

Name: _____ Block: _____ Date: _____

Watershed Investigation

Follow the instructions below to set up the investigation:

1. Crumple up a plain piece of paper and then uncrumple it. It should still be a bit crumpled, showing small ridges (high points) and valleys (low points).
2. Imagine that this paper is a section of land, and find the ridgelines (the tops of the fold-lines).
3. Use a washable blue marker to color along the ridgelines on your "land."

Make Your Prediction - You are going to "rain" on your landform. Answer the following questions to make your prediction before conducting the experiment.

1. Where will the "rainwater" travel? Choose some specific locations and explain why the water will accumulate there.

Run the Experiment:

1. Use a spray bottle of water to create a "rainstorm" over your land. You want to create gentle sprays of mist.
2. Observe what happens after every misting.
3. As your "rainfall" accumulates, observe the pathways where the "rainfall" travels.

2. Observations - Write three things you notice happening in your watershed:

3. Where did the water collect? Explain why this happened.

4. Draw a map of your watershed below. Make names and label your mountains, streams and lakes.

5. How many separate watersheds do you have on your "land"?

6. If you were to do this activity again, what could you do differently to have fewer watersheds on your land?

7. If you were to do this activity again, what could you do differently to have more watersheds on your land?