Warm-Up

Today you will need your notebook and pencil.

- Review from Friday’s article: When do the tallest/biggest ocean high tides occur?

River Systems

February 2, 2015

Riddle Me This….

- Why are rivers so rich?
- Because they have two banks!

Watershed

- **Watershed**: An area of land that catches water and drains into a common body of water, such as a marsh, river, lake, or groundwater.

http://bcs.whfreeman.com/saes/#805751__814023__
Watershed Analogy

- Another name for a watershed is a drainage basin
- Another name for a basin is a sink
- How is a watershed like a sink?
- They both drain to a common body of water

North Carolina’s River Basins

River Basin: HUGE! The land that water flows across (or under) on its way to a major river.

Example: Durham is located in both the Cape Fear River and Neuse River basins

http://www.eenorthcarolina.org/riverbasins-gis-map.asp

So What’s the Difference?

1. What is the relationship between a watershed and river basin?
   - Both are areas of land that drain to a particular water body.
   - River basin, all the water drains to a large river.
   - Watershed describes a smaller area of land that drains to a small river/lake.
   - There are many watersheds within a river basin.

Let’s Make a River Basin!

1. Take a piece of scrap paper from your bin.
2. Crumple it up into a ball.
3. Gently open up the paper, but don’t flatten it completely.
4. The highest points on the paper represent the mountain tops and the lowest wrinkles the valleys.
5. Choose one color and use it to mark the highest points on the map, the mountain ridgelines.
6. Choose a second color and mark the places where different bodies of water might be: creeks, rivers, and lakes.
7. Can you identify more than one watershed on your map?

River Systems

- Why do rivers curve?
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8a3r-cG8Wic
- Disturbances in nature by river banks along with the passage of time direct the flow of water to promote creating curves.

Oxbow Lake?

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2. How do oxbow lakes form?
When two river meanders (bends) join together the thalweg (fastest water) shifts and does not travel around the old meander. The shift causes deposition on the outside of the river cutting off the old meander and creating an oxbow lake.