**Mapping Your Watershed**

A watershed is an area where surface water from rain or melting snow converges to a simple point, typically a lake, stream or a river. Usually the stream then flows into a larger body of water where it joins other streams to form a river. A watershed can also be called a catchment or a drainage basin.

In this activity, you will be tracing three of the six main water sheds located in Pennsylvania. You will do this by coloring specific rivers and following their paths upstream until they end. Each river will be a specific color. When finished, you will have a general idea of the area which each main river drains (its watershed.)

Directions:

1. On the map of Pennsylvania, locate the following main rivers:

* Delaware River
* Susquehanna River
* Ohio River

1. For each of the main rivers choose a color and create a color key beneath your map.
2. With a colored pencil, trace the main river and continue to follow it along each pathway (stream / creek) that is connected to it until you reach each ending point.
3. After tracing each main river, examine your map for any patterns. You may notice that each main river system covers a specific area of land. This area of land is called a watershed.
4. Choose three different colored pencils. Shade in the area of land (approximately) that each watershed covers.
5. Compare your watershed map to the actual watershed map.

Follow Up Questions:

1. How many watersheds did you discover and which was the largest in area?
2. How many actual watersheds can be found in the state of Pennsylvania?
3. The majority of water that falls as precipitation in Pennsylvania ends up in three main places. What are they?
4. What watershed do we live?
5. What would happen to the watershed if someone living near the headwaters (upstream) would accidentally pollute their small stream?