MAKE YOUR OWN WATERSHED

Materials:
• sheets of white paper
• shallow pans
• water-based colored markers (Crayola is fine)
• spray bottle of water

Directions:
1. Take the sheet of paper and crumple it. Next, partially smooth it out, leaving some ridges.

2. Using a blue water-based marker, mark streams or rivers on your papers, and also mark where you think the water will collect as it runs downhill. (This could represent a lake.).

3. Using a black water-based marker, outline the ridges that separate one stream or river from another.

4. Using brown water-based markers, draw exposed soil that could erode or wash away into the lake as the water flows through the watershed.

5. Using red water-based markers, draw in some pollutants that may be found in their watershed, such as soap from washing cars, pesticides from lawns, and animal waste from a nearby farm.

6. Lay the paper out on the shallow pan and shape it so that it looks like a watershed. Use the creased lines to show elevated land areas.

7. Use the bottle of water and gently spray the top of the watershed. Keep spraying the paper until the colors begin to flow. (I will come around and do this for you).

8. Describe what happened at the lowest point of the watershed. Did the different pollutants mix together? If so, where did this happen in the watershed?
Questions to consider:

1. What is a watershed?

2. What do you think the paper represents?

3. What do you think the spray represents?

4. Why does water flow down into the creases?

5. What would you call the water that runs down in the creases? (scientific term please)

6. What do you call the water that collects in “pools”?