

Make Your Own Watershed

This is a fun, easy activity that can be done at school or home. Be sure to take notes on what you observe during the activity. You can use this activity to teach others about how important it is to keep watersheds clean and healthy.

MATERIALS

- sheet of white paper
- shallow pan
- water-based colored markers
- spray bottle of water

DIRECTIONS

1. Take the sheet of paper and crumple it. Next, partially smooth it out, leaving some ridges.
2. Use the markers to color along the edge of the creases. You may want to use different colors to represent a variety of pollutants, such as fertilizer, oil, pesticides, litter, etc.
3. Lay the paper out on the shallow pan to represent a watershed. Use the creased lines to show elevated land areas.
4. Using the bottle of water, gently spray the top of the watershed. Keep spraying the paper until the colors begin to flow.
5. Describe what happened. Did the different pollutants mix together? If so, where did this happen in the watershed?
6. This is an example of a watershed in action, with water flowing downhill picking up pollution as it goes. So let's keep it clean!

