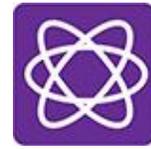


# Watershed Experiment



STEM • GET OUTSIDE!

Do you know that you live in a watershed? A watershed is an area of land that moves water in one direction. The water in your area will drain into the same place as the rest of the water in your watershed.

Let's create a miniature watershed in your driveway to learn more about how rainwater, snowmelt and water from your hose move on your driveway and throughout your neighborhood!

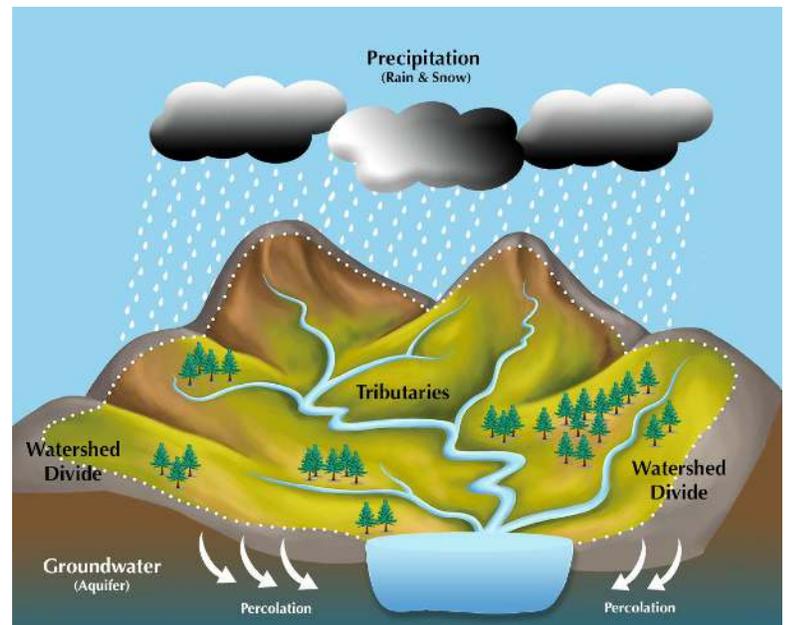
## Make your own watershed:

### Materials:

- 1 large cup
- Water
- Driveway or sidewalk

### Directions:

1. Fill your large cup to the top with water
2. Head outside to a spot in your driveway. Choose a spot that doesn't have any cracks.
3. Hold the cup out in front of you and completely empty the cup onto the spot in your driveway.
4. QUICK! Watch where the water goes! Does it seem to go in one direction? Can you see rivers of water forming? Does all the water end up in one place? These are all miniature examples of water formations that make up a watershed!
5. (Optional) Repeat steps 1-5 in a different location. Did the water move in a similar way, or in a different way?
6. (Optional) Add geographic features to your watershed, like rocks to represent mountains, or sand to make riverbeds. Does the water move differently around these obstacles?
7. (Optional) Draw your watershed(s)! Make a map of where your water started, and where it went. Name any "rivers," "streams," or "ponds," and find out where the "ocean" would be.



You may have noticed that water flows with gravity, and so it will always flow downhill. Next time it rains be sure to watch where the water goes when it falls in your driveway. Puddles represent the ponds, lakes, and ocean, while the little rivers of water that you created during this experiment represent the big streams and rivers that flow throughout our region.

