

Lesson 6

Water Ways

Where does the Farmington River flow?
Where does the Farmington River meet the Connecticut River?
How can I identify a water body on a map?

GOAL To follow the path of the Farmington River from Massachusetts to the Connecticut River

OBJECTIVES Students will:

- ✓ identify areas on map as they listen and follow instructions
- ✓ become familiar with the flow of rivers
- ✓ understand that land and water are part of the watershed
- ✓ follow a river from a raindrop's perspective

MATERIALS overhead transparency of map, copies of watershed maps, pencils, markers, relief map

CORE CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS

- Language Arts 1(12)
- Science 7(3-5), 8(2,6), 14(4)
- Social Studies 9(3-6), 10(5,6), 11(4,6,7), 12(1-3)

VOCABULARY confluence, tributary, watershed, map, border

PROCEDURES

1. Instruct students to observe map of Farmington River Watershed on overhead transparency. Ask if they are familiar with the term *watershed*. Define watershed for the students (*refer to background information.*).
2. Explain that a watershed consists of an area of land and water where water drains into particular water basins, such as rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands or streams, etc. Show a relief map if available. Distribute copies of watershed map for students to see.
3. Have students look at map and determine whether they are able to identify rivers, tributaries, reservoirs, lakes by sight. Discuss differences and similarities of how the bodies of water appear on the map. Identify a pond, stream, or a reservoir. (*a stream is narrower, pond is wider as it appears on map.*)
4. Show examples on overhead of river and tributaries. Ask if they are able to identify a town. Show an example of a town's border. Continue until you are comfortable with beginning the activity.
5. Explain to students that they are following the path of the Farmington River from Massa

chusetts to where it flows into the Connecticut River. They will be embarking on a journey from Massachusetts to the Connecticut River. They can imagine that they are traveling down the Farmington River as a fish or flying over the river as an eagle or riding in a canoe or raft. They will be traveling 81 miles to get to their destination. Have students refer to map on overhead and match it to their own maps.

- a. Read narratives and mark the map as students follow along marking their own maps.
- b. Mark an "x" where the west branch of the Farmington River begins (*hint – Becket, Massachusetts at the top left side of map*) Mark area on overhead.
- c. Have students follow the Farmington River with their finger or pencil down to Colebrook, CT. Have them mark the wider body of water in Colebrook. This is called the Colebrook Reservoir. Following across the top of Colebrook (*the boundary line or border*) to Hartland and parts of Granby, have them identify the boundary line of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Have the students circle Massachusetts.
- d. Return to the Colebrook Reservoir and follow the river south through Barkhamsted to the northeastern corner of New Hartford. This is where the west and east branch of the Farmington River meet. This is called the confluence. Mark an "x".
- e. Now the river follows southeasterly through Canton, Burlington and Farmington. A stretch of 14 miles through Barkhamsted, New Hartford, and Canton is designated as a "National Wild and Scenic" section, a designation that recognizes its value to recreation, wildlife and beauty.
- f. Still flowing in a southeasterly direction, the Farmington River goes through Farmington and turns to head in a northeasterly direction towards Avon and Simsbury. Place an x on the Simsbury section of the Farmington River. Once past Simsbury, the Farmington River makes a turn in an easterly direction towards Windsor. Place an "x" on the Windsor section of the Farmington.
- g. The Farmington River connects with the Connecticut River eight miles from the Rainbow Dam in Windsor. Draw an arrow in the direction of the Connecticut River.
- h. Refer to raindrop story in week one, lesson five. Follow the path of the raindrop to the Nepaug Reservoir.
- i. The raindrop flows through a piping system to treatment plants in West Hartford and Bloomfield before arriving in Hartford. Instruct students to imagine the path of the raindrop from the reservoir to Hartford and think about how the pipes would flow to the treatment plants and then to a faucet in Hartford. Then, have them imagine the water flowing to Windsor. Discuss the path the water would take.

EXTENSIONS

1. Have the students imagine that they are an eagle. Their nest is located at the Barkhamsted Reservoir. The eagle is traveling over to Simsbury, following the path of the river. Describe what an eagle might see. Have students write what they see from an eagle's view. What does the river look like?
2. Have students trace the Farmington River Watershed map. Eliminate the names of towns, rivers, or reservoirs, but have students write in names of areas.

RESOURCES

Farmington River Watershed Association, August 2003, *State of the Farmington River Watershed Report*, Farmington River Association, Inc.

GLOSSARY

border - a part that forms the outer edge of something

confluence - a flowing together of two or more streams

map - a representation, usually on a plane surface, of a region of the earth or heavens

tributary - river or stream flowing into a larger river or stream

watershed - a ridge of high land dividing two areas that are drained by different river systems

