

Name _____

CATCHMENTS



I rely on
catchments

A catchment is an area where the land drains to a creek or river. The size of a catchment area can be very small or huge, covering thousands of acres. Some people study hydrology. That is the study of water and water movement above and below the land. Hydrology study is very important to the catchment. A lot of people living in the country catch water in dams. They rely on catchment to fill their dams in order to water their crops or provide water for their stock (animals). These people also catch water from their house or shed roofs and store it in tanks for drinking, washing etc. If it doesn't rain, there will be no water to catch. Droughts are not uncommon in Australia.

Write down the meaning of the words below.

Evaporation	Hydrology
Surface run off	Catchments
Rainfall	Groundwater levels

Make your own model catchment.

Everything is linked together in a catchment. People, animals and plants all share the rivers, soil and everything else found in nature. When people cut down all the trees on a mountainside it is going to cause enormous problems. Erosion is one major problem.

Collect the following materials and make your own model catchment.

- 1 milk carton
- soil
- grass seeds
- small plastic toy houses, people and animals

What to do:

Cut your milk carton in half lengthwise and fill it with soil. Create some hills and valleys. Evenly spread the grass seeds in the soil and lightly water them with a spray mister. Make sure you water lightly so the grass seeds start growing. This may take a couple of weeks. Arrange the houses, people and animals. Observe what happens and take notes. You can plant small twigs to represent trees. When your catchment has grown grass, take a cup of water and pour the lot slowly on top of the hill in the same spot. This represents a flood. Observe what happens and write down your observations. If you want to observe a drought don't water your catchment for several days and observe what happens.