



## *Making a Watershed!*

Overview: This lesson allows students to create their own watershed while learning about what defines a watershed and how water flows in a watershed. It will also guide them through learning about what happens to pollutants in a watershed and where they can end up.

**Subject Areas:** Science

**Grade Levels:** K-5, 6-8, 9-12

**Topics:** Earth Science/Geology, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), Water, Weather

### **Great Lakes Literacy Principles:**

1. The Great Lakes, bodies of fresh water with many features, are connected to each other and to the world ocean.
2. Natural forces formed the Great Lakes; the lakes continue to shape the features of their watershed.
4. Water makes Earth habitable; fresh water sustains life on land.
6. The Great Lakes and humans in their watersheds are inextricably interconnected.

### **Materials:**

- Making a Watershed! PowerPoint
- Paper (any size, can be scrap paper, preferably white)
- Markers (brown, blue, green, black, grey, purple, and other colors optional)
- Spray bottles (you can reserve the Enviroscape from the Great Lakes Aquarium that has three spray bottles. You could then use the Enviroscape as a demonstration and wrap up afterward!)
- Somewhere to spray the “watersheds”, such as in a sink or on the sidewalk outside

Use the PowerPoint as a guide and introduction guide, adapting it to your needs. Blue markers should be used to predict/hypothesize where rivers and lakes will form. Green and brown should be used to represent areas where land is thought to be. The other colors can be used to show human activity, such as spilled oil, garbage, etc. Have students predict what will happen to the human activities when it “rains”. If you check out the Enviroscape, you can use it to emphasize ideas and wrap up the lesson. It also gives students a better visual since there are cars, trees, and other toys to put on the Enviroscape.