Our Wonderful Watershed

Online Activity

Engage:

What is a watershed, you ask? A watershed is a body of land that funnels all the water that falls onto it into one body of water. Maryland is home to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed! All the water that falls in Maryland east of the Appalachian Mountains, enters the Chesapeake Bay by river, underground aquifer, or directly.

Why should we care about this? Because everything we do on land can affect the quality of water around us, and clean, healthy water is so important in agriculture. It's what we feed to our animals, it's what we water our crops with, it's what we drink every day. Also, animals that call the bay home like blue crabs, oysters, and fish are an important economic resource in Maryland and are a part of an important ecosystem.

Do you know where the water ends up after it leaves your yard? There are tools available to us to help us find out. If we protect the water around our yard, we can do our part in making sure that water that ends up in the bay is as clean as it can be!

Watch these videos!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5b-zbSWG8e8

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuNBP3UYykg

Materials:
1. Computer, tablet, or Ipad
2. Digital Tools
3. Research Articles

Explore:

Take a look at the resources below to learn more about our watershed!

Digital Tools:

National Geographic Map Maker
Chesapeake Watershed Project - Fieldscope

Research Material:

https://www.scienceforkidsclub.com/chesapeake-bay.html
http://baybackpack.com/

Explain:

After your research, can you explain the following questions:

1. What states are located in the Chesapeake Bay watershed?
2. How do we use water in agriculture?
3. What are issues we face with water pollution in Maryland?
4. What are farmers doing to protect the water in the Chesapeake Bay?
5. What can you do at home to protect the water making it's way to the Chesapeake Bay?

Extend:

Map your own watershed! Create a watershed map that shows where the water drains on your property!

[Google Maps](#)