

Student Sheet 7

Watersheds Lab Setup Sheet and Reflection

Materials:

- cafeteria tray or baking sheet
- masking tape
- two colors of Crayola (or other water-soluble/washable) markers
- two sheets of notebook paper (may be scratch paper)
- butcher paper or wax paper (large enough to cover tray)
- spray bottle filled with water



Step One: Lightly wad up the two sheets of notebook paper. Using two longer pieces of masking tape, tape the wadded pieces of paper to the tray.

Step Two: Place the wax paper (or butcher paper) over the taped paper wads to simulate a mountain range. Lightly mold the wax paper around the wadded pieces of paper. Be creative, but define one major ridge separating the two sides of the tray. Each side represents a watershed.





Step Three: Color each side of your mountain range with a different color using a water-soluble marker. (You may choose to add more colors to delineate additional watersheds.)

Step Four: Complete question 2 on the Lab Reflection sheet.

Step Five: Lightly spray water on the model watching carefully what happens to the water on each side of the ridge. Do not use too much water. Note how water pools in some areas and not in others based on the topography of the model.



Step Six: Observe what happens as the water flows across the model. Notice the pools developing which highlight smaller watersheds created on either side of the main ridge. This illustrates how smaller watersheds make up larger watersheds.

Caution: Colors should not be mixing. If colors are mixing, you may have inaccurately identified the main ridge. Watch how the water flows and decide how you would color your model differently to avoid color mixing the next time. Note the changes to your predication in question 2 on your Lab Reflection sheet.

Step Seven: Complete question 3 on the Lab Reflection sheet.