

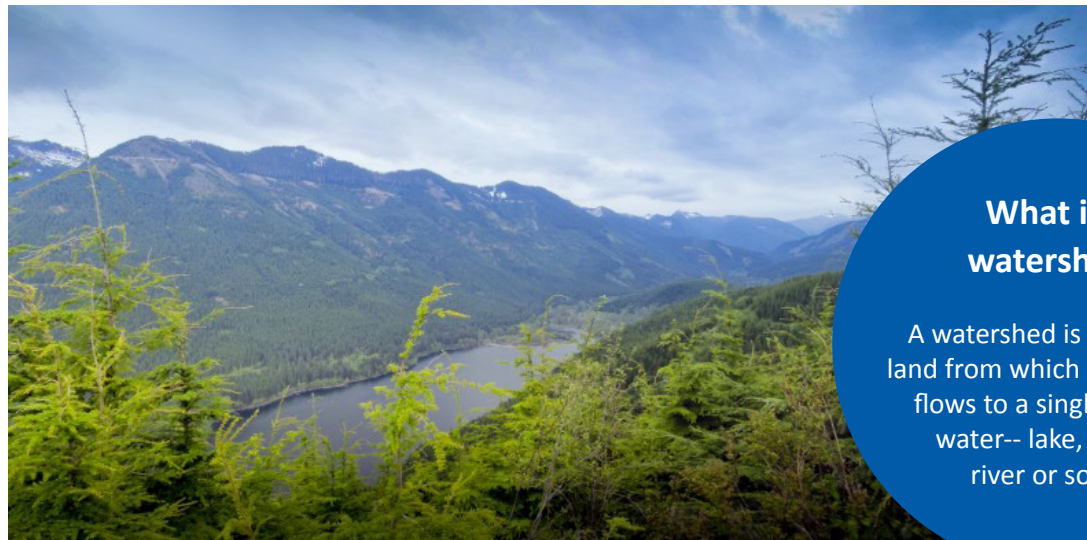
# ACTIVITY: MAKE YOUR OWN WATERSHED

More than 1.5 million people get clean drinking water from the Cedar and Tolt River Watersheds. Going on a field trip or tour is great, but now you can experience the watersheds from anywhere. Explore our [Online Learning](#) site to dive into many topics related to your drinking water!

**INTRODUCTION** Now that you've watched our "What is a Watershed" video, find out how watersheds work in real life! Make a paper model of a watershed and see how water flows over the land. You'll discover that whatever goes on the land, goes in the water, too.

## Materials

- ▶ 2-3 pieces of paper
- ▶ Water-based markers
- ▶ Tape
- ▶ Cookie sheet or the grass or ground outside
- ▶ Spray bottle with some tap water



## What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land from which all rainwater flows to a single body of water-- lake, stream, river or sound.

# MAKE YOUR OWN WATERSHED

## Just Add Water!

- ▶ Lightly crumple one sheet of paper. Then open it up but do not flatten it. Tape the edges to a surface that can get wet, such as a cookie sheet.
- ▶ Using a blue water-based marker, draw on all the high places on the crumpled paper. These are the ridges and mountaintops of the watershed.

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*If it were to rain on your paper landscape, where would the water collect? Those would become the lakes, rivers, and streams.*

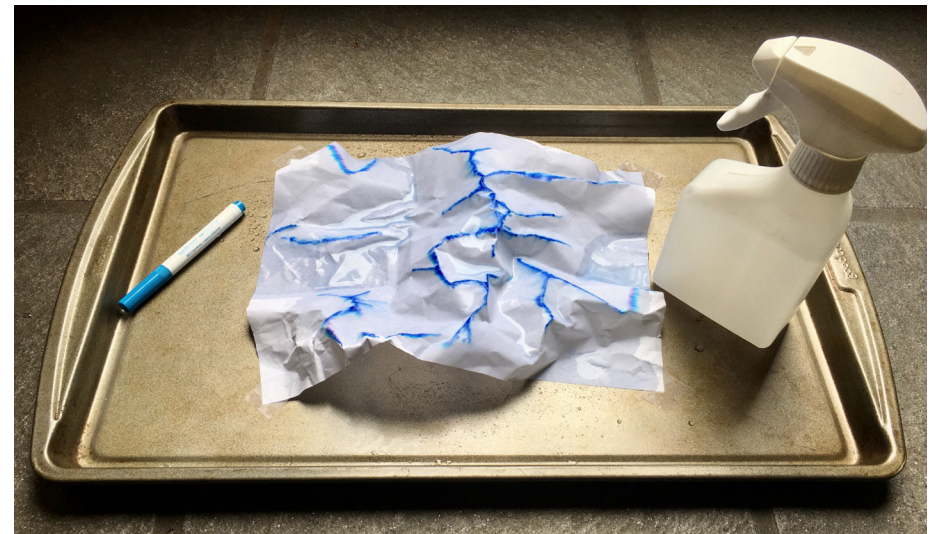
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- ▶ Now, lightly spray your paper with the spray bottle, making it rain. Watch the watersheds in action, shedding water to the lowest points.

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*Did you guess where the water was going to go? How many watersheds are on your paper landscape? Do you want to name them?*

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# MAKE YOUR OWN WATERSHED

## Now Add People!

- ▶ Try it again! This time we'll see how people affect the land and water. On one half of a new sheet of paper, draw in some people, pets, buildings, roads, cars, and farms with your water-based markers. Use different markers for different things.
- ▶ Crumple up the paper, tape the edges down, and then draw on all the high places with your blue marker.
- ▶ Now spray the water again and compare the areas with and without drawings of human activity.

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*What sorts of things do people put on the land that can make the water dirty?*

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## Follow up activity questions

1. *How many different watersheds are on your papers?*
2. *Compare the two versions of the activity. What can people do to keep water clean?*
3. *From which watershed would you want to get your drinking water? Why?*

Thanks for creating a mini model of a watershed.

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### Now it's time to clean up!

- The wet paper can be composted or put in the trash.
- Tape goes in the trash.
- Clean the cookie sheet and put it away.