

Activity sheet 12

Making a model catchment

The water on planet earth is recycled again and again. This process is called the water cycle. As water travels through the cycle, it goes through a number of processes, changing from a gas (water vapour) to clouds, and finally to rain, hail or snow. As we need water to survive, we must trap some of this water and deliver it to our houses. Design your catchment so you can trap water and pipe it to the houses.

Build a model of a catchment. You can use the diagram provided to help you.

You will need to include:

A dam to collect water and pipes to transport water

Different types of land use (forest, farms etc.)

Houses or a city

Rivers and the ocean

Catchment feature	Material
Dam	Cling wrap
Pipes	Straws
Forests	Small branches
Rivers and oceans	Blue cloth
Farms	Green cloth
Houses	Building blocks



Activities and Questions

How did you choose the spot to put your dam in?

When it rains (use a spray bottle of water) where does the water flow to? Why?

Spray water from the spray bottle onto a sandy slope of your catchment. What happens?

Now place some grass clippings on the sandy slope and spray water on them. What happens?

Why is it important to grow trees alongside dams and rivers to keep livestock away?

How does water from the ocean get into your dam?