

WATERSHED CURRICULUM

GRADES 3RD-5TH

This curriculum is designed so students will develop a better understanding of the importance of Hawai'i's watersheds as a natural resource. They will learn about plants and their function in ecosystems. Students will learn about the role trees play in the water cycle (cloud capture, evaporation, transpiration, erosion, and aquifer recharge). They will learn where their water comes from (forest to tap). They will learn and explore the Hawaiians' management of watershed resources through the ahupua'a system. They will learn about the threats to our forested watersheds including invasive species and human activities.

Each lesson is accompanied by a PP and activity that takes one class period.

LESSON 1: PLANTS

Students will review plants parts and the life cycle. Learn the difference between common names and scientific names; and why we use scientific names.

Lesson 2: Watersheds

Students will learn about watersheds, their geographic boundaries and other characteristics as well as their important ecosystem processes. They will review the basic components of the water cycle and how the high mountain forests are connected to streams, estuaries and coastal systems. Students will learn the different vegetation layers of the forest and their roles in water collection and storage. Students will learn how water is collected and moved from forest to faucet and how our forested watersheds are the basis of our drinking water supply.

Lesson 3: Ahupua'a

Even though this is a focus on O'ahu, it can be adapted for each island. Students will learn about the ahupua'a systems. Students will learn about the ahupua'a land divisions under traditional Hawaiian system. They will also learn about different types of activities that took place in each unit within the ahupua'a.

Lesson 4: Threats to Watersheds

Students learn the difference between native, non-native, and invasive species. They will learn about specific plant and animal invaders, their impacts to the watershed, and actions to protect watersheds.

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