

River Detectives at a Distance

Theme for June 2020: Catchments



















Objective: To understand what a catchment is, how everything in catchments is interrelated and that everyone in a catchment is responsible for river health.

Be guided by your teacher on which activities you should choose

*Begin by doing one of the activities in **GREEN** first to understand what catchments are.*



Please adhere to all current COVID-19 advice, particularly for activities in orange. Take walks as part of your daily exercise and interview a farmer remotely by phone, zoom, facetime, etc

Ways to be Smart	Knowing	Understanding	Applying	Analysing	Creating	Evaluating
 <p>Word Smart I learn best by reading, writing & speaking</p>	 <p>Fill boxes on a mind map with words to list elements of the catchment you live in. All these elements are linked together, their health dependent on each other.</p>	 <p>Read the catchment fact sheet and / or the healthy catchment fact sheet to understand what catchments are, why they are important and what we can do to keep them healthy.</p>	<p>We usually define where we live by towns/regions/roads. Reframe your thinking and write a paragraph defining your location by the catchment you live in and the waterways that connect places.</p>	<p>Read or watch 'Water is Water', 'Rhythm of the Rain', 'When Water Lost Her Way' or any other book you know about the water flows in a landscape. Share your thoughts with an acrostic poem, a review or a chat.</p>	 <p>Write a story from the perspective of a rain drop falling from the clouds onto the highest hills of your catchment. Describe it's journey. There may be multiple endings depending on the season, land uses, etc</p>	<p>Reflect on your experience of playing Run The River or Catchment Detox and complete a PMI to evaluate the positive things you learnt, the difficult aspects and unexpected things you found interesting.</p>
 <p>Number Smart I learn best by working with numbers/science</p>	 <p>Use the maps on the River Detectives website to identify your CMA region, your catchment, your traditional owner group and your nearest waterways.</p>	<p>Make a mud map of your catchment showing waterways, towns, natural features. Which way does water flow, what is up and downstream of you, where are your catchment boundaries, what catchments are next door.</p>	<p>Drainage divisions or 'basins' explain how water moves in Australia on a larger scale. Watch this video. Which basin are you part of? Use a topographical map to work out why water moves this way.</p>	<p>Go on a virtual visual tour of your catchment using Google Earth in 3D mode. Follow your major waterway, explore the surrounding land and identify the hills that bound your catchment.</p>	 <p>Watch How Wolves Change Rivers then draw a flow chart or food chain to illustrate how the introduction of wolves sparked a series of changes in the environment.</p>	<p>Use maps, contact experts or use local knowledge to identify the very edge of your catchment. Sketch and label where the rain will flow that lands on either side of that edge – what waterways / catchment will it be part of?</p>
 <p>Picture Smart I learn best by drawing and visualising</p>	<p>Fill boxes on a mind map with drawings to show elements of the catchment you live in. All these elements are linked together, their health dependent on each other.</p>	<p>Use this 3D map as an example and make an illustrated map of your catchment or sub – catchment showing the natural and man-made features and the various land uses in your area.</p>	<p>Use the Riparian Zone poster as an example then fold a piece of paper in half and illustrate a farm /town / catchment scene showing positive and negative land practices.</p>	 <p>Watch this conversation with Uncle Rick Nelson as he talks about the impacts of colonisation and the gold rush on the landscape and the lives of Dja Dja Wurrung people.</p>	 <p>Explore the interactive Run The River free App to experience the complexity of managing scarce water so that everyone has their share.</p>	<p>Watch this segment from Landline showcasing efforts in Tasmania and NZ to change land practices. Draw a farm plan to illustrate how it can be managed well to enhance waterway health. Label its features.</p>
 <p>Body Smart I learn best by being active and hands on</p>	 <p>Cup your hand and use the fact sheet to help you understand how it can model your catchment. Cup someone else's hand and explain it to them.</p>	<p>Go for a walk in your community and take photos of the positive things influencing a healthy catchment and the negative things that might threaten catchment health.</p>	<p>Create a catchment model in a big tub or on a large scale in a sandpit. Use a variety of materials to demonstrate a healthy catchment and all the parts of it (geographical features, flora, fauna, towns)</p>	<p>Work with others to video what happens to your catchment model when you simulate gentle rain with a watering can or a flood event. Change features to improve the way your catchment operates.</p>	<p>Go for a walk along your nearest waterway. Make notes or take photos to record where its water comes from, what other things might end up in the waterway, the plants and animals that live there, etc.</p>	<p>Make a difference in your own catchment and get involved with a tree planting event or a rubbish clean up event. COMMUNITY GROUPS MAY NOT BE HOLDING THESE EVENTS DURING COVID RESTRICTIONS.</p>
 <p>People Smart I learn best by working with others</p>	 <p>Walk around your yard, property or school with others and investigate your mini-catchment. After rain where does the water flow, how does it move, where does it gather, where does it end up?</p>	 <p>Discuss the people that are responsible for the health of your catchment. What are the positive things they should do to play their role eg. Farmers, supermarket owners, school children, etc</p>	 <p>Watch the Campaspe River Flyover video. Pause at intervals and talk about land practices along the way. How can river health be balanced with productive community life and agriculture?</p>	<p>Complete the River Role Play activity with your class to see how the actions of people living in a catchment can impact on waterway health which in turn affects plants, animals, people, livelihoods and communities.</p>	<p>Interview a farmer, a business owner, a neighbour, an older person to see what they know about how your catchment works, things they've noticed over the years, how they keep it healthy and why they bother</p>	<p>Watch the Making Every Drop Count video to see how farmers can turn their land around for better farm productivity and catchment health. Conduct a debate between a proactive and reluctant farmer to highlight their different views.</p>
 <p>Self Smart I learn best by myself</p>	<p>Find out what CMA region you belong to then check out their website to research the waterways in the region and the projects that improve their health.</p>	<p>Watch one or both of these videos to understand what a catchment is and why they are important; Catchments explained The Murray Darling Basin</p>	<p>Write a journal as a child in your town from different times in history. Describe what you see, hear, smell, taste and experience in 1720, 1810, 1920 and project to 2080.</p>	<p>After doing the activity above, reflect on the things you and your family do in your daily life and the positive or negative impact that may have on your catchment.</p>	 <p>Play the Catchment Detox online game and manipulate features to create a healthy catchment with a sustainable and thriving economy.</p>	<p>Watch How Wolves Change Rivers then imagine a change. eg. Cars become illegal, tree disease strikes all eucalypts, rainfall doubles and consider the consequences to your catchment.</p>

Send your efforts to your teacher and it may be shared in the school newsletter or on the Billabong Banter tab of www.riverdetectives.net.au Make sure you have permission from parents first.