



# Eco-Schools USA at Home: Watersheds, Oceans, and Wetlands (WOW)

HOW-TO ASSESS SOME PARTS OF YOUR WATERSHED

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## WHY THINK ABOUT YOUR WATERSHED?

A watershed is an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow of a reservoir, mouth of a bay, or any point along a stream channel. Watersheds can be as small as a footprint or large enough to encompass all the land that drains water into rivers that drain into larger water bodies and eventually entering the ocean. People and wildlife depend on waterways to live. Most people use a watershed for drinking water, as well as for recreational activities such as canoeing, kayaking, hiking, fishing, swimming, hunting, birding, and more.

Climate change is impacting every watershed across the nation. Some communities may feel its effects more than others, such as loss of critical habitat, encroaching invasive species, and changes in precipitation patterns resulting in floods, droughts, wildfires, and other extreme weather events. While there are numerous concerns, there are even more opportunities to implement solutions.

## MATERIALS

- Eco-Schools USA at Home WOW Audit and Action Plan
- Litter pick up materials, such as a trash bag and gloves

## GUIDING QUESTIONS

RESEARCH THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS. THEY WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE TOPIC BETTER.

- 1) What is a [watershed](#)?
- 2) What are the different kinds of [land cover](#)? What different kinds of land cover do you observe around your home or neighborhood?
- 3) Which types of land cover support the needs of wildlife better? Natural or man-made? Explain. Remember, wildlife need food, water, shelter and a place to safely raise their young.
- 4) How does litter impact people in the [community? Wildlife?](#)

## STEP BY STEP

- 1) Read through the Eco-Schools USA at Home WOW Audit and Action Plan and decide on dates to do a pre-action audit and a post-action audit. This will help determine the length of your project.
- 2) Conduct the pre-action audit and analyze the results using the provided audit and worksheets.
- 3) Make an action plan to support your watershed and enlist the help and support of your family.
- 4) After implementing your action plan, conduct a post-action audit, and share your results with your teacher, extended family, and or the local community.