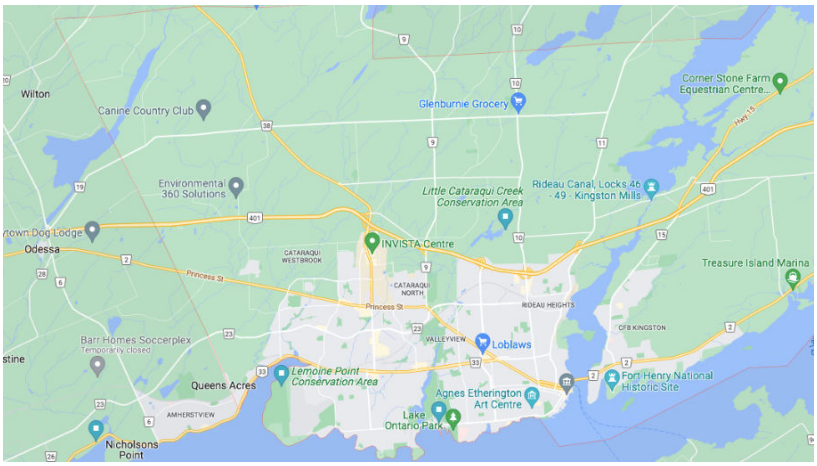
What is a Watershed?

This activity comes from National Geographic, called "In Your Watershed," and it can be found here.

To align this resource with the water bundle, we have added adaptations that attempt to localize the students and to have them reflect on the interconnectedness within watersheds, as well as their own roles and relationships to the local watersheds. Please review the activity on National Geographic's website and consider the adaptations below.

Under Direction #1, ask students to locate where the closest body of water is to them. Once they think about the local water bodies around them, you can use Google Maps on the projector to locate them and examine the different rivers, lakes, or streams and where they all connect to. You may also pin your location so that students can understand the distance from where they are, to the water body you are looking at on the map.

- Example: If you are in Kingston, you can zoom in and out to locate the various watersheds.



Under Direction #2, a map of your local area can be printed in black and white, and students can label that one as well, once they have a basic understanding of the components.

- Example: If you are in Kingston, you can print out a map of the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area watershed, by taking a screenshot directly from Google Maps. You can supplement this map with information from local conservation authorities. For the Little Cataraqui Conservation Area, you can visit Cataraqui Conservation.

Under Direction #3, ask students which sources of pollution they might find in their local watershed.

- Example, by looking at the Little Cataraqui Conservation Area, the likely source of pollution would be from roads.

To motivate reciprocity, , you can encourage students to reflect on our collective relationship with, and responsibility to the local watershed by asking these questions:

- How do our actions impact the local watersheds?
- How can we live in reciprocity with the watersheds?
- How can we engage in a more respectful relationship with the local watersheds?

Under Directions #4, students may also create the users of the watershed in any way they would like. Be sure to encourage creativity and to not limit how the students want to demonstrate their watershed model. Encourage students to demonstrate the interconnectedness (between water, land, and species) within the watershed.

Under Directions #6, students can also be asked these questions to inspire their relationship and care for the watersheds:

- If you were to spill something and it got into the water, where would that contamination go?
- If there was a spill in your area, where could that occur, and how would that affect your school's water quality?