

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Watershed Model: Understanding Nonpoint Pollution and What You Can Do

[www.ristormwatersolutions.org](http://www.ristormwatersolutions.org)

### Questions to think about before you begin

1. What is a watershed?

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2. What are some ways in which humans have changed watersheds?

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3. List some ways humans have polluted their local water bodies.

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Illustration thanks to Rivers of Alabama

### Procedure and Activity Questions:

1. As a class, use some of the objects to change the topography in the watershed.  
a. What is topography and how did you change it?

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2. Now that we have hills and valleys, where do you think water will go when it rains?

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3. Using the water cans or spray bottles, rain on the watershed.  
a. Did the water go where you predicted? If not, where did it go?

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4. Knowing where streams and rivers are located in your watershed, add other features to the landscape. List at least six different ways we use the land in our community:
- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | d. _____ |
| b. _____ | e. _____ |
| c. _____ | f. _____ |
5. What are some pollution sources that might exist on the areas you drew?
- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | d. _____ |
| b. _____ | e. _____ |
| c. _____ | f. _____ |
6. Take turns placing the pretend pollutants on the watershed.
7. Take turns making it "rain" by spraying the watershed with water from a spray bottle or watering can.
- a. What happened to all the pollutants you added to the landscape after it rained?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What do the rivers look like now?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Would you want to swim, fish, or play in that water? Why or why not?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
8. What kind of pollutants do you think rain water picks up on your school yard?
- \_\_\_\_\_
9. Where do those pollutants go?
- \_\_\_\_\_
10. Help your teacher clean up all of the water and materials.

Extension:

1. Write a letter to a friend or parent telling him/her how their actions impact the environment and how they can help to reduce the amount of pollutants that get washed into local water bodies.