



MAKE YOUR OWN CRUMPLE WATERSHED

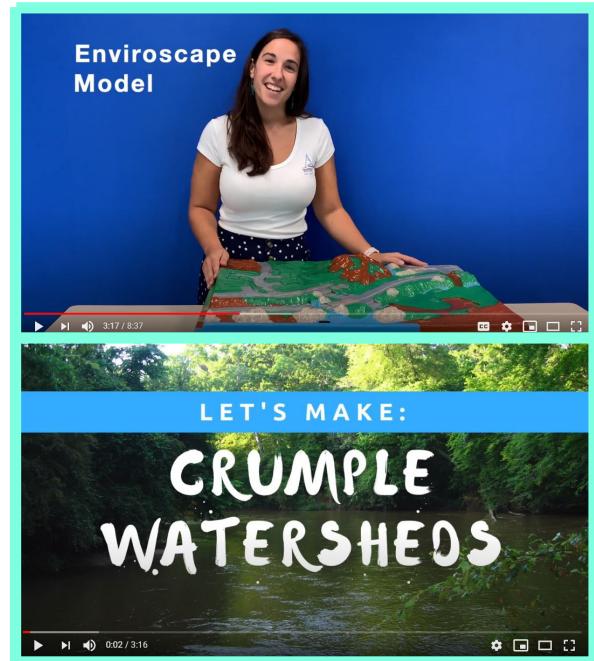


MATERIALS

- Blank piece of printer paper
- Piece of cardboard
- Blue marker
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Scotch tape

BEFORE YOU START

Watch our "Let's Learn About: Watersheds" video for an introduction to watersheds, land uses, and water pollution. The video can be found at www.accgov.com/stormwater by scrolling over the "K-12 Education" tab and selecting "Educational Activities for Home." You'll find our selection of videos, including one that will walk you through this activity!



ACTIVITY STEPS

1. Loosely crumple your blank sheet of paper into a ball. Try not to squeeze it too much!
2. Gently un-wad your sheet of paper, being careful not to completely flatten it. Leave the bumps and creases - this is a model of your very own watershed!
3. Take a moment and observe the watershed in front of you. Which parts of the paper represent the mountains, ridges, and valleys? Where are the streams and rivers?
4. Use the blue marker to draw on the areas you think water would collect or flow. Include any streams, lakes, or rivers, but be careful not to flatten the paper while doing this.
5. Carefully tape down the four corners of your crumpled paper to the piece of cardboard. Do not flatten the paper. Make sure there is space between the paper and cardboard.
6. Time to test your prediction of water's path! Use the spray bottle to "make it rain" on top of the watershed. Observe what is happening to the water as you spray. Does the water follow the blue lines and flow where you thought it would?

TAKE HOME POINTS

- Water flows downhill, from high points to lower points in the watershed.
- The creases in your paper represent streams or rivers in the watershed, while the taller parts of your paper represent mountains or ridges.
- Spots where water pooled up represent lakes or oceans. Rivers and streams within a watershed flow into these larger bodies of water.

