

# ***From the Mountains to the Estuary: From the Schoolyard to the Bay***

**Meaningful Watershed Experiences  
for Grade 6 Students**

**Created by:**



**Prince William County**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*Providing A World-Class Education*



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Program**



**In partnership with:**



**Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge  
Manassas Battlefield National Park**



## ***What is a Watershed?***

### **Overview:**

Using Cacapon Institute web site, students will view an interactive video that describes and illustrates a watershed.

### **Teacher Background:**

- A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place
- Watersheds vary in shapes and sizes. They cross county, state, and national boundaries.
- In the continental US, there are 2,110 watersheds; including Hawaii Alaska, and Puerto Rico, there are 2,267 watersheds.
- The Chesapeake Bay watershed stretches across more than 64,000 square miles, encompassing parts of six states — Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia — and the entire District of Columbia.
- Threading through the Chesapeake watershed are more than 100,000 streams and rivers — called tributaries — that eventually flow into the Bay. Everyone in the Bay watershed lives within a few minutes of one of these streams and rivers, which are like pipelines from our communities to the Bay.
- For more information on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed visit <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/watersheds.aspx?menuitem=14603>

### **Materials:**

- Computers with internet access
- Composition Notebook for each student

### **Setting the Stage:**

Using the composition notebook, have the students to write a brief description of a watershed, why is it important to people, and how can we improve the water quality?

### **Acquisition of Learning:**

1. Have students visit the following web site to play the “What is a Watershed” Movie.  
[http://www.cacaponinstitute.org/Watershed/What\\_Watershed.html](http://www.cacaponinstitute.org/Watershed/What_Watershed.html)
2. After the students have watched the video clip, have them make revisions to their description of a watershed.

### **Closure:**

- Working together as a class, create a definition of a watershed based on the information from the website.