

We All Live in a Watershed

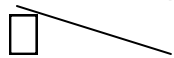
A watershed is land that drains rain and snow to a stream, lake, or the ocean.



Watershed Experiment (Take Home Activity)

Materials: Spray Bottle filled with Water, Cookie Sheet, and a Soup Can

Steps: 1) Make your watershed. Prop your cookie sheet on your can so it looks like this:



- 2) The cookie sheet will be a city landscape with hard surfaces like sidewalks and streets. The bottom of the cookie sheet will be the river. If you have a storm by spraying the top of the watershed with your spray bottle, do you think the water will stay there or will it go down to the river?
- 3) Start your storm by spraying water from your spray bottle at the top and don't forget to count the number of sprays! What happened to the rainwater? Did it stay on the top of the watershed? What was your number of sprays before the rainwater runoff reached the river? **EXTENSION:** Try it with a paper towel which will act like soil!

The city has lots of hard surfaces like sidewalks and streets where the water can't soak through, so that is why there are storm drains in the city. The rainwater travels by drains, streets, gutters, curbs, and open channels directly to our parks, washes, canal, lakes, and rivers. In the Valley Metro area, stormwater does NOT go to a water treatment plant before entering our recreational or drinking waters.

Polluted runoff from our watersheds is a big problem. Rain that washes over our streets and yards carries dirt, oil, fertilizer, weed killer, dog waste, and trash into our waters. What are some ways that you can think of to stop stormwater pollution?



Attn: Educators — Maricopa County offers FREE hands-on stormwater workshops to all K-8th grade students within Maricopa County. Find out more at maricopa.gov/StormWater

Ad provided by:



STORM is on Facebook! To connect with Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities, like us on Facebook

