

# Watersheds, Streams, Lakes and Rivers

**Target Audience: Elementary &  
Middle School**  
**Subjects: Science, Geology**  
**Time: 45 minutes- 1hour**

## **Materials Required**

- ◆ Medicine droppers
- ◆ Waxed paper
- ◆ Aluminum foil
- ◆ Paper towel
- ◆ Plastic cups
- ◆ Water

## **Educational Goals**

Students will be able to:

- ◆ Demonstrate the concept of a watershed.
- ◆ Explain how water moves through a watershed and what it picks up along the way.
- ◆ Demonstrate how surface water flows in streams and collects in lakes and oceans.

## **Activity**

1. You are now going to make your own “country.” Demonstrate the process by creating wrinkles and folds in a piece of aluminum foil so that there are mountains, valleys, plains and depressions. All areas should feed into a central low area.
2. Using the a large square of aluminum foil, make a “water basin.” This is your watershed.
3. Mark the level of the water in the cup with a grease pencil. You are going to let it “rain” on the watershed (drip water) and observe where the water goes.  
Note: Do not pour off the water.
4. Observe.

5. Use the medicine droppers to pick up the water from the models. Return the water to the plastic cup. Compare the level with the previous mark on the cup. Did you recover all of the water? Relate this process to the water cycle.



Example of what your model should look like.

Source for Activities:

◆ Adapted from: The Comprehensive Water Education Book, International Office for Water Education, 1994