

# WATERSHED WARRIORS

Pre-Documentary Mini-Lesson



# WHAT IS A WATERSHED?



# What Is A Watershed?

**A watershed is an area of land that drains water into another larger body of water such as rivers, lakes, or bays.**



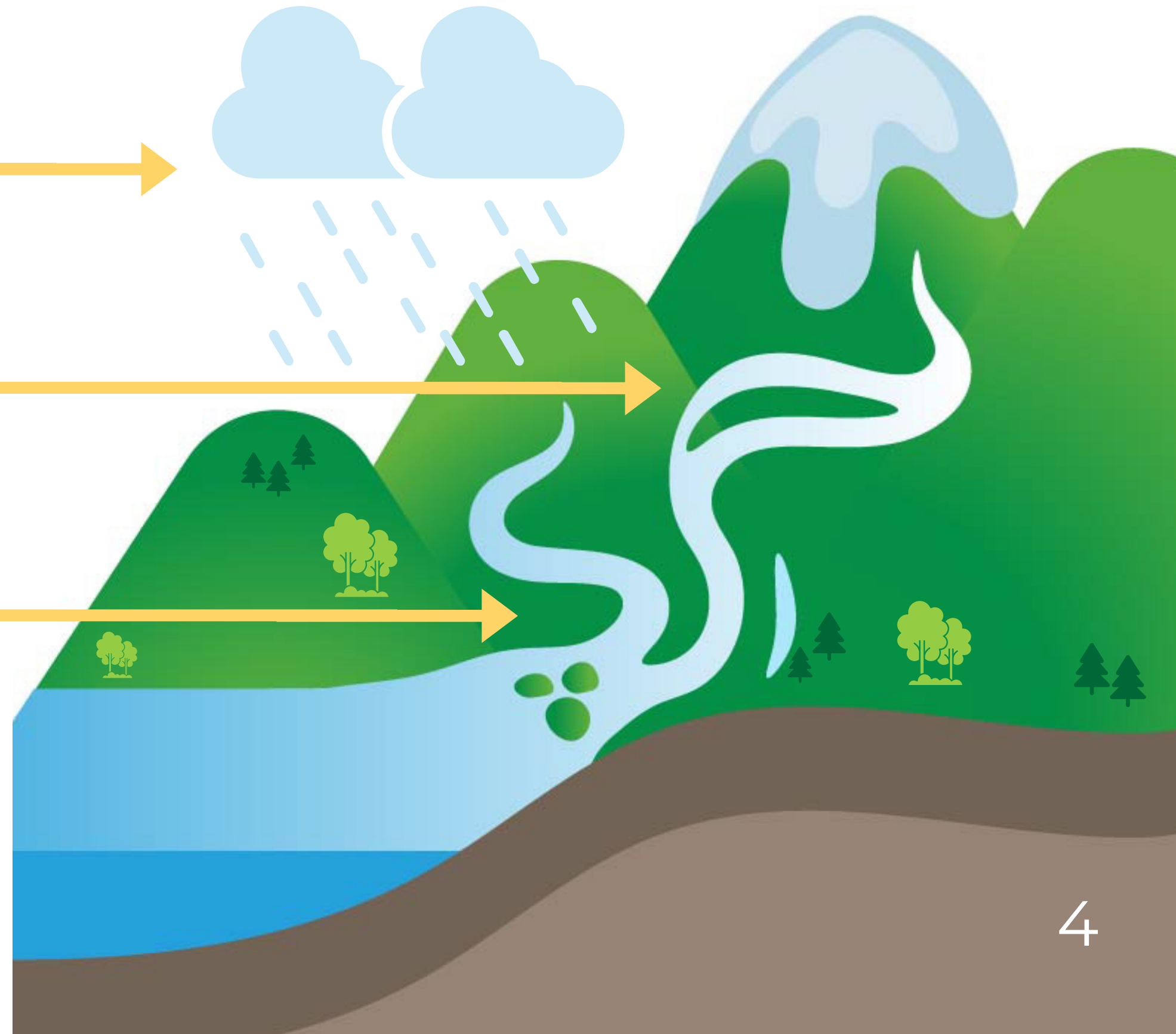
# How Does A Watershed Form?

Rain falls on the ground. \_\_\_\_\_

Water runs down hills and streets. \_\_\_\_\_

Water collects in streams and rivers. \_\_\_\_\_

The land that separates the flowing water is called a **watershed!**





A large brown bear is partially submerged in a river, holding a large fish in its mouth. A smaller cub is perched on its back, looking towards the right. The background is filled with tall green grasses and reeds. The text "Watersheds Support Complex Ecosystems" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# Watersheds Support Complex Ecosystems



# WHAT IS AN ECOSYSTEM?



# What Is An Ecosystem?

An ecosystem is the living things and non-living things in an area.

## Living Things

(Things that grow, eat, or move!)



## Non-Living Things

(Not alive, but part of the ecosystem.)



The background image shows a lush green forest lining a river. The water is clear, revealing a large school of fish, possibly koi or goldfish, swimming over a rocky riverbed. The text is overlaid on the middle of the image.

# Healthy Ecosystems Hold Indicator Species



# WHAT IS AN INDICATOR SPECIES?

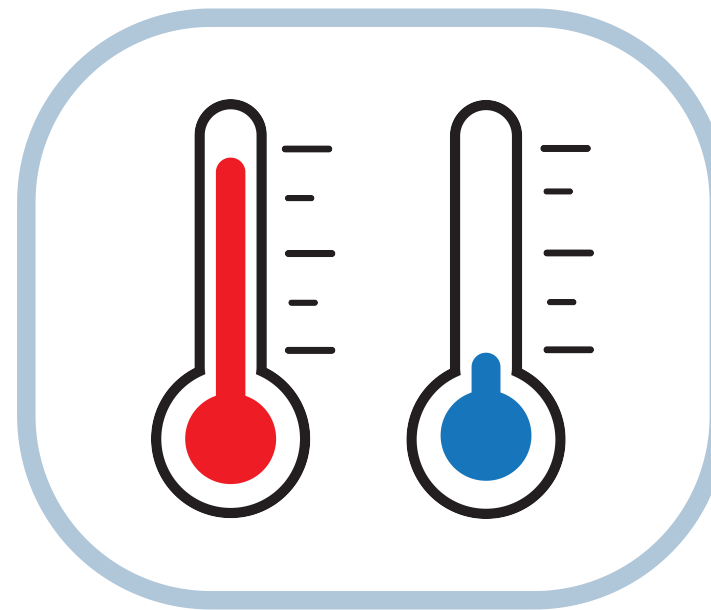


# **What Is An Indicator Species?**

**An indicator species is a plant or animal which, if found, tells scientists the ecosystem is healthy.**



**Environmental challenges can harm living things in a river ecosystem.**





# River Indicator Species

## Matching Mini-Activity

### Description

My larva are found in clean, bubbling streams.

Come catch me in cold, clear water.

I can't eat or breathe in polluted and mucky water.

I live underwater but need sunlight to survive.

### Species



Eelgrass



Freshwater Mussel



Brook Trout



Caddisfly

### Environmental Challenge

Dirty run-off comes from farms and golf courses.

Water warms up by chemical pollutants.

Lots of algae grows on the water surface from too many chemicals.

Human activity and construction nearby can make the river bottom mucky.



# River Indicator Species

## Matching Mini-Activity Answers



Eelgrass

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underwater  
but need  
sunlight to  
survive.

Lots of algae  
grows on the  
water surface  
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Freshwater  
Mussel

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Dirty run-off  
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Brook Trout

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me in cold,  
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Caddisfly

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A person with long hair, wearing a camouflage cap and an orange life vest, is seen from behind in a green canoe on a river. The canoe has "We·no·nah" written on its side. A text box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

## WATERSHED WARRIORS

This [video](#) shares the story of the work being done by the Friends of the Fox River to keep the river clean and healthy for animals, plants, and everyone in their community.