

the POLLYWOOG

Environmental Newsletter for Kids

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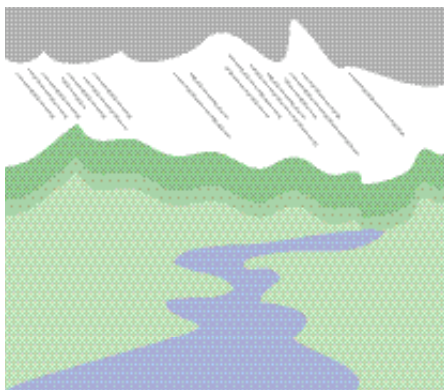
Do you know what a watershed is?

Did you know you live in a watershed? Actually, *we all* live in a watershed!

So what is it?

A watershed is the entire area of land surrounding a body of water, such as a lake, a river, a stream, or a bay. Everything including the rocks, soil, animals, plants, trees, people, roads and building make up the watershed. Any time it rains or snows the water travels through the watershed and eventually finds its way into the body of water.

Watersheds are separated from one another by changes in height, such as hills or ridges. In New Jersey, there are 20 different Watershed Management Areas. You may live within the Great Swamp Watershed. This means that all water which falls from the sky eventually drains into Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.



Try This!

Scrunch up a piece of plain paper, then smooth it out a little. Take a washable marker and mark all the crease or ridges on the paper. Now use a spray bottle with water to "rain" on the paper. Watch where the water runs -- you just made your own "watershed", and where the water collects are the rivers, lakes and streams!

What Can You Do For the Environment?



eed by hand! Using lawn chemicals, pesticides and weed killers means that eventually those chemicals end up in our water supply. You wouldn't like the taste of that!



lways turn off your lights and other electrical appliances when you're not using them. This includes computers. **Don't waste energy!**



ake a walk with your friends or family. Bring along a garbage bag and throw out any trash you see along the way.



at foods on reusable plates which can be washed. Also use reusable silverware and cups. Avoid paper plates, cups, or plastic utensils whenever possible. **They end up in landfills!**



ECYCLE everything you can! Glass bottles, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, newspapers, paper, cardboard, batteries and paper shopping bags can all be recycled.



hare your information with others. Tell you parents, friends and teachers about your environmental knowledge. This may encourage them to be more environmentally friendly.



ike. You will be amazed at all the **cool stuff** you will see while you are outside!



ncourage your school to start an Environmental Club, where kids who want to help the environment can hang out and do cool things!



ON'T BE A LITTER BUG!!

A Fun & Easy Experiment

Take a bottle full of water and bury it upside-down half way in a plant box which should contain soil and a plant. Every once in a while, you may notice little air bubbles rising in the water bottle. **Your plant is drinking the water!** The water will only flow out of the bottle when the soil is dry. It will keep flowing out until the soil is soaked. Once the soil is dry again, your plant will take another drink!*

*Source: Hans Jurgens, Simple Science Experiments. Germany, Otto Maier Verlag Ravensburg, 1967.



Did you do something GREAT for the environment?

**Write to us and let us know and we will publish
your name in the next issue of *The Pollywog*!**

It can be something as small as adding a recycling bin to your classroom, or as big as organizing a river clean up. Check out what these kids did:

- By organizing lunch room recycling of food scraps (such as apple cores and banana skins) 4th & 5th graders in Bridgewater, NJ created their own compost to use in their butterfly garden.
- Students near Puget Sound, WA adopted a stream and cleaned out three trucks worth of litter and debris from the shores. They also hatched some baby salmon in a classroom aquarium!

Address: Great Swamp Watershed Association
PO Box 300
New Vernon, NJ 07976
e-mail: pollywog@greatswamp.org

THE HERON

The heron is a tall bird commonly found in wet areas such as the Great Swamp Watershed. They have long necks and legs and pointy bills. Herons closely resemble cranes.

Cranes however are slightly larger and fly with their necks extended instead of in an "S" shape like the heron. Herons make loose, flat nests in the high branches of swamp trees. They eat **aquatic** animals such as small fish or tadpoles and use their long sharp beak to pierce their **prey**.



Photo by Blaine Rothauser

Aquatic: living in the water

Prey: animals that are eaten by other animals

AMAZING FACTS!

If every American recycled just a tenth of their newspapers, we would save **25 MILLION trees a year!!**

The typical American uses about **300 gallons of water a day!**
(This is not just drinking water. Think of all the water in your food, the water you use to do your dishes, to shower, to do laundry etc.)

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Writers: Rachel Jutkowitz, Hazel England

Contact us at pollywog@greatswamp.org