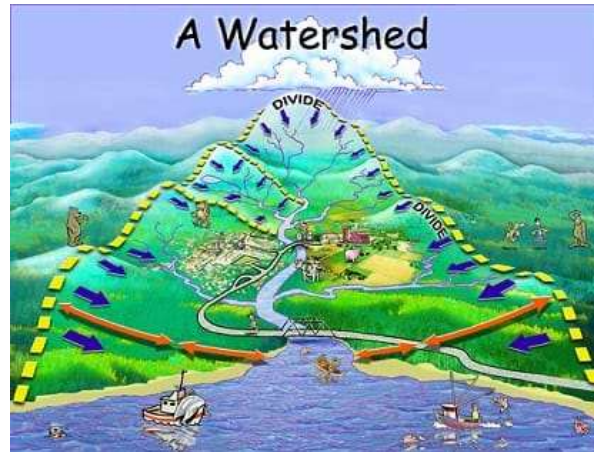


Build a Watershed

A watershed is an area of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas. Water flows down, so any precipitation that falls as rain or snow etc. that drains to the same area is part of the same watershed. Open watersheds drain to the ocean, whereas closed watersheds drain into a body of water that is not linked to the ocean.



Hands On

1. Take a piece of paper and crumple it up, then unfold it. This now represents your watershed (or multiple watersheds depending on how you unfold it).
2. Pick one coloured marker and draw a place to live (e.g. castle, house, apartment).
3. Using a different colour draw a farm from where you'll get your food.
4. Changing colours again, draw a waste/sewage treatment plant or an outhouse.
5. Switching colours for the last time have them draw a water source/well.
6. What will happen when it rains? Using a pipet or your fingers, sprinkle water over the watershed to test your hypothesis.

A watershed is not defined by the pollution in it, but we use pollution to illustrate how water connects different areas.

Questions to Ask

1. Did anything run into your water supply? Pesticides from your farm? Waste from the outhouse?
2. How will a polluted stream affect the ocean?
3. What is most effective – to clean up a watershed AFTER it has been polluted, or to PREVENT the pollution?
4. How might you have planned/re-drawn your watershed to avoid contaminating your water source?