



## NATURE AT HOME

We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



### Watersheds

View the video at [DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home](http://DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home)

Supplies needed for the activity: white paper; any non-permanent markers, water

This is an activity that helps explain what a watershed is and how it works. A watershed describes an area of land that contains creeks, streams and rivers that all drain into a single larger body of water, such as a larger river, a lake or an ocean.

Take a blank piece of paper and gently crumple it, then open it back up. The paper becomes a landscape. Take a marker (we used green) and outline the tallest creases along the paper to represent mountains. Take another marker (we used blue) and follow the downward creases to represent water (rivers, streams, creeks). Using a third marker (we used orange) make some marks where pollution could have occurred.



Pour a small amount of water onto the paper to simulate rain. What happened? The rain caused the pollution to run into the streams. People need to be careful of our watersheds to keep them free of pollution because that's where we get our drinking water. Plants and animals need clean water too.

The rainwater, along with the pollution; eventually runs into a larger body of water. This activity showed what happens when there is precipitation (rain or snow melt). Gravity causes everything to flow downhill, including pollution (examples: motor oil; food or candy wrappers thrown on the ground or doggy bags that people put on the side of trails). Pollution far upstream can not only cause damage to the immediate area but also impact the larger body of water it eventually drains into.

Be careful to not accidentally pollute your outdoor spaces.

If you have any questions, e-mail: [Education@DishmanHills.org](mailto:Education@DishmanHills.org)