



## Watershed Walk-About Activity

**Objectives of Activity:** Students will be able to observe and analyze watershed conditions.

**Time Needed:** 60 to 90 minutes

**Size of Group:** Any size (should divide into groups of 3 to 5)

**Space:** Immediate neighborhood

**Materials:**

Pencils, pens, notebooks or clipboards

Map of immediate area (or blank outlines to be filled in)

Polaroid camera optional

Chart paper and markers

**Procedure:**

1. Divide students into small groups.
2. Distribute maps, clipboards, and pens to each team.
3. Instruct students that they will have 40 minutes to explore part of the watershed near the school, and that their task is to observe and record the conditions they see, and note any questions they have about what they observe.
4. Reconvene in class and have each group report the environmental conditions they saw; record their responses on chart paper.
5. Lead a whole-group debriefing to analyze the list; ask questions such as "which items might point to a problem?" and "how similar/different are the items?"

**Facilitation Considerations:**

1. Make sure students are very clear on what is meant by conditions and problems before starting the activity.
2. If the watershed exploration area is large, assign different parts of the grounds to different groups.
3. If necessary, arrange for extra adult supervision.



## Watershed Walk-About Checklist

*As you walk around your watershed, take detailed notes about what you observe.*

How many of these do you see?

What conditions are these in?

Playgrounds & Parks	
Homes	
Stores or Restaurants	
Police or Fire Stations	
Parking Lots	
Schools	
Sewage Treatment Plants	
Rivers, Ponds, or Harbors	
Open Land or Farm Land	
Factories	
Other	
Other	

www.green.org @ green@earthforce.org @ 800-23FORCE  
Earth Force @ 1908 Mount Vernon Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor @ Alexandria, VA @ 22301

*youth for a change!*