

Skills Challenge—Build your own watershed

(modified from www.miseagrant.umich.edu/flow)

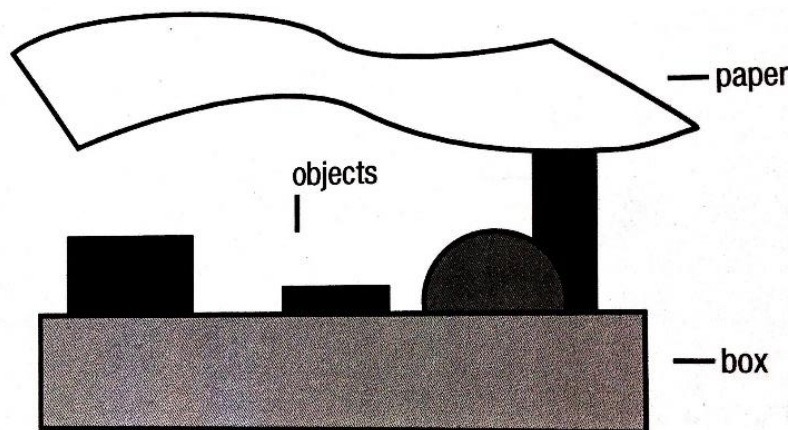
Time: 30-35 minutes

Supplies:

- Box or tray
- Butcher Paper
- Objects of various shapes and sizes
- Tape
- Non-permanent markers
- Spray-bottle with water

Do: (may be done in groups or individually)

- On a tray (e.g., cookie sheet, shallow box), place objects of various shapes and size to represent mountains and hills.
- Crumple up a piece of butcher paper being careful not to rip any holes in the paper.
- Carefully cover the tall and short objects with the sheet of butcher paper, pressing the paper down so that it looks like tall and short hills. Use pieces of tape to keep the paper from lifting up from the tray.
- On the model, mark the high areas with a “X” using non-permanent markers (e.g., Crayola)



Reflect:

- Predict how the water will flow over the model if you spray water on it. Include where water will flow and accumulate.

Apply:

- Hold the spray bottle about 5 inches from your model and spray for several minutes until you get a continual flow of water.
- Explain how the water flowed over your model (what patterns occurred)? What caused the water to flow the way it did?
- Did your observations agree or disagree with your predictions? How were they similar or different?
- Why is this information important when you are managing rangeland?