

## Lesson 6

# Water Ways

Where does the Farmington River flow?  
Where does the Farmington meet the Connecticut River?

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

**OBJECTIVES** Students will:

- ✓ become familiar with the flow of rivers
- ✓ understand that land and water are part of the watershed

**MATERIALS** copies of watershed maps, topographic map (on CD), butcher block paper

### CORE CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS

- Science 7(6), 8(2), 14(1)
- Social Studies 9(1,3), 10(1-3), 12(1-6)

**VOCABULARY** confluence, topography, tributary, map, border

### PROCEDURES

1. Divide students into small groups and distribute a copy of the topographic map of the Farmington River Watershed (on CD). Instruct students to find contour lines. The lines correspond to elevations of the land.
2. Provide a copy of sample contour lines, elevations and topography.
3. 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.
4. Have students look at map and determine whether they are able to identify rivers, tributaries, reservoirs, lakes. Discuss differences and similarities of how of the bodies of water such as a pond, stream, or reservoir appear on map. (*a stream is narrower, pond is wider*).
5. Instruct students to follow the path of the Farmington River from Massachusetts to where it flows into the Connecticut River. Distribute large pieces of butcher block paper to groups.
7. Explain to students that they will be drawing the path of the river on the butcher block paper by referring to the copy of the map.
6. Write the following instructions on the board for the students to follow:
  - a. Mark an "x" where the west branch of the Farmington River begins at Becket, Mass. This is the source of the river. Note the elevations at this area. Draw the source.
  - b. Follow the Farmington River with your finger or pencil down to Colebrook, Connecticut. Draw the river to the wider body of water in Colebrook. This is called the Colebrook Reservoir. Label. Identify the boundary line of Massachusetts and Con-

- necticut.
- c. Follow the river south through Barkhamsted to the northeastern corner of New Hartford. This is where the west and east branches of the Farmington River meet, the confluence. Mark an “x”. Draw this section of the river.
  - d. Follow the river in a southeasterly direction 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. Draw this section.
  - e. Still flowing in a southeasterly direction, the Farmington River goes through Farmington and turns to head in a northeasterly direction towards Avon and Simsbury. Draw this part of the river, reflecting the change in direction. Place an “x” on the Simsbury section of the Farmington River.
  - f. Past Simsbury, the Farmington River makes a turn in an easterly direction towards Windsor. Place an “x” on the Windsor section of the Farmington and draw this area of the river on your paper.
  - g. The Farmington River connects with the Connecticut River eight miles from the Rainbow Dam in Windsor. Draw a portion of Connecticut River to show the connection to the Farmington.
  - h. Referring to the FRWA map, add the reservoirs and tributaries of the watershed.

## EXTENSIONS

1. Have students imagine an eagle flying over the watershed. Have them create a narrative story from the eagle’s perspective. Discuss its habitat and what it eats.

## RESOURCES

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

## GLOSSARY

**border** - the line or frontier area separating political divisions or geographic regions; a boundary

**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

**topography** - graphic representation of the surface features of a place or region on a map, indicating their relative positions and elevations

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