

## INTRODUCTION TO WATERSHEDS

#### TEACHER PACKAGE





## ON THE INCLUSION OF ANISHNAABEMOWIN WATER WORDS

Within this learning resource we have incorporated some Anishinaabemowin water words taken from the Ojibway People's Dictionary to provide students an opportunity to learn about multiple ways to describe our relationships with the land (aki) and the water (nibi). This relationship is fundamental to all life on Turtle Island, and we encourage students to practice writing Anishnaabemowin and/or other languages when discussing the environment.

Different First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities have their own unique words and the words provided in this resource will not necessarily reflect the words used by your community or communities you want to learn about. We encourage you to reach out to community members to learn about the language used in your First Nation, Métis or Inuit community or those you want to learn from specifically.

Anishinaabemowin water words from the Ojibwe People's Diectionary: <a href="https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu">https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu</a>

#### WATERSHED SIGNIFICANCE

A watershed is an area of land where all of the water is ultimately flowing to the same body of water. Everyone lives and works on a watershed. Understanding how water moves in a watershed will help you better understand the relationships water has with people and the rest of the environment.

## Key Questions to Guide Learning Expectations:

- 1. What is a watershed and what are its components?
- 2. What is your connection to your watershed?
- 3. What are the ways water moves through a watershed?
- 4. What conditions can help or hinder the health of the watershed, discussing the natural world?

#### **Curriculum Connections:**

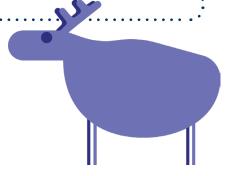
Grade 5-8: Native Language - Vocabulary

**Grade 5: Understanding Earth and Space Systems** - Conservation of Energy and Resources

**Grade 6: Understanding Life Systems** - Biodiversity

**Grade 7: Understanding Life Systems** - Interactions in the Environment

Grade 8: Understanding Earth and Space Systems - Water Systems



## WATER REFLECTION

Teachei	Name:	
Clarify		
Value		
Concern		
Suggest		

## INTRODUCTION TO WATERSHEDS

LEVEL 4	Demonstrates complete knowledge of watershed components. Shows complete understanding of the importance of various watershed components.	Gives a thorough and thoughtful explanation of their connections to their watershed.  Provides a detailed and well supported analysis of how water and pollution can move through a watershed.	Expresses and organizes ideas and information with a high degree of effectiveness. Uses many relevant scientific terms and includes all requested Anishinaabemowin vocabulary.	Displays a thorough understanding of the connections between the scientific concepts and the environment using examples.  Clearly follows the steps in the "mini-watershed" activity and included the necessary components with exceptional care and detail.
LEVEL 3	Demonstrates considerable knowledge of watershed components. Shows considerable understanding of the importance of various watershed components.	Gives considerable explanation of their connections to their watershed. Provides considerable analysis of how water and pollution can move through a watershed.	Expresses and organizes ideas and information with considerable effectiveness. Often uses relevant scientific and/or Anishinaabemowin vocabulary.	Displays considerable understanding of the connections between the scientific concepts and the environment. Follows the steps in the "mini-watershed" activity and included the necessary components with care and detail.
LEVEL 2	Demonstrates some knowledge of watershed components. Shows some understanding of the importance of various watershed components.	Gives some explanation of their connections to their watershed.  Provides some analysis of how water and pollution can move through a watershed.	Expresses and organizes ideas and information with some effectiveness.  Attempts some use of relevant scientific and/or Anishinaabemowin vocabulary.	Displays some understanding of the connections between the scientific concepts and the environment.  Follows the steps in the "mini-watershed" activity and included the necessary components.
LEVEL 1	Demonstrates limited knowledge of watershed components. Shows limited understanding of the importance of various watershed components.	Gives a limited explanation of their connections to their watershed.  Provides limited analysis of how water and pollution can move through a watershed.	Expresses and organizes ideas and information with limited effectiveness. Attempts limited to no use of relevant scientific and/or Anishinaabemowin vocabulary.	Displays limited understanding of the connections between the scientific concepts and the environment.  Has limited success completing "mini-watershed" and following the necessary steps.
	Knowledge and Understanding	Thinking and Investigation	Communication	Application

## WHAT IS A WATERSHED & WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?



Aki (the Earth) is made up of many different watersheds. A watershed is an area of aki (land) whose streams and rivers all drain into a single larger body of water, such as a larger river, a lake or an ocean. Every watershed or land mass looks different. Your community is on a watershed because all of the water that falls there is flowing towards a body of water. Sometimes it takes the water years to get there, but it inevitably does, even if it has to flow under the ground! All of the nibi (water) on aki (the earth) is connected through the watershed, and as a community, we are connected to the water as well, because we depend upon water for our well-being.

The way that we treat aki (our land) will affect nibi (our water). For example, if we built a factory on a wetland, nibi may not be filtered as it should, causing us to swim in and even drink unclean water. Many actions taken by people have a direct impact on aki and this changes nibi in the same way. If we spill gasoline on the ground, aki soaks it up and that gasoline will mix with nibi in groundwater. We can stop people from doing these actions, but we need to be able to explain to them why it is harmful to nibi.

We can protect aki and nibi by planting more trees, or moving things that cause pollution to safer locations that do not have a large negative impact on nibi. Each community has possibilities to protect nibi. Protecting nibi is important because it connects everything on Aki.

#### **Major Watershed Components:**



Tributaries are the paths water takes when it flows over the land. They are created by the landforms in the watershed. Hills and mountains create valleys so rivers and rain can run down and flow through.

Tributaries tell the water which way to flow across the land, and control the **madaagmin** (how turbulent the water is). Sometimes a mountain can cause waterfalls and rapids in a river.



Wetlands, or marshes, are very important to our watersheds. Wetlands are a complex natural filtration system. One filtration process occurs as the water moves slowly through wetlands and dirt that

agonde (is in the water) sinks to the bottom.



**Vegetation** is another word for plants. Trees and other plants help to control flooding in rivers, lakes and on the land because they absorb water to prevent overflow. The roots also prevent dirt and soil from

**bakobiibide** (falling into the water) because the roots hold the dirt in place.



Large water bodies such as lakes and oceans determine the name of your watershed. If you live near Lake Ontario you may be in the Lake Ontario watershed because all of the water that falls in your area is flowing into

Lake Ontario. A large lake is often the original onda'ibaan (a source of water) for water going to your home from water treatment plants.

## LET'S TALK WATERSHEDS!

1	What might happen if there were no wetlands in your watershed?	2	List the shared:	4 watershed	d components we
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		0			
		3			er could enter he watershed.
4	Use a drawing to show how to roots of a tree help soil stop erosion (bakobiibide).		5		inaabemowin ou learn from the
			ANISHI	NAABEMOWIN	ENGLISH

#### WATER REFLECTION

#### Write a one paragraph reflection about watersheds.

Explain how you are part of the watershed, how do you interact with **aki** and **nibi**? How do you affect the watershed health in your community? Include, as best you can, 5 **Anishinaabemowin water words** in your response. Use the ones provided, or ask a language speaker for help.

A Selection of Anishinaabemowin Water Words:
aki: earth, land, ground
nibi: water
dakib: cold water
abaagamide-nibi: warm water, lukewarm water
nibiikaa: there is (a lot of) water
agonde: it is in or on the water, floats, soaks
agamiing: at the lake, at the water, on the shore
bagaskaadagaazii: s/he wades splashing through the water
<b>bakobiibide:</b> it falls, dives, plunges into the water
bakobiiwebin: throw into the water
madaagamin: it is turbulent water
onda'ibaan: a source of water, a well

#### Create a mini watershed!

#### Materials:

1 piece of blank white paper

3 different coloured washable marker (blue is strongly recommended to represent water)

1 black permanent marker

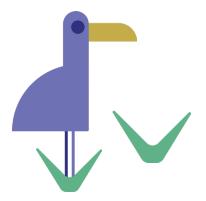
1 spray bottle filled with water





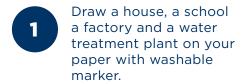
Point-source pollution is pollution that comes from an obvious pace or thing. In this demonstration we can see what it looks like on a watershed. We can see how buildings people live and work in can cause pollution to enter water systems.

Our models show us something called surface runoff. We can literally see the pollution on our paper running into our water. This is how pollution mixes with our rivers and streams during rain.



#### Step by Step:

Follow these steps to create your paper watershed.





Gently crumple the paper to make mountains, hills and valleys for your watershed.



Spread it out gently, and take a permanent marker to trace the highest peaks of the hills and mountains.

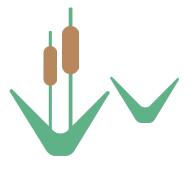


Take a blue washable marker and trace the valleys where rivers and streams would flow.



Once everything has been coloured spray the paper with water and watch the marker flow where the rain water would flow.





### MINI WATERSHED ANALYSIS

1	Share a picture of your watershed. After you have built your model, take a picture of your watershed and share it with your teacher.		
2	Explain how the water flows in your watershed. What helps decide where the water goes?	4	In what ways is your factory polluting the water in your watershed? Look at how the marker from your factory is bleeding.
3	Describe where your factory is in your watershed. Is it on a hill or in a valley? Does it have any rivers or lakes nearby?		
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# THANK YOU FROM WATER FIRST FOR THINKING ABOUT THE EARTH AND YOUR WATER!