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 Agua, acqua, woda, water… no matter where you live or how you say it, every molecule of 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.

Since we all live in a watershed our actions, habits and decisions can have a strong affect on the animals and plants that share life in the watershed with us. Here are some of the things you can do to protect your watershed:

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.

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

Go Green In Your Yard.
Sweep hard surfaces like sidewalks, driveways and basketball courts with a broom, instead of spraying with a hose. You'll save water and keep harmful pollutants from "shedding" into storm drains.

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!

Pick Up After Your Pet.
Six out of every 10 homes have a four-legged pet. Do you? Care for your watershed by disposing of pet waste in the trash or toilet. Proper disposal means proper treatment. Pet waste left on the ground can wash into storm drains and ditches. From there it flows into lakes and streams where it can contaminate the water with harmful bacteria.

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.

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.

4-5 ____ ____ ____ ____ water. The average person uses 80 - 100 gallons per day.

5-6 Prevent ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ by planting some vegetables.

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

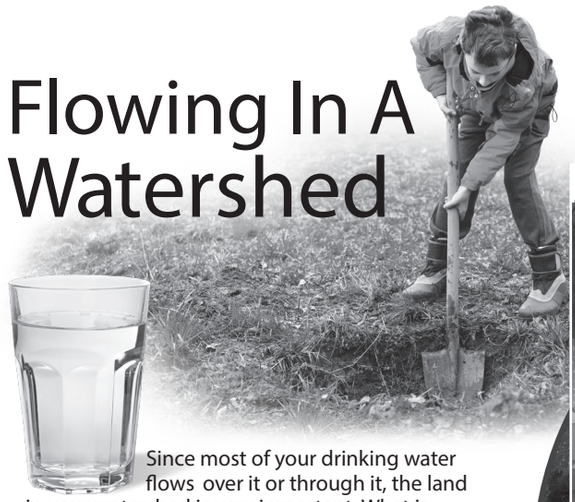
7-8 Reduce, reuse, recycle and ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ . Every change, big or small can improve the health of your environment.

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.

National Association of Conservation Districts

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.

Loose 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 "r."

the	hydrogen	snow	aquifer
hail	water	porous	ocean
lake	you	drizzle	drink
recycle	creek	swamp	flows
rain	through	your	oxygen
redo	sleet	reuse	river
stream	watershed	do	renew
your	reduce	part	rethink
to	pond	protect	it

Write the message you found here: _____

_____

You 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.

TAK	WEE	!	BUR	ATE	A	R T	N 4	
OO	GER	ROW	,OO	GAL	8,O	LON	F W	
ES	BET	S O	HAM	O G	IT	O-1		

P	K	O	N	P	C	J	J	R	N	K	R	L	S	L
R	R	X	H	E	T	F	H	E	Q	J	E	U	N	M
T	S	O	I	L	J	U	N	C	Q	D	T	Y	O	H
V	R	B	T	T	Z	E	U	Y	L	U	A	R	W	R
P	K	Y	L	E	G	R	O	C	L	D	W	C	A	C
S	J	T	I	O	C	X	R	L	Y	A	D	I	W	P
D	Z	T	R	J	Y	T	W	E	A	G	N	J	P	Q
F	K	D	E	G	R	E	T	A	W	E	U	D	E	B
U	Y	S	E	J	Y	S	L	Y	C	Y	O	C	N	I
H	N	N	D	H	K	Q	X	F	H	N	R	D	A	F
M	R	E	Q	Z	T	O	G	P	E	V	G	G	E	R
J	H	O	N	Q	F	R	R	D	Y	A	O	X	C	V
S	E	A	Z	G	C	V	A	B	U	L	D	N	O	U
A	Q	U	I	F	E	R	L	E	G	A	X	O	Y	F
R	H	P	U	Q	O	U	T	K	S	F	W	D	P	R

Watershed Word Search

Find these words on this placemat AND in the word search puzzle and circle them. Words in the puzzle can run up, down, forwards, backwards or diagonally.

AQUIFER
EARTH
GROUNDWATER
HYDROGEN
LAND
OCEAN
OXYGEN
PROTECT
RAIN
RECYCLE
SHED
SNOW
SOIL
WATER