

What's in the Water?

DISCUSS

Have you ever thought about where rainfall and water that falls on the ground in this neighborhood goes?

What about pollution that ends up on the ground or in local bodies of water? How far can it travel?

DO

Find a map of your local watershed and share it with the group.

Explain how water runs into small streams, then lakes or larger rivers, and eventually into larger bodies of water including the ocean.

Follow the path of a nearby stream out to a bigger body of water within your watershed.

Explain how chemicals from landfills (called leachate) can leak into the soil and ground water, contaminating the watershed.

Explain how litter in nature can be carried by the wind and end up in waterways.

Talk about some of the birds, fish, and other animals that live in your watershed and how they might be harmed by eating or getting caught in trash.

Explain how it can get into our drinking water reservoirs, too.

DEBRIEF

Do you see how many connections there are in nature?

How far away can the impact of a piece of litter be felt?

How many animals could be affected?

What kinds of things can we do differently to protect nature?

GROUP TYPE

Class or small group, may be best suited for older kids

LOCATION

Classroom

DURATION

30 minutes

KEY LEARNING

Waterways are connected, so anything littered in your neighborhood can end up in rivers, lakes, the ocean, and our drinking water.

SUPPLIES

Watershed map: Find yours by searching "Where is my watershed" using databasin.org or just exploring Google Maps or Google Earth.

Images of the fish, birds, and other wildlife in your region

