

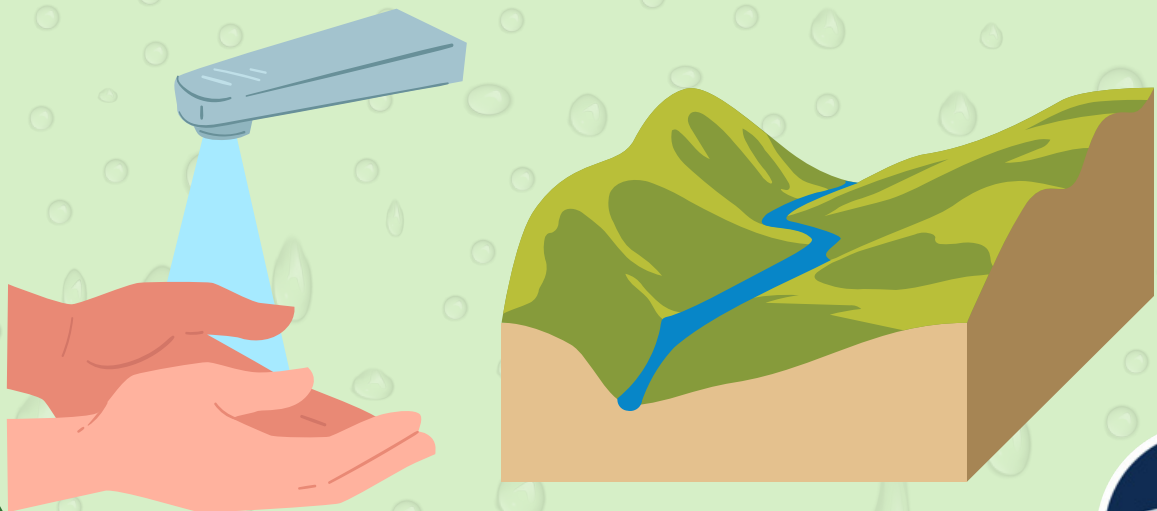
BUILD YOUR OWN WATERSHED MODEL

A WATERSHED IS AN AREA OF LAND WHERE ALL THE WATER DRAINS TO ONE BODY OF WATER. FOR EXAMPLE, ROSWELL IS IN THE CHATAHOOCHEE WATERSHED. THE CHATAHOOCHEE WATERSHED BEGINS IN NORTH GEORGIA, BUT ALL THE WATER EVENTUALLY DRAINS INTO THE GULF OF MEXICO.

Handheld Watershed

CUP YOUR HANDS UNDER A RUNNING FAUCET. LET THE WATER GENTLY POUR OVER THE EDGES OF YOUR PALMS. WATCH HOW THE WATER FLOWS TOWARDS THE LOWEST POINT OF YOUR HANDS.

THIS IS JUST LIKE A WATERSHED! THE EDGES OF YOUR HANDS ARE LIKE MOUNTAINS AND WHERE YOUR HANDS MEETS IS LIKE A RIVER WHERE ALL THE WATER WILL DRAIN.



Crumpled Watershed

MATERIALS: FOIL, MARKER, SPRAY BOTTLE, FOOD COLORING

1

TAKE A PIECE OF FOIL AND CRUMPLE IT INTO A BALL. NOW GENTLY UNFOLD THE FOIL AND LAY IT ON A FLAT SURFACE. DONT COMPLETELY FLATTEN THE FOIL OUT. IT SHOULD HAVE WRINKLES, HIGH POINTS, AND LOW POINTS.

2

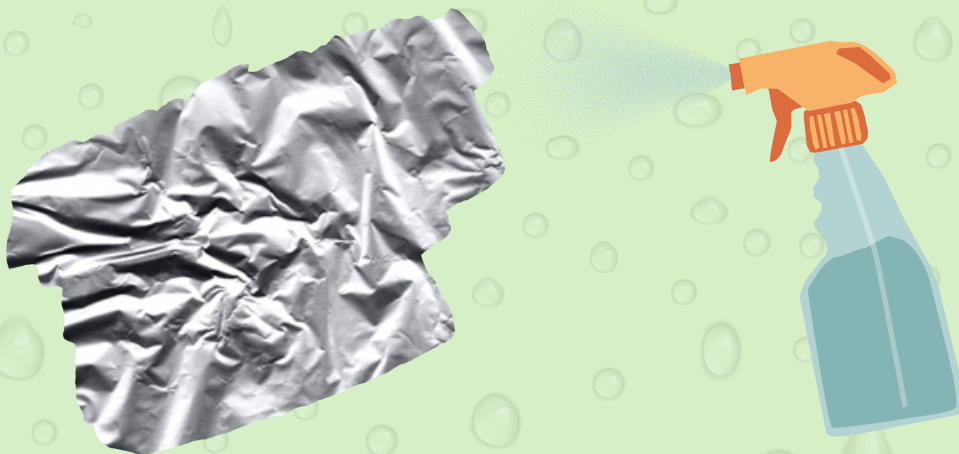
PRETEND THE FOIL REPRESENTS A PIECE OF LAND. USING A MARKER, DRAW WHERE THE RIVERS, STREAMS, AND LAKES MIGHT BE.

3

TO TEST YOUR THEORY, TAKE A SPRAY BOTTLE AND LIGHTLY MIST THE FOIL WITH WATER. WATCH THE AREAS WHERE THE WATER RUNS DOWN AND WHERE THE WATER COLLECTS. YOU ARE WATCHING WATER MOVE THROUGH A WATERSHED!

4

NEXT, DROP A FEW DROPS OF FOOD COLORING ONTO DIFFERENT SPOTS ON THE FOIL. AGAIN, SPRAY THE FOIL WITH WATER AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE FOOD COLORING. THE FOOD COLORING REPRESENTS POLLUTION AND WHEN YOU SPRAY THE FOIL YOU CAN SEE HOW POLLUTION CAN SPREAD THROUGH A WATERSHED.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1 NAME A FEW WAYS THAT PEOPLE USE THEIR WATERSHED.

2 WHEN YOU BUILT YOUR WATERSHED, WHAT LANDFORMS MIGHT BE REPRESENTED BY THE HIGH POINTS OR TALLER AREAS OF YOU MODEL?

3 WHICH LANDFORMS WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY THE LOW POINTS OR LOWER AREAS OF YOU MODEL?

4 WHAT ARE A FEW SOURCES OF POLLUTION IN A WATERSHED?

5 WHY WOULD A POLLUTED WATERSHED BE DANGEROUS?

6 HOW CAN YOU PREVENT POLLUTION FROM ENTERING OR SPREADING WITHIN A WATERSHED?

