



## STATE OF THE BAY:

# State of Your Bay

### Vocabulary

Look up if needed and write a short definition.

State of the Bay

Habitat

Stormwater

Pollutants

Pesticides

Herbicides

### Introduction

The health of the Chesapeake Bay can be directly impacted by things in your neighborhood. In the following investigations, you'll explore how the features of your neighborhood affect the habitats, water quality, and fisheries of your local rivers and streams as well as the Chesapeake Bay.

These investigations pair with the "[State of Your Bay](http://cbf.org/news-media/multimedia/video/cbf-education-videos/state-of-your-bay.html)" video. (cbf.org/news-media/multimedia/video/cbf-education-videos/state-of-your-bay.html)

Review these resources before you get started, if possible:

- [What is the state of the Bay?](http://cbf.org/about-the-bay/state-of-the-bay-report/about-the-state-of-the-bay-report.html) (cbf.org/about-the-bay/state-of-the-bay-report/about-the-state-of-the-bay-report.html)
- [2018 State of the Bay Report](http://cbf.org/about-the-bay/state-of-the-bay-report/) (cbf.org/about-the-bay/state-of-the-bay-report/)

### Driving questions:

How is your neighborhood connected to the State of the Bay report?

How can your neighborhood help save the Bay?

#### 1. Investigation one: What habitat exists in my neighborhood?

A habitat is any place where an organism makes its home. Yes, this home could be a plant! Before going on your scavenger hunt, think of a few organisms that you expect to have made a habitat around your backyard or neighborhood. What organisms do you predict you will see?

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#### Backyard or Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt!

On this scavenger hunt, you'll be looking for habitats--places around your backyard or neighborhood. List at least 3 to 5 different habitats you found:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Investigation two: Where does water go when it rains in your neighborhood? What might it carry as it travels down the watershed?**

**Water collection and/or runoff:** Think about what happens to water when it rains. What will raindrops come into contact with first? Consider things like trees, roofs, roadways, or parking lots.

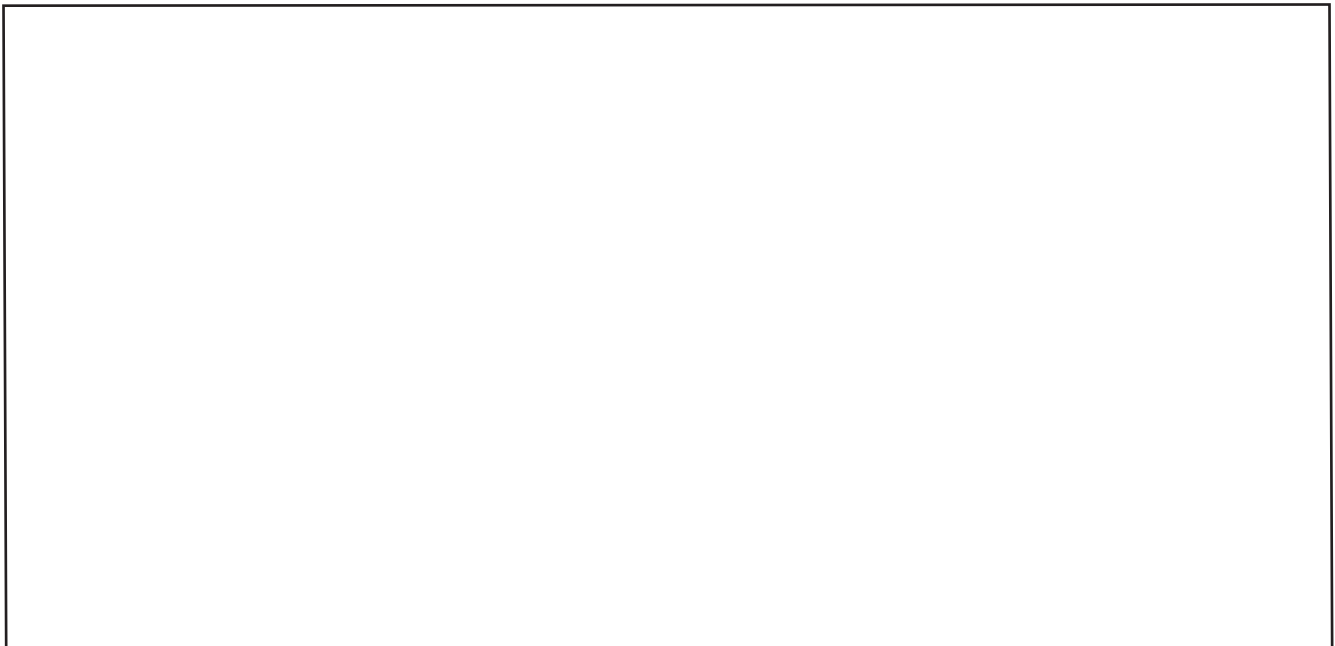
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Now think about where it goes after it makes that first contact. Will it simply pool in place until it evaporates? Will it soak into the ground? Can it be used by plants or animals?

All water that doesn't evaporate or get used by plants will eventually make its way into a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. If this water picks up pollutants on the way, these pollutants could be delivered to your local bodies of water and eventually to the Chesapeake Bay.

Draw your house or apartment in the box below. If rain fell on the roof, where would it go? Explore outside to help your investigation and draw lines to indicate where the rain would go after hitting the roof—does it go into a gutter and then out a spout into the yard? Where does it go then? \*Make sure to label your map!



## ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

Take a look at what you've drawn, recorded, or photographed and answer the following questions:

1) Can you identify any sources of pollution in your neighborhood? How might it travel to the Bay? What would its journey look like? (For example, runoff my lawn into the street, runoff the sidewalk into a storm drain, filter into a garden, be absorbed by a tree, seep into the earth and become groundwater, etc.)

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2) How might water quality affect creatures who live in your neighborhood?

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3) How might oysters, crabs, and fish in the Bay be influenced by the health of your neighborhood?

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## TAKE ACTION

Interested in HELPING TO SAVE THE BAY?

If you've been able to identify a source of pollution in your neighborhood, brainstorm some solutions below to help stop the pollution from reaching the Chesapeake Bay.

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Circle your favorite solution. Write down some action steps you can take to help make your solution a reality!

STEP 1: \_\_\_\_\_

STEP 2: \_\_\_\_\_

STEP 3: \_\_\_\_\_

STEP 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Want to learn more about how YOU can help save the Bay? Check out [cbf.org](http://cbf.org)!

### Additional Resources

- [Watershed Runoff Investigation](http://cbf.org/document-library/education-resources/how-does-the-land-affect-the-water-investigation.pdf) (cbf.org/document-library/education-resources/how-does-the-land-affect-the-water-investigation.pdf)



**CHESAPEAKE BAY  
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*Saving a National Treasure*

# INVESTIGATION

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