

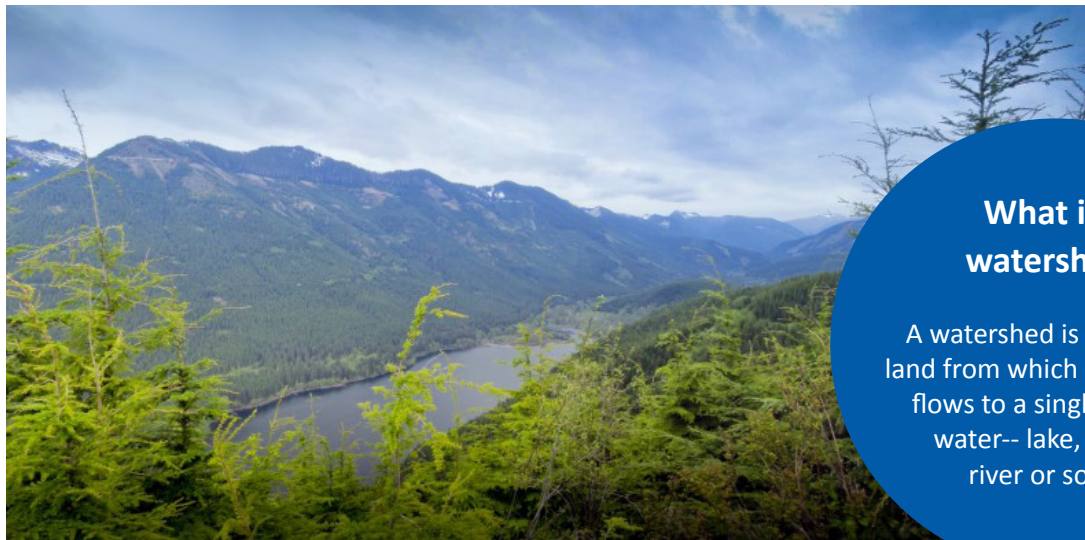
ACTIVITY: MAKE YOUR OWN WATERSHED

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.

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

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

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



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.

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

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.

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.