



Activity 2. Catchment hunt

Aim

To help students gain a basic understanding of catchments.

Materials Required

- A map of the school ground showing the layout of buildings, playgrounds, and streets.

Procedure

Have the students go into the school grounds and prepare a catchment map based on the visible surface features they note as they move around the school. A completed map should show the main water routes (beginning at the school roof downpipes) and feeder routes such as gutters. The directions of movement should also be shown.

Note: The map need not be in conventional form. Perhaps the students could construct a three-dimensional map, using matchboxes for various part of the school and coloured wool to indicate the flow of water. Perhaps some students could work together on smaller catchments within the school limits, or in their street or garden at home.

Following up

- 1.** What is a catchment?
- 2.** Trace the path of a drop of water falling on the school roof until it leaves the school grounds.
- 3.** Where does the water eventually end up after it has left the school grounds?
- 4.** If you were to build a dam in the school grounds, where would it be best located?
- 5.** Using a topographic map of your local area determine the catchment boundary of your local creek or river.
- 6.** Where does your drinking water come from? Where does your wastewater go to? Interview people who can help you answer these questions.