

WATERSHEDS

WATER CYCLE, EROSION AND DEPOSITION



Explore where water is found in the world around us, and how it cycles from land to sea to air. Watch a demonstration of how water moves and is moved by the landscape. Investigate pollution.

MATERIALS

- Computer to watch video
- Worksheet or science notebook
- OPTIONAL: materials to create your own watershed model, including a shower curtain or other waterproof membrane, blocks for topography, food coloring, soil or sand, and a watering can

LOCATION

Indoors, unless making a model

REFLECTION

- What are some ways you rely on water in your every day life?
- Research your own watershed using the USGS Streamer Map. Where does water in your neighborhood come from? Where does it end up?
- Find a few signs of erosion and/or deposition in the landscape near where you live. What can those signs tell you about water in your area?

PROCEDURES + EXTENSIONS

Watch the 'Watershed Exploration' video (z.umn.edu/watershedvideo). Fill out the **Watershed Exploration Worksheet** as you go, or answer the questions asked in the video in your science notebook. Discuss your answers and predictions with a classmate or family member.

Use the reflection questions to think about how you, your family and your neighbors impact and rely on your local watershed - for good or not!

As an extension, you can build and test out your own watershed model! Build the 'structure' of your mountain out of blocks, balled up tinfoil, or other materials found around your house. Cover them with a shower curtain or other waterproof material (depending on the size, you could use plastic wrap or tinfoil). Mix a small amount of food coloring into the water in your watering can, and then make it rain! Try making predictions about where the water will collect, and where erosion and deposition will occur. What happens to your rivers, lakes and oceans if you change the topography? Where are the riskiest places to add pollution to your model watershed?