

NATURE ACTIVITIES

DIY WATERSHED

Learn how to make your own DIY Watershed! You'll learn visually how water flows and possible pollution travels to your drinking water supply.



Photo Credit: Sciencing



Photo Credit: Science Matters Blog



GATHER YOUR MATERIALS



YOU WILL NEED:

- Baking pan or tub
- Freezer paper/ wax paper/ plastic wrap/ cellophane
- Washable markers or food coloring
- Water
- Clay
- Spray bottle





CREATE THE LAND



STEP 1:

- Create your landscape! If you're using clay, you can start to mold topography such as some hills, ridge lines, valleys, etc inside the tub or pan. You can use one mound of clay and then use cellophane to create topography from the mountain.
- Now you can attach crinkled up cellophane or freezer paper. It can be more tightly packed inside the pan to keep the deep ridges and points where rivers would form. It can also stay like rolling hills.



Photo Credit: Science Matters Blog



Photo Credit Science Matters Blog



ADD COLOR



STEP 2:

- Decide on a few colors to use and color code them as certain pollutants. These can be chemicals, oil, gasoline, litter, plastic, styrofoam, corrosives, etc. Make a list of what colors are which.
- Start adding droplets of food coloring in different places. Especially at the top of the ridge lines. If you are using markers, just draw on the ridge lines in scribbles and on different areas down the hills imagining what the pollutants are in. You can also draw roads and houses in an unused color or with permanent marker.

WATERSHED Connections

What makes up our Watersheds?



Courtesy of Conservation Ontario

Photo Credit: Conservation Ontario



Photo Credit: Science Matters Blog



MAKE IT RAIN

STEP 3:

- Fill up your spray bottle
- Start spraying lightly over your marker or food color droplets.
- Observe what colors are running into each other and where they all end up.
- Take note of what pollutants are running together, where they go, and how they flow. They should move to major crevices together. Wherever water flows and settles, this represents the river systems and ground water that we get our drinking water from. Pollutants flow easy a long ways in water.



Photo Credit: Sciencing



Photo Credit: Science Matters Blog

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