

Chesapeake Bay Watershed, USA



# What is a Watershed Webquest?

Access the following link and answer the questions:

[water.usgs.gov/edu/watershed.html](http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watershed.html)

goo.gl/XuZMNz

1. What is a watershed?
2. Watersheds can vary in size. True/False
3. What type of watershed is shown in the map?
4. The word watershed is sometimes used interchangeably with \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Ridges and hills that separate two watersheds are called the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What does watershed consist of?
7. Larger watersheds contain many \_\_\_\_\_. It all depends on the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What is the outflow point?
9. Why are watersheds important?

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## A Watershed is a precipitation collector:

1. Name 6 factors that determine how much of the streamflow will flow by the monitoring site?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the greatest factor controlling streamflow?
3. The amount of water that will infiltrate (soak in over time) depends on which four characteristics?

4. Water from rainfall returns to the atmosphere largely through \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. The root systems of plants absorb water from the surrounding soil in various amounts through the process of \_\_\_\_\_.
  6. \_\_\_\_\_ store water and increase the amount of water that evaporates and infiltrates.
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### **The Water Cycle: Evaporation**

**Access the following link and answer the questions**

[water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycleevaporation.html](http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycleevaporation.html)

goo.gl/P3ixyw

1. What is evaporation?
  2. Why does evaporation occur?
  3. What is the opposite of evaporation?
  4. How does evaporation drive the water cycle?
  5. What are the two main products obtained from the evaporation of water?
  6. Explain how evaporative cooling works.
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**The Water Cycle: Transpiration: Access the following link and answer the questions**

[water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycletranspiration.html](http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycletranspiration.html)

goo.gl/opzB2i

1. What is transpiration?
2. How much water do plants transpire during the growing season?
3. What are the five atmospheric factors that affect transpiration?
4. Draw a diagram that shows how the water table can dip where plant roots can access it during the growing season.

**The Water Cycle: Freshwater Storage: Access the following link and answer the questions**

[water.usgs.gov/edu/watercyclefreshstorage.html](http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercyclefreshstorage.html)

goo.gl/NUjK8k

1. What part of the water cycle that is essential to all life on Earth?
2. What is the definition of freshwater?
3. Earth's \_\_\_\_\_ bodies are generally thought of as renewable resources.
4. Inflows to these water bodies will be from \_\_\_\_\_, overland \_\_\_\_\_, groundwater \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ inflows.
5. Outflows from lakes and rivers include \_\_\_\_\_, movement of water into groundwater, and withdrawals by people.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of surface water changes over time and space.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ are what made the Great Lakes not only "great," but also such a huge storehouse of freshwater.
8. Water on the \_\_\_\_\_ really does sustain life.
9. Freshwater represents only about \_\_\_\_\_ percent of all water on Earth and freshwater lakes and swamps account for a mere \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the Earth's freshwater.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ percent of all fresh surface water is in one lake, Lake Baikal in Asia.
11. Another \_\_\_\_\_ percent (about 5,500 cubic miles (about 23,000 cubic kilometers)) is stored in the Great Lakes.
12. Rivers hold only about \_\_\_\_\_ percent of total freshwater reserves.
13. People have built systems, such as large \_\_\_\_\_ and small \_\_\_\_\_ to store water for when they need it. These systems allow people to live in places where nature doesn't always supply enough water or where water is not available at the time of year it is needed.