



Running Rivers (suggested age 5-9)

Gather

- Sheet of white paper
- Shallow pan
- Water based colored markers
- Spray bottle of water

Let's Experiment!

1. Take a sheet of paper and crumple it. Next, partially smooth it out, leaving some ridges.
2. Use the markers to color along the edge of the creases.
3. Lay the paper out on the shallow pan and lift one end of the pan slightly.
4. Use the bottle of water and gently spray the top of the paper "watershed". Keep spraying until the colors begin to flow down the paper.
5. Describe what happens at the lowest point of the watershed. Did the colors mix together? If so, where did this start to happen?
6. Do you think things that people put into water at the top of the river affects others living below them? Why?

How Does it Work?

We all live in a **watershed** which is an area of land that contains a common set of streams and rivers that all drain into a single, larger body of water (a larger river, a lake, or an ocean.) River headwaters begin as streams in hills or mountains that flow downward, gaining more water along the way from other sources. For more information, visit: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/discover/watershed>

Take it Further!

Go outside with a large container of water, or turn on the hose if you have one, and find a bare spot to pour your water on - a driveway or sidewalk will do. Watch where the water goes. What kinds of things does it flow over? Where would the water go eventually? Can you use rocks or sticks to direct the flow of water? Look up the watershed that we belong to here in Central Virginia using the link above and find out how you can protect it!