



# Mini Watershed

Where does the water go when it rains? See for yourself by creating a miniature world where *you* control the weather! In this activity you will make your own watershed using items from around the house. This activity is messy but can be done inside or outside.

## Materials

- 1 large tray, tub, or flat area outside that can get messy
- 3 or more cups and/or bowls
- 1 trash bag, wax paper, or aluminum foil
- Plastic spray bottle full of water
- Variety of small ingredients such as dried herbs, spices, chocolate chips, and baking sprinkles



## Directions

1. **Find** somewhere in or around your home that can get wet and messy. This could be a large tray on a balcony, a tub on a kitchen floor, an empty bathtub, or a flat area in a backyard. **Place** a few cups or bowls upside down in that area.
2. **Place** a plastic bag or other water-resistant material over the top of the cups. **Arrange** it so that it looks like hills or mountains. What would you name those mountains?
3. **Build.** What do you think you might find on the ground in this little world? Gently **add** ingredients such as dried herbs, spices, chocolate chips, and baking sprinkles on and around your mountains to represent things like leaves, dirt, animal poop, and trash. Also feel free to add small toy figurines of animals, trees, or cars if you have them around your home.
4. **Pick** two or three different pieces that you sprinkled on the mountains, and guess where they would go if it started raining in your little world.
5. **Make** it rain! Use the water bottle and start spraying the top of the mountains. Notice where the water goes as it runs down the side of the mountains.
6. **Extension:** The water in a watershed all drains into the same place, like a river, bay, lake, or ocean. Is there a bay, lake, or ocean near where you live? What can your family do to keep it clean?