

LESSON 1: River Basins

Exploration: A Sense of Place

1. Look at the map of the USA. What is the name of your state? _____
Find your state on the map. Point to it with your finger.
What is the name of the city or town where you go to school? _____
Now find your city. Point to it with your finger.

Which word best describes where you live? *Circle one.* **Flat** **Rolling Hills** **Steep Mountains**

2. Now look at the map of your state's river basins. *Can you find where you live on this map?* Point there with your finger.

What is the name of the river basin where you live?

3. Finally, look at the local relief map. *Can you find your school on this map?* Point there with your finger.

What is the area around your school like? *Circle one.* **Flat** **Rolling Hills** **Steep Mountains**

4. Place five droplets of water on the map where your school is located. Trace the water's path to the river with your finger. As you move your finger towards the river, which way do you feel the land going?
Circle one. **Up into the hills** **Down into the valleys**

5. Listen to the story your EcoTeam teacher will tell about a drop of water landing on your school. Imagine you are this drop of water. What do you see and experience on your journey to the river?
Write a story about your journey:

Vocabulary:*River Basin*

The land that water flows across on it's way to a river. The river basin also includes any streams, creeks, or small rivers that the water flows through.

Learning Activity: Draw A Map of Your River Basin

Today we will draw a map of your River Basin! Look at the local relief map. Find and follow the River along it's path. What do you see? Now turn to the next page and make your own River Basin map!