

***Lesson: Watersheds & Their Relationship to Litter***  
**Worksheet – Activity 2: Plastic in My Watershed!**



In a watershed you can see many examples of litter, in a lot of different places. The types of litter we find, and where we find them, can give actually gives us clues about where in the watershed they came from.

Litter is an example of a **pollutant**, which is something that is introduced into the environment with a negative effect. Another example of a pollutant might be different chemicals that enter a lake.

- **Can you think of some other examples of pollutants? List those here.**

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## Where do these pollutants come from?

A pollutant can enter a watershed in many different ways, and the places they come from are known as their **sources**.

Let's explore some different types of sources of pollutants in a watershed by taking a look at 7 examples. As you learn about each source, think about the different types of activities that happen at each area and how this might lead to new pollutants entering the watershed.

- **Review each source of pollutant and list the types of activities you think could happen at each of them.**

<b>Source of Pollutant Example</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>List some activities that might happen at each source</b>
<i>Eg. Agriculture</i>	<i>Farmland and greenspace where food and plants are grown or raised.</i>	<i>Raise livestock, raise crops, use fertilizers, drive tractors, feed animals</i>
<b>Industry</b>	Factories and similar buildings that create and process materials.	
<b>Residential</b>	Areas of the community where people live.	
<b>Road</b>	Connections across communities for vehicles to travel.	
<b>Landfill</b>	Large area where trash is sent to spend <i>many many many many</i> years when it can't be recycled or processed.	
<b>Commercial</b>	Areas with retail stores and local businesses where people can purchase and sell products.	
<b>Lake</b>	Body of water in a community, connected to a river or nearby stream.	
<b>Wastewater Treatment Plant</b>	A facility that cleans sewage and water from a community before the water is returned to the environment.	

**We're now going to play The Watershed Game! It's time to print off a copy of the game board and cut out the different game pieces. When you have finished the game, return to this worksheet for the final reflection questions.**

In this game we'll explore an imaginary watershed and match some examples of pollutants to the sources we just learned about. We'll also learn about how these pollutants may break up into different types of microplastics if they remain in the watershed long enough. As you learned *The Plastics Lesson*, microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic that are less than 5 mm in size (as large as your pinky nail or as small as the width of a strand of hair).

**Final reflection:** Let's wrap up and reflect back on what we learned!

- **What are some other litter items you may find in your own watershed and where might they have come from?**

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- **Can you think of any other potential sources of pollutants in a watershed that weren't shown? (answers may include agricultural lands).**

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