

CO State Standards

 6th grade lessons	description & topics covered	field (f) classroom (c)	season	Life Science 1	Life Science 2	Earth Systems 1	Earth Systems 2	Earth Systems 3	Geography 1	Geography 2	Economics 1	Civics 1
Introduction to Watersheds	This lesson gives students a basic introduction to watersheds, their physical form and functionality. We will discuss the water cycle and the movement of water throughout the world. We will look at the myriad interactions between humans and watersheds and the effects that these interactions have on the ecosystem. We will discuss different ways in which humans use and transform water, focusing specifically on Colorado's Western Slope.	c	any									
Macroinvertebrate Sampling ("Bug Kicking")	This activity focuses on macroinvertebrates and their role in watersheds; it gives students the chance to experience macroinvertebrate collection first-hand. We learn about the various organisms (plants, fish, birds, and mammals in addition to the macroinvertebrates) that we find in the Upper Colorado and Eagle River basins and what their genetic characteristics and specific tolerances tell us about the watershed. We also discuss the ways in which macroinvertebrates are used to understand change over time (both long- and short-term) in an ecosystem. <i>Please note: your school may need to provide transportation for this lesson.</i>	f	fall/ spring									
Watershed Hike	This exploration gives kids a hands-on way to understand watersheds. By observing geographic patterns in areas already familiar to them, kids will better understand the physical form and functions of a watershed. We will also discuss the various factors that distinguish watersheds and their inhabitants. <i>Please note: your school may need to provide transportation for this lesson.</i>	f	fall/ spring									
Plumbing the Colorado River	In this hands-on activity, we visualize the Colorado River as a whole from source to sea. We create our own map showing where water is added to and withdrawn from the system. We discuss how water users balance water supplies and what role government plays in the allocation of this scarce natural resource. We also learn the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources. Participants gain a better understanding of the interconnected nature of the world and the way in which populations depend on abiotic factors (such as water) in an ecosystem.	c	any									