

# What is a Watershed ?

## Cognitive Demand:

Interpreting  
Concepts (C)

Science Literacy (D)

Technological Design (T)

Recalling Science (R)

## Overview:

Using Cacapon Institute website, students will view an interactive video that describes and illustrates a watershed. In addition, MWCD personnel can bring the Augmented Reality Sandbox to make the lesson more interactive.

## Materials:

- Computers with internet access.
- Composition Notebook for each student.
- (Optional:) Augmented Reality

## **Teacher Background:**

- A watershed is the area or ridge of land where all the water that flows off it, or under it, goes into the same location.
- Watersheds vary in shapes and sizes. They cross county, state, and national boundaries.
- In the continental US, there are 2,110 watersheds; including Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico, there are 2,267 watersheds.
- In most watersheds, the higher your elevation is, the further away you are from the body of water where all the watershed's water flows into. Thus, most of the water from a watershed, flows downhill from higher land to lower land, where the body of water is located- like a bowl where the ingredients flow to the bottom of it.
- When rain falls from the sky or snow melts, water moves through the watershed by either being absorbed into the ground, or traveling on top of it. As water seeps into the ground, it becomes groundwater, and can move through the rocks, and minerals below the surface.
- There is no life without water, and the watersheds are the source of all the water we use. Surface, and Underground water are used for drinking, washing, powering hydroelectric power, growing crops etc. Therefore, we must preserve it.

## **Setting the Stage:**

Using the composition notebook, ask the students to write a brief description of a watershed, why is it important to people, and how can we improve the water quality?

## **Acquisition of Learning:**

1. Have students visit one of the following websites to play one of the "What is a Watershed" Movie.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pwW2rIGIa8>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOrVotzBNto>
  - [http://www.cacaponinstitute.org/Watershed/What\\_Watershed.html](http://www.cacaponinstitute.org/Watershed/What_Watershed.html)
2. After the students have watched the video clip, have them revise their description of a watershed.

## **Closure:**

Working together as a class, create a definition of a watershed based on the information from the website.