

Your Watershed

Using the relief map of your state or region, you can determine the extent and approximate boundary lines of your watershed by following the steps below.

1. Tape a piece of tracing paper over the map.
2. Using a black pencil or pen, outline your state, county, or region.
3. Find your community on the map. Trace the boundaries of your community by using a purple colored pencil. Write the name of your community with a black pencil or pen.
4. What body of water—such as a lake, river, or stream—is in or near your community? Trace this body of water by using a blue colored pencil, and label it.
5. What tributaries (other rivers and streams) lead into this body of water? Trace these tributaries with a blue colored pencil, labeling them as well.
6. Looking at the relief map, identify the ridges and highpoints that surround the body of water and its tributaries. (One thing to look for is streams or rivers flowing in opposite directions from the ridges.) These highpoints represent watershed boundary lines. Use a brown colored pencil to connect these points, following the contour of the land.
7. If your relief map shows forest or woodland areas, sketch in those areas on your watershed map by using a green colored pencil. If your relief map does not show forest or woodland areas, use a separate map of the forest cover in your state or region to determine the forested areas, and sketch in those areas.
8. Estimate the percentage of your watershed area that is covered by forest.
9. Identify and label any cities or large population centers that appear in your watershed.

