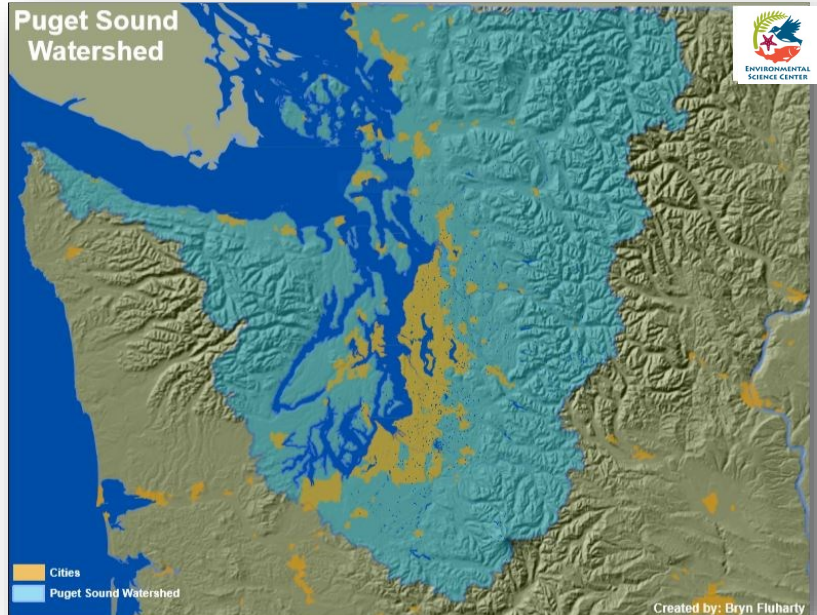


Wax Paper Watersheds

Make your own watershed model!
You will test what happens to water after it falls as rain.

Watersheds are land areas draining rainfall and snowmelt first to creeks, streams, and rivers, and then to larger bodies of water, and then to the ocean. Scientific models are used to explain and predict the behavior of real objects. You will use your watershed model to mimic what happens in your watershed!



Materials from your kit:

- Sheet of wax paper
- Washable marker
- Permanent marker
- Construction paper

Materials to gather from home:

- Cup or bowl of water
- Tape (optional)



Wax Paper Watersheds

1. Crumple up your wax paper sheet. Gently unfold (but not completely!) and place on top of your construction paper. If you have tape, tape down the corners. If not, fold the construction paper over the edges of the wax paper to hold in place.
2. Use the washable marker to color the tops of all of your mountain ridges.
3. Use the permanent marker to predict the flow of water. You can draw arrows to show water direction or a circle where you think water will collect.
4. Dip your hands in the water and gently sprinkle it over the model. You can do this outside, over a towel or a sink. Sprinkle enough water to make the washable marker run down your mountain.
5. Observe what happens!



Tape or fold



Where did the water flow?

Did you have any rivers or streams on your model?

Did all the water flow to one low spot or did you have multiple low spots?

Were your predictions correct?

Record your observations in your journal. Draw a picture of your watershed.

