'Attendance', 'Members', 'Analytics', and 'Workload Planning'. The 'Information' section shows 'Grading period' as 'Active'.

The main content area has three tabs: 'Add Materials', 'Options', and 'Student Progress'. Below these are several course modules, each with a 'Must Complete' status:

- Splash Into Science - Get Started!**: A step-by-step guide to doing well in this course.
- Splash Into Science - Animals and Plants**: Essential Questions: What is biodiversity? Is there one objective measurement of biodiversity? Why is it important for scientists to study it?
- Splash Into Science - Oceans and Beaches**: Essential Questions: Why is the ocean so close to the shore? What role do oceans play in shaping the world and all life therein? Why are Florida's oceans so critical to the nature of its biodiversity?
- Splash Into Science - The Earth and its Systems**: Essential Questions: How does the entire earth system work? How are humans interacting with the system? How can this information help forecast the long-term effects of human disturbance?
- Splash Into Science - Water Quality**: Essential Questions: How does the hydrological cycle function? Why is water quality testing important? What is being done now and/or might be done in the future to improve and protect water quality?
- Splash Into Science - Energy and Conservation**: Essential Questions: Why is energy conservation important in Florida and around the world? What might happen if nothing is done to focus on renewable energy and help conserve?
- Splash Into Science - Pollution**: Essential Questions: What role does pollution play with regard to biodiversity and the future of our natural world? What measure are being taken or might be taken to help correct issues caused by pollution and prevent further damage in the future?

On the right side, there is an 'Upcoming' section with 'No upcoming assignments or events' and an 'Add Event' button.

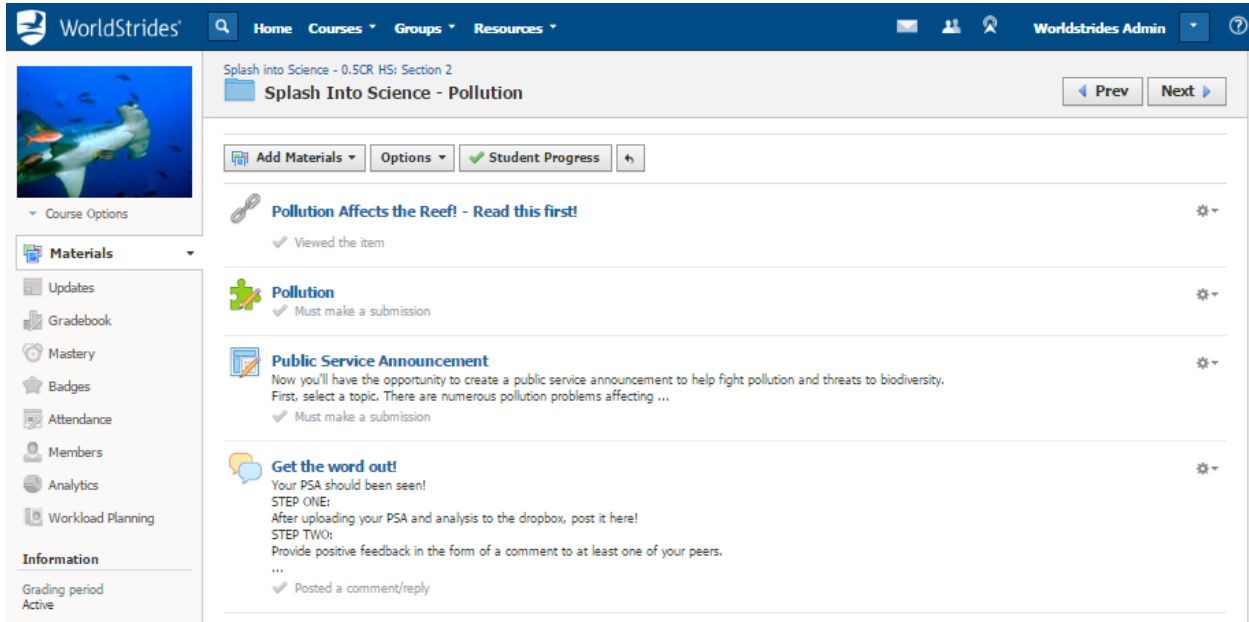
### Course Description

In this course, students will study the interrelationships between humans, other living things, and the environment. Students will study components of our environment and will seek to understand our role as people in using and preserving the environment. Students will examine the nature and importance of water in the environment.



## Course Sequence

Each unit is made up of a series of assignments that are thematically related.



The screenshot shows the WorldStrides interface for a course titled "Splash Into Science - 0.5CR HS: Section 2". The current unit is "Pollution". The left sidebar contains navigation options like "Materials", "Updates", "Gradebook", "Mastery", "Badges", "Attendance", "Members", "Analytics", and "Workload Planning". The main content area lists several activities:

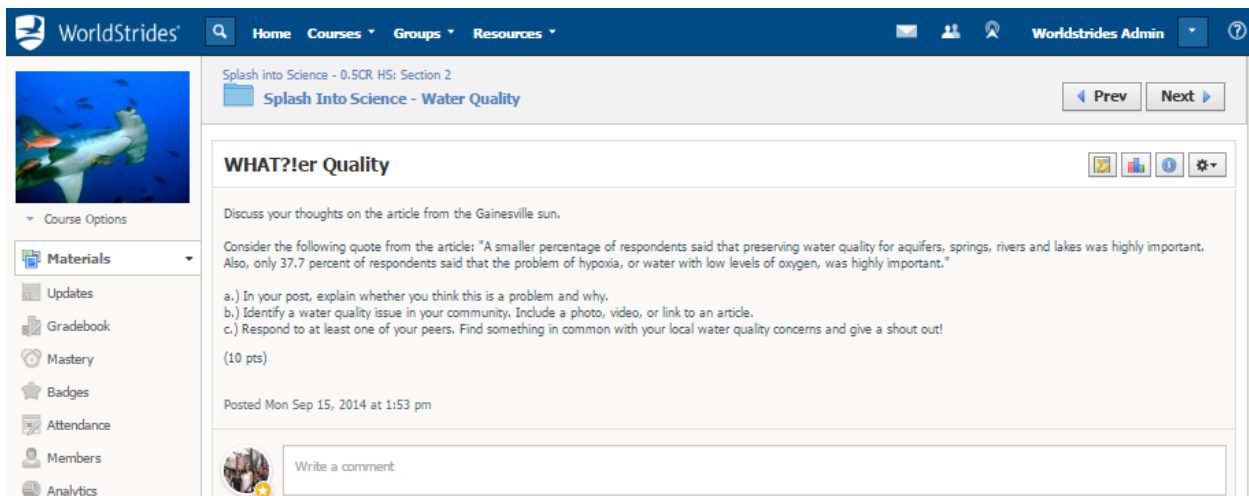
- Pollution Affects the Reef! - Read this first!** (Status: Viewed the item)
- Pollution** (Status: Must make a submission)
- Public Service Announcement** (Status: Must make a submission)
- Get the word out!** (Status: Posted a comment/reply)

## Sample Online Discussion Board: Water Quality “WHAT?!er Quality”

**In this discussion, you’ll read an article and discuss your reaction!**

Consider the following quote from the article: "A smaller percentage of respondents said that preserving water quality for aquifers, springs, rivers and lakes was highly important. Also, only 37.7 percent of respondents said that the problem of hypoxia, or water with low levels of oxygen, was highly important."

- In your post, explain whether you think this is a problem and why.
- Identify a water quality issue in your community. Include a photo, video, or link to an article.
- Respond to at least one of your peers. Find something in common with your local water quality concerns and give a shout out!



The screenshot shows a discussion board post titled "WHAT?!er Quality" within the "Water Quality" unit. The post text reads:

Discuss your thoughts on the article from the Gainesville sun.

Consider the following quote from the article: "A smaller percentage of respondents said that preserving water quality for aquifers, springs, rivers and lakes was highly important. Also, only 37.7 percent of respondents said that the problem of hypoxia, or water with low levels of oxygen, was highly important."

- In your post, explain whether you think this is a problem and why.
- Identify a water quality issue in your community. Include a photo, video, or link to an article.
- Respond to at least one of your peers. Find something in common with your local water quality concerns and give a shout out!

(10 pts)

Posted Mon Sep 15, 2014 at 1:53 pm

Below the text is a comment input field with a "Write a comment" placeholder and a user profile picture.



## Sample Assignment: Pollution “Public Service Announcement”

Now you'll have the opportunity to create a public service announcement to help fight pollution and threats to biodiversity.

First, select a topic. There are numerous pollution problems affecting the world today. A little research may help you narrow your idea down to something that interests you. Below, you'll find a few suggestions to get you started. Your topic may be one of the items listed below, or something else entirely. The choice is yours!

Second, make a plan to get your message out to the public. Consider some of the public service announcements you've seen, (such as a commercial about conserving energy, just saying 'no' to drugs, refraining from texting while driving, etc.). Consider what makes these messages effective or ineffective and decide how best to relate your problem to the public. Determine whether you'd like to use a tv or radio commercial, a newspaper ad, a poster or billboard, a social media page/campaign, etc. Perhaps you're a writer, a singer, a graphic designer, or have some kind of presentational talent? Perhaps you have a knack for convincing others or explaining scientific processes in a way that can help others understand. Use your skills to help your cause!

Third, create your commercial, poster, mock internet page, etc. Be sure that the message of your PSA is clear and that the product is of good quality. (You'll upload this along with the analysis portion described in the next step.)

Fourth, develop an analysis to support your PSA. Address the following prompts:

- a.) About which issue are you informing the public and why is it important that they know?
- b.) What action do you suggest they take in response to the issue?
- c.) Which scientific facts, (you must find at least two), can support your claim and where did you find them, (you must use correct MLA or APA citations)?

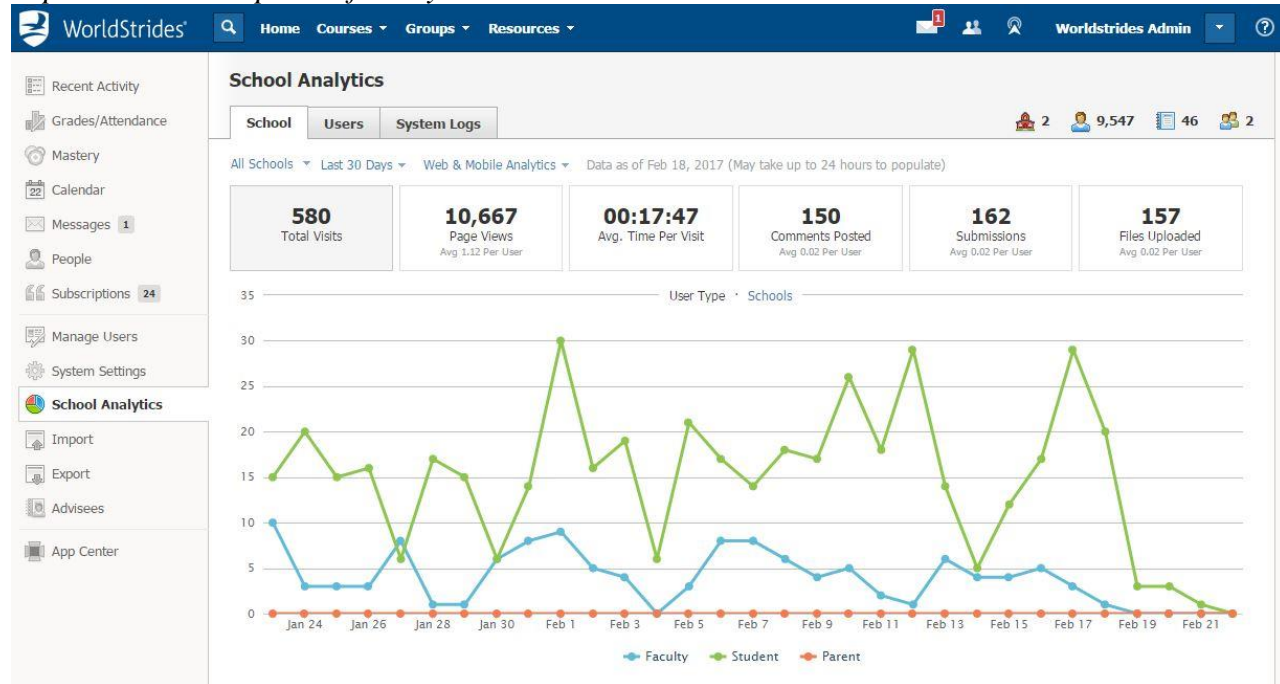


## Further Information

### Course Analytics

Our program’s curriculum development is anchored in data-driven continuous improvement. Our learning management system features data analytics to inform our course development process.

### Representative Snapshot of Analytics



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Is this course pass/fail or graded?

All WorldStrides courses follow a traditional 10-point grading scale. WorldStrides Curriculum and Academics does not send transcripts to students who earn a grade below a C.

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%

Grades 59 or below will result in failure.

### 2. How long does it take to complete the work?

Students are free to work at a pace that is most comfortable to them. Courses expire six months from the return date of travel.

### 3. Is there a penalty if I don’t finish the course?

No worries! If a student is unable to complete the work, no grade will be assigned and no transcript will be generated.

### 4. How do I ask the instructors questions?

Students can click on the envelope at the top right corner of the learning management system to send a message to WorldStrides\_Admin. We’ll respond as quickly as possible!



## Instructor Bios

	<p>Wendy W. Amato is the VP of Curriculum and Academics at WorldStrides. She holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction and has research interests in culturally congruent pedagogy. Dr. Amato is an International Baccalaureate certified instructor and also serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Virginia where she teaches Education Across Cultures. Her work experience includes school administration and teaching in the United States and France.</p>
	<p>Kiersten Teitelbaum serves as an Associate Director of Curriculum and Academics for WorldStrides. She holds an M. Ed. in the Social Foundations of Education and has research interests in increasing healthy eating and physical activity for at-risk students in the United States. Her background includes coaching and serving as a course facilitator in an environmental education challenge course. Ms. Teitelbaum has provided professional development to teachers in Canada, Spain, and across the United States.</p>
	<p>Carrie Weber serves as a Curriculum and Academics Specialist for WorldStrides. She holds an M. Ed. in Secondary Science Education and has taught middle school and high school students. Her research interests are focused on field experiences to facilitate better understanding of science. Ms. Weber is certified and licensed in multiple states and holds College Board AP Environmental Science certification.</p>
	<p>Randi Kessler Chapman serves as a Curriculum and Academics Specialist for WorldStrides. She holds an M.T. in Secondary English Education and BS in journalism, with an emphasis on public relations. In addition to her entrepreneurial experience launching an independent business, Ms. Chapman brings eight years of classroom teaching expertise and works tirelessly to increase the accessibility of meaningful professional development to educators around the world.</p>