



## **Wednesdays in the Woods Activity:** Build your own watershed

### **Materials Needed:**

- Outside space with sticks and rocks
- Tarp, tent fly, or another large waterproof cover
- A container filled with water, like a watering can or bucket

### **Instructions:**

1. Find a place outside where you can gather large sticks and rocks.
2. Build a miniature landscape with gathered materials. You might choose to include mountains, plateaus, valleys, hills, and fields.
3. Cover the landscape with a waterproof cover, pressing it down into the landscape underneath.
4. Pour water on the highest points of the landscape and watch where it travels and where it collects; what bodies of water did you create – lakes, streams, oceans, puddles, etc.?

### **Reflective Questions:**

- How is this landscape similar to or different from the landscape around where you live?
- What do you notice happened in your landscape when you poured the water over the landforms?
- Why might it be important to know where water flows?

### **Extensions of this activity:**

- You could do this with aluminum foil. Bend a square of foil into a landscape and pour water over it in a sink or bathtub or outside. Watch where the water travels and where it collects; what bodies of water did you create – lakes, streams, oceans, puddles, etc.?
- Place some soil on the high points of your watershed. Notice how the water directs its travel. Where does the soil collect and why? What might happen if someone drove a very small car leaking oil

over your tallest landforms or next to an area where water has collected?

- Walk around outside and notice how and where water travels; for instance, does it puddle slowly in your driveway, collect in a nearby waterfront, drip from your roof or gutter, flow rapidly through a culvert? What do you notice in the water?

## Building a watershed



Photos by Hannah Raymond