**Student Worksheet: Winding Watersheds**

**Directions**: Read the *Science News Explores* article “[Study uncovers secrets in water’s underground treks](https://www.snexplores.org/article/groundwater-secret-underground-flow)” and answer the questions as directed by your teacher.

**Follow the Flow**

Read the *Science News Explores* article “[Study uncovers secrets in water’s underground treks](https://www.snexplores.org/article/groundwater-secret-underground-flow)” and answer the questions below.

1. What is a watershed?

2. How does pollution enter a watershed?

3. How could pollutants in one watershed be introduced into another watershed?

4. What pollutants do you think might be able to spread to another watershed?

5. Using what you learned from the article, create a diagram that shows how watersheds are connected.

**Local Watershed Conditions**

1. Use the Environmental Protection Agency’s “[How’s My Waterway](https://mywaterway.epa.gov/)” website and enter your home or school address to find your local watershed. What is the name of your watershed?

2. Depending on your area, you may have one or multiple waterbodies. How many waterbodies are listed in your watershed? What can you learn about the health of your watershed based on the conditions of the waterbodies?

3. Look through the “Swimming,” “Eating Fish” and “Aquatic Life” tabs at the top of the page. Identify and try to explain any observable trends.

4. Right click on a location adjacent to your local watershed and click “Yes” under “Change to this location?” Describe the new watershed’s relative position to your local watershed. What is the name of the new watershed and what is its “Waterbody Condition”?

5. Compare the adjacent watershed to your local watershed. How are these watersheds the same? How are they different? Make sure to expand “Waterbody Conditions” and identify any differences in pollutants in your comparisons.

6. Why do you think these watersheds are similar or different?

**Monitoring Water Quality**

1. Using what you learned about the pollutants and “Waterbody Conditions” of your local watershed, identify and describe one water quality issue in your area. Use online sources as needed to help identify your issue.

2. Describe how scientists might identify the source and extent of this water quality issue and where to monitor its impact.