

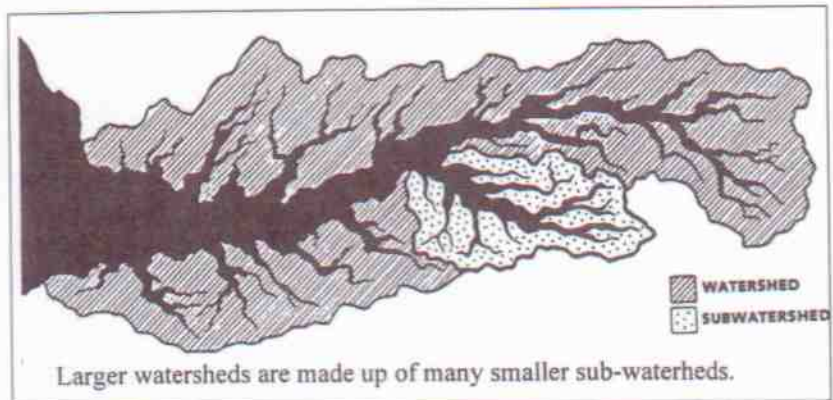
## Make a watershed model

### Materials:

- Aluminum foil
- Shallow rectangular pan
- Food coloring or colored powdered drink mix
- Soil
- Spray bottle or paper cup with holes punched in bottom

### Directions

1. Tear off a piece of foil to fit inside the pan. Crumble another piece of foil to make dips and gulleys to represent streams and rivers.
2. At one end of the foil, make a larger basin or pocket. This will be a bay or ocean and will collect water that runs off from the tributaries.
3. Put blocks or rocks in the corners of one side of the pan to make mountains and shape the foil over the blocks.
4. Pile soil up at the upper end of your watershed near the mountains on top of the raised sections of foil. You can make the mountain end higher by putting a book under the pan to prop it up. The cracks and dips represent bodies of water.
5. Squeeze a few drops of food coloring in the soil to represent a source of pollution.
6. Make it "rain" over the mountains with a spray bottle or paper cups with holes punched in the bottoms.
7. Watch how the water runs off of the land, into the **tributaries** and then to the bay or ocean, carrying the pollution with it.



Adapted from Chesapeake Bay Estuary Program's, "What's a Watershed," U.S. Fish & Wildlife's *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Activity Guide*, Bay BC's and *Watershed Watchers*, Lord Fairfax SWCD's curriculum for 4th graders