My Watershed
3-5 Teacher's Guide

Literature Connections
1. All the Way to the Ocean - Joel Harper
2. We're Going on a Nature Hunt - Steve Metzger
   - Reading Response: Critical Thinking Questions
     - What impacts do trash, debris, and pollutants have on a watershed?
     - What actions can be taken to improve watershed health?

Student Page Activities
- Define a watershed and use NOAA's, How's My Waterway to identify your watershed using the school address, https://mywaterway.epa.gov/
- Use the information on your school's watershed page to determine the number of waterways it contains and the health of those waterways.
- Conduct a watershed walk, make observations, and describe what's observed. While on your walk, review the definition of a watershed, and use the questions to draw conclusions about your watershed.
  - Make social-emotional connections.
    - How did the observations you made about your watershed make you feel?
    - What's a word to describe how you feel when you are outside?
    - Finish the sentence: When I take actions that benefit the environment or my community, I feel...

Class Action
- Schedule time to pick up litter on the school grounds or nature nearby (don't forget to recycle what can be recycled). Remember to use the Clean Earth Challenge data collection form to track what's collected. Print the form and take it to your cleanup. Once complete either take a legible photo or scan as a PDF and email it to cleanearthchallenge@nwf.org. Find other details here: https://cleanearthchallenge.com/.

My Watershed

Name: _____

1. **What is a watershed?**
   A <u>watershed</u> is an area of land that collects precipitation (like rain), and then flows over the land into bodies of water like a river, lake, or pond.

2. **What's the name of my watershed?**
   - Go to: https://mywaterway.epa.gov/
   - Enter your school's name or address, and click "Go."
   - In the upper right-hand corner, under your school's name, you will see the name of your watershed. Write the name on the line below.
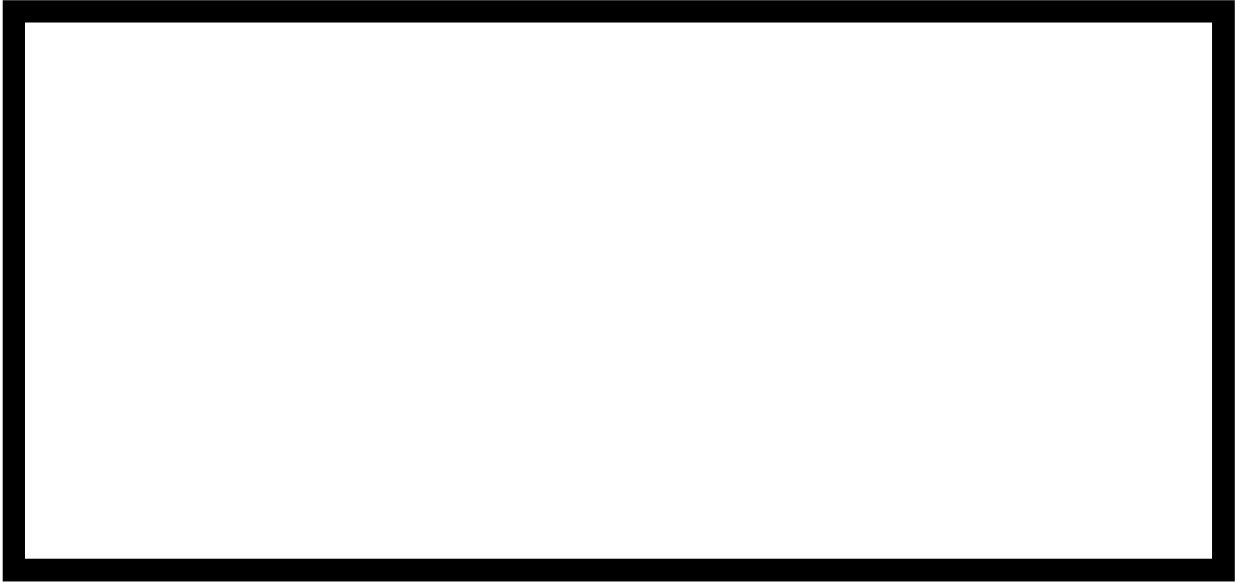
   _____

3. **Make observations about your watershed.**
   Stay on the screen that identifies your watershed and answer the following questions.
   - What does the dashed line on the map represent?_____
   - How many waterbodies are found in your watershed?_____
   - How many of the waterbodies in your watershed are good and/or impaired?

   _____

My Watershed

4. **Go on a watershed walk. Use the box below to sketch what you see or to write/list what you observe. Then answer the questions below.**

5. What did you observe that needs a clean and healthy watershed?

6. What did you observe that can cause harm to a watershed?

7. Why do you think it is important to have a clean and healthy watershed?

8. What actions can you take to maintain or improve your watershed's health?