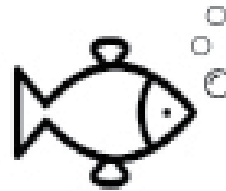
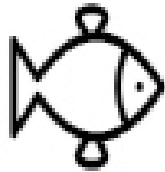
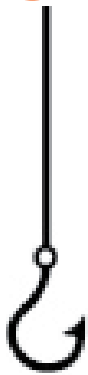
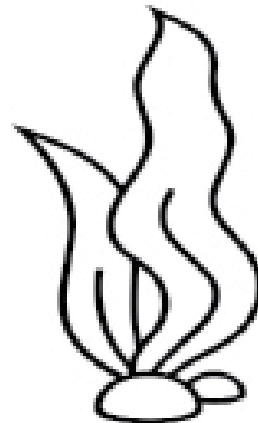


UNDERWATER EXPLORATION

DAY TWO: WHERE'S THE WATER?



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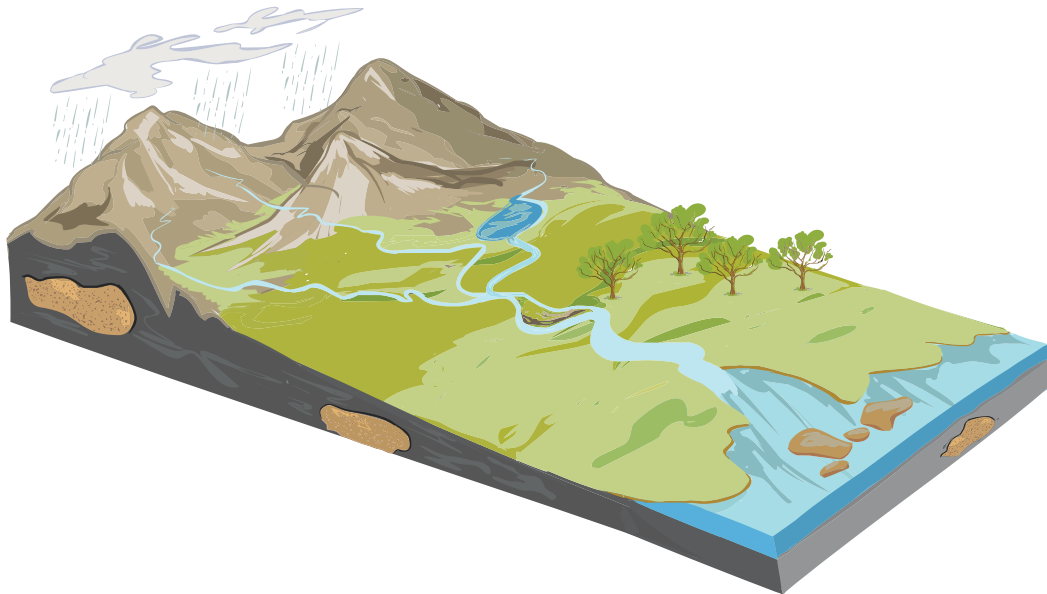


WHERE'S THE WATER?

Welcome to day two of Underwater Exploration!

Yesterday you learned about different parts of aquatic ecosystems. Did you know that all living things within an aquatic ecosystem share the same watershed? A watershed is an area of land that drains water from different sources (ex: rainwater) into a lake, river, stream or wetland. Watersheds can be really big like the Mississippi River drainage basin, or teeny tiny like a pond on a farm.

The physical components of a watershed can affect how water in an area drains into its body of water. If a watershed has lots of slopes, hills, or mountains, water will drain quickly to its body of water. If the watershed is more flat, it will take longer for the water to reach its destination.



Today, you are going to make your own watershed. To make your watershed, gather the materials listed below and follow the directions.



WHERE'S THE WATER?

Materials:

- Two 8.5 x 11 Sheets of White Paper
- 4 Different Colored Water Soluble Markers
- 1 Spray Bottle Filled With Water
- Paper Towels
- 1 Aluminum Pan (or any type of tray to catch water and avoid mess)

Pro Tip:

Use blue, red, green and brown water soluble markers if you have them.

Let the blue represent the different bodies of water the green to represent vegetation such as trees, the brown to represent tops of hills and mountains, and the red to represent towns, houses or businesses.

Instructions:

- Take one sheet of paper and crumble it up.
- Open up the paper, but do not flatten it. You want to have some "relief" - some high and low points.
- Draw on the paper where you think streams and rivers would be if the paper represents a watershed.
- To see if you are right, use the spray bottle to spray a fine mist over the paper. Observe how the water flows.
- Repeat step one and two with a second piece of paper.
- Draw streams and rivers on the model where you think they would be, include a lake or pond.
- Now draw along where the tops of the hills and mountains would be. Draw in the trees, grass and crop or pasture land. Draw towns, houses and businesses.
- Spray with a fine mist over the watershed.

Observe what is happening with the colors running into the streams along with the water. If this were a real watershed, the brown could be dirt from bare soil, the green could be grass clippings or leaves, and the red could be oil from leaky cars from someone's driveway.

