



EXPERIMENT – INSTRUCTIONS

Make a Model of a Watershed

This experiment will demonstrate how small streams join to become rivers and then flow into the Bay.

Materials

- A large (12 x 18 inch) baking pan or plastic tray
- A sheet of aluminum foil the length of the pan
- Blocks, rocks, or other objects to represent mountains
- A sprinkling can or other way to make it 'rain' such as a paper cup or large can with holes in the bottom
- Water
- Food coloring (represents toxic waste or motor oil dumped in a storm drain)
- Small pieces of trash

Procedure

1. Put the blocks or rocks at one end of the pan for mountains.
2. Lay the foil in the pan on top of the blocks.
3. Press valleys between the mountains and crumple the foil to make gullies and riverbeds, which join and form a bay at the end away from the mountains.
4. Use some books or blocks to raise the end of the pan where the mountains are.
5. Use the sprinkling can or cups to make it rain in the mountains.
6. Observe how the water moves in your watershed. Record your observations.
7. Sprinkle drops of food coloring in the mountain area.
8. Make it rain and see what happens. Record your observations.
9. Try steps 7 and 8 again, but use small pieces of Styrofoam or bits of trash. Observe and discuss with your group what is happening. Record your findings.
10. Discuss some ways to prevent these harmful events from occurring and record them.

Continued →



Conclusion

Complete one of the following:

1. Write a paragraph explaining how small streams join to become rivers and then flow into the Bay.
2. Draw a diagram of how a watershed works.
3. Write an explanation of why the Bay is polluted and suggest ways to prevent people from polluting the Bay.



Name _____ Date _____

STUDENT RECORD SHEET

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After step 6: Describe how the water moved in your watershed.

OR

Draw a diagram depicting how the water moved.



After step 8: Describe what happened after you added the “toxic waste.”

After step 9: What happened after you added the trash to your watershed?

Step 10: List the ideas your group brainstormed to help prevent these events from occurring.
