



I am a Drop of Water : A Watershed Experience
Kim Grim

Subject: Science, Health, English

Grades: grade 4 & 5, but can be adapted to all grades

Time: 2-3 hours/meetings

Materials:

- Nature Journal
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Computer/Chromebook with camera
- Book Creator App or use Google Slides
- Shareable file of pictures of local watershed points for your school (I.e. Sugarland Run, Potomac River, Goose Creek, etc.)

SOLs:

Science

Key science SOLs:

Grade 4

4.9 The student will investigate and understand important Virginia natural resources. Key concepts include

- a) watersheds and water resources;

Grade 5

5.7 The student will investigate and understand how Earth's surface is constantly changing. Key concepts include

- f) weathering, erosion, and deposition; and

g) human impact.

Look at your grade level specific SOLs from [VDOE Science Standards](#) that focus on life processes, and earth resources.

English

Key english SOLs:

Grade 4

4.7 The student will write in a variety of forms to include narrative, descriptive, opinion, and expository.

- a) Engage in writing as a process.
- b) Select audience and purpose.
- c) Use a variety of prewriting strategies.
- d) Introduce and develop a topic, incorporating evidence and supporting details.
- e) Organize information to convey a central idea.

Grade 5

5.7 The student will write in a variety of forms to include narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive.

- a) Engage in writing as a process.
- b) Select audience and purpose.
- c) Use a variety of prewriting strategies.
- d) Introduce and develop a topic, incorporating evidence and supporting details.
- e) Organize information to convey a central idea.

Look at your grade level specific SOLs from [VDOE English Standards](#) that focus on writing..

Health

Key health SOLs:

Look at your grade level specific SOLs from [VDOE Health Standards](#) that focus on Community/Environmental Health.

[Vocabulary](#)

Key Terms:

- Water
- Soil
- Pollution
- Weather
- Watershed
- Runoff

Engagement

- Bring the class outside to an area where they can sit and observe.
- Invite them to calm themselves and observe around them.
- Ask them to think about rain and to imagine a drop falling from a cloud.
- Read a story about the water cycle. Possible titles include:
 - [A River Ran Wild](#) by Lynne Cherry

- Snowflake by Neil Waldman
- All the Water in the World by George Ella Lyon.
- A Drop of Water by Walker Wick
- Little Rain Drop by Gina Maldonado
- Discuss the story, thinking about the water cycle and following the water as it moves through the cycle in the story.

Exploration

- Discuss the local watershed and the school's position in the watershed.
- Use a map to follow the watershed near the school. Can use google maps.
- Model creating book using Nature Journal or Book Creator (or preferred method of creating a "book" such as google slides)

Procedure

- Students should create their own water drop. If possible add their picture to the drop or have them draw themselves.
- Take students with their water drops, chromebooks, and maps of school outside.
- Students will now take pictures of their water drop at various points around the school to show a possible path of water.
- Once back inside students should narrate pictures and complete watershed experience books, narrate pictures, complete watershed experience books, and pages in their nature journal containing an illustration and text of organisms in their

watershed.

Assessment

- Students should assess work according to a rubric on water drop book.
- Assess using the nature journal judging criteria for the Peterson program. [Peterson Young Naturalist Award](#)

Links to resources:

Book List

[Slides](#)

Map resources

- <https://www.loudoun.gov/1512/Watersheds>