

Water, Water, Everywhere?

The Importance of Watersheds

Hanford Mills Museum Activity Guide

Recommended for Grades 2-3



The Catskill Mountains. Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



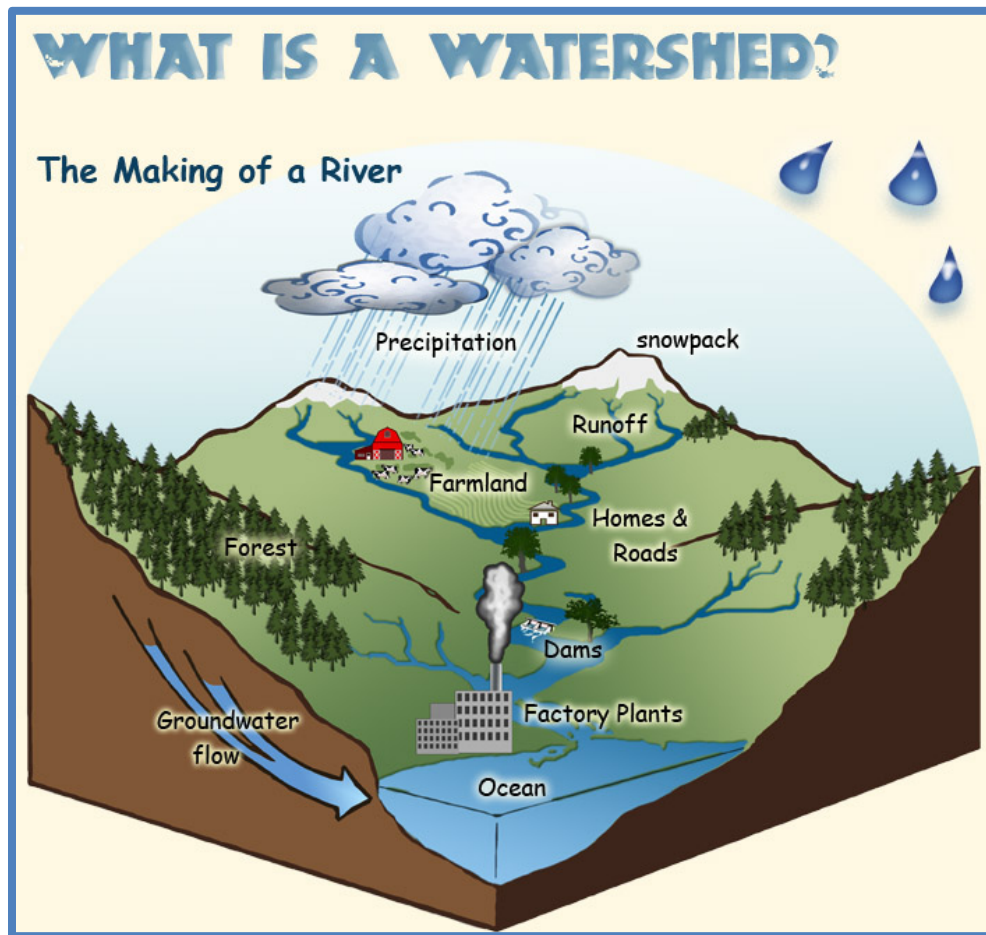


Image courtesy of A. Vicente, U.S. Forest Service.

A **watershed** is an area of land where water collects and drains into a river, lake, reservoir, or ocean. In the image above, notice how all of the water flows to the ocean.

Do I Live in a Watershed?

YES! Just about everyone in the world lives in some sort of watershed. In the Catskill Mountains, our watershed also shares water with people in New York City. We want to keep our watersheds clean so that we can safely drink our water!

Activity: Making a Watershed

Materials:

- Four small sheets of paper (parchment/freezer paper, butcher paper, or regular paper will all work)
- Washable marker
- Large tray (or you can use a sink)
- Spray bottle or cup with water



Instructions:

1. Take the sheets of paper and crumpled them up.



2. Un-crumple the paper a little bit (but don't flatten it out completely). This is your landscape.
3. The highest spots of your landscape are the peaks of your mountains. Use a washable marker to mark the peaks along the edges of the folds.



4. Tape the landscapes together and put them in a tray or sink.



5. Be ready to watch the water move through your watershed!
Use a spray bottle to spray the landscape with rain (you can also use a glass and pour water slowly if you do not have a spray bottle).



6. Observe and write down in your Water, Water Everywhere Worksheet: What happened to the water? Where did it collect? How many different watersheds can you count?

Bibliography

National Geographic. "Watershed." <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/watershed>.

Water, Water Everywhere Worksheet

Name:

What happened to the water?

Where did your water collect?

How many different watersheds did you count on your landscape?