Watersheds
Our Water. Our Home.

How Did That Get In My Watershed?

Right now as you read this you are sitting, standing or lying in a watershed. Every body of water on the planet is surrounded by a watershed. Every piece of land on the planet is part of a watershed.

Water

Water is made of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom, and it is vital to our survival. In an emergency, humans can survive for a few weeks without food but only a few days without water.

Shed

“Shed” is defined as to transfer somebody or something to another place. In this case we are talking about water being shed from land. Water is being transferred from land to another place.

Watershed

A watershed is an area of land. All of the water under or draining off of a particular watershed goes into the same place. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. They cross county, state and national boundaries. In the continental U.S., there are 2,100 watersheds. If we include Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico, the count rises to 2,267 watersheds.

Fill in the blanks in each drop of water by answering the following clues. The numbers before each clue will tell you where the word begins and ends. The answers will share first and/or last letters with the letter that goes in the square.

1-2 Our ____________ can have a strong impact on our watershed.

2-3 It is best to ___________ hard surfaces.

3-4 Avoid spraying hard surfaces with a hose to prevent ___________ from flowing into storm drains.

5-6 Prevent ___________ by planting some vegetables.

6-7 ___________ dump chemicals, waste or other materials down storm drains or on the ground.

7-8 Reduce, reuse, recycle and ___________. Every change, big or small can improve the health of your environment.

8-9 Practice good vehicle maintenance. ___________ an eye out for leaking anti-freeze or motor oil.

9-10 Pick up after your ___________ to avoid harmful bacteria traveling through the watershed and contaminating water supplies.

Conserve Water.
The average person uses 80 - 100 gallons of water every day!

Car Care.

According to the US Bureau of Transportation Statistics, there are over 263,600,000 registered passenger vehicles on the road. That’s a lot of oil changes, leaking anti-freeze and car washes. If your vehicle leaks fluid on the street or in your driveway, it can end up in storm drains and pollute water sources. Watch for signs of leaks!

Plant And Grow.

If there are bare spots in your yard, get busy planting. Plants prevent erosion which leads to soil being moved through the watershed into our lakes and rivers. Grow some healthy vegetables like broccoli or tomatoes.

Sweep hard surfaces

It is best to ___________ hard surfaces.

No Drain Dumping

Never dump used motor oil, hazardous chemicals, pet waste, or any other materials down storm drains or on the ground. The water in storm drains flows to rivers, lakes or other bodies of water and could end up in our drinking water. Materials left on the ground can leach through the soil and end up in underground water supplies.

Talk The Walk.

Tell your family and friends how important it is to practice good conservation habits in your watershed.

Get In My Watershed?

Tell your family and friends how important it is to practice good conservation habits in your watershed.

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Flowing In A Watershed

Since most of your drinking water flows over it or through it, the land in your watershed is very important. What is the soil like in your watershed? If you can, dig a small hole and take a look at your soil. Loosely packed soil with a lot of sand and rock particles is porous. When precipitation falls on porous soil, it can soak into the soil and become groundwater. Groundwater is stored in aquifers made of sand, soil, and gravel. There is air space between the soil particles that allows the water to move through the soil.

Tightly packed soil with a lot of clay isn’t very porous. Clay soil usually holds water on the surface in lakes, ponds or puddles.

Follow the instructions below to cross words off in the diagram. When you are finished the remaining words will form a message reading from left to right and top to bottom.

Cross off these words:
- The atoms that make up a water molecule
- Forms of precipitation
- Loose soil is
- An underground water supply
- Bodies of water
- Words that start with the letter “p.”

Write the message you found here: ____________________________________________

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Use Water!

You use water in more ways than you may think about. Here are a few:

FOOD Where does your food come from? Not the grocery store! It comes from farms and ranches. Clean water is needed for crops and animals.

CLOTHING Many industries – including the textile and clothing industries – use more water in their manufacturing processes than you would think. Did you know it takes 919 gallons of water to make one pair of blue jeans?

FUN Do you like to go swimming, fishing, snorkeling, surfing or kayaking? You want to do that in clean water!

Unscramble the tiles and put them in their proper order to discover another surprising way you use a LOT of water.

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