

Where Rain Goes

Trace the land that drains to each body of water.

6.8.a "a watershed is composed of the land that drains into a body of water;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that name land or surfaces where water starts, and circle each named body of water that receives water. Use your marks to trace which land belongs to each watershed.

Cedar Creek After Rain

- ① After a spring rain, water lands on the roof, sidewalk, playground, and grassy school-facing slope behind Cedar School. Gravity pulls the water downhill. Some water soaks into the ground, but it still moves toward lower places. Water from the slope and school grounds enters a storm drain. The drain carries it to Cedar Creek. All of the land where this water begins is part of Cedar Creek's watershed. This land may include places far from the creek itself.
- ② A watershed is not only the stream channel or the water already in it. It is the whole area of land that drains into one body of water, such as a creek, river, lake, pond, or bay. Ridges and high points often form watershed boundaries. On Cedar Hill, the school-facing slope drains toward Cedar Creek. The opposite slope drains toward Pine Pond, so that slope belongs to Pine Pond's watershed, not Cedar Creek's during rainstorms.
- ③ Knowing a watershed helps people predict where pollution can travel. If oil leaks in the school parking lot, rain can wash it through the storm drain to Cedar Creek. A spill on Cedar Hill's opposite slope could move toward Pine Pond instead. Planting grasses, picking up litter, and using drains carefully can protect the body of water that receives runoff. Water may travel above ground or through soil, yet the draining land remains part of the watershed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 According to the passage, what makes an area of land part of a watershed?

2 Name two areas at Cedar School where water begins that becomes part of Cedar Creek's watershed.

3 Which slope of Cedar Hill belongs to Cedar Creek's watershed? Explain why.

4 If oil leaks in the school parking lot, which body of water could receive the pollution? Trace its path from the parking lot.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a small place with two bodies of water. In exactly three sentences, name two land areas and tell which body of water each one drains into, then identify a ridge or high point as the watershed boundary.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that name land or surfaces where water starts, and circle each named body of water that receives water. Use your marks to trace which land belongs to each watershed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	According to the passage, what makes an area of land part of a watershed?	The land is part of a watershed when water from it drains into one body of water.
2	Name two areas at Cedar School where water begins that becomes part of Cedar Creek's watershed.	Answers include the school grounds and the grassy school-facing slope. The roof, sidewalk, and playground are also acceptable surfaces where water begins.
3	Which slope of Cedar Hill belongs to Cedar Creek's watershed? Explain why.	The school-facing slope belongs to Cedar Creek's watershed because it drains toward Cedar Creek.
4	If oil leaks in the school parking lot, which body of water could receive the pollution? Trace its path from the parking lot.	Cedar Creek could receive it. Rain can wash the oil from the parking lot through the storm drain to Cedar Creek.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At Maple Park, the north soccer field drains into Blue Lake. The south garden drains into Fern Brook. The ridge between the field and garden is the watershed boundary.

Accept any realistic land areas and bodies of water if each area clearly drains to a different named body of water. The third sentence should correctly identify a ridge or high point between the drainage areas as the boundary.