

Lesson One:

What is a Watershed?

Instructions:

Your facilitator has initiated this lesson through a discussion topic (post) on the group page. In this lesson you will respond in writing to several prompts (questions.) Write your responses in a Word document and submit this document by attaching it with a reply to the facilitator's post.

INTRODUCTION

- Begin by clicking on [KWL](#). A KWL chart helps the user identify prior knowledge and experience as a bridge to a new concept, lesson, or unit. List what you already know about watersheds in the K (Knowledge) column. Then list what you would like to learn about watersheds in the W (Want to know) column.
- Next, read “Getting to Know Your Local Watershed: A Guide for Watershed Partnerships”, a good introduction to the topic. A link to this article can be found on the project web site on the Teacher Resources page/Content Enhancements/Readings on Watersheds. Record what you learned about watersheds from the article in the L (learned) column of the chart.
- Share the information contained in your completed KWL chart with the group by replying to your facilitator discussion topic about this lesson. Also, provide each group member with some feedback on his or her KWL charts.

WATERSHEDS

You are about to see a video about watersheds focusing on the Guadalupe River in Texas.

- Click on [Headwaters to Tidewaters](#) to start the video.
- When you have seen the video, submit your responses to the prompts below to the group.
 1. What are some of the ways in which the headlands portions of watersheds are used?
 2. Why do you think it is important to carefully manage watersheds?
 3. What are some ways in which homeowners can manage local watersheds?
 4. Why are healthy estuaries so important?
 5. Why is the management of headwaters so important to the health of tidewaters?

WATERSHEDS: PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

- Click on the [Concept Web](#). You can use the web to summarize the characteristics of watersheds. In the center of web, write the word “watersheds”. Then think of all the terms and phrases from the KWL activity, the reading, the video, and your own experience that can be used to describe and define watersheds. Record these words and phrases on the “legs” of the web.

- Share the information contained in your completed concept web with the group. Also, provide each of your group members with some feedback on their KWL charts.

Additional Resources on Watersheds

You can learn more about resources watersheds by visiting the project web site at www.geoteach.org. Go through the various links related to subject of watersheds that appear on the web site. These links can be found under Teacher Resources, Content Enhancements.