

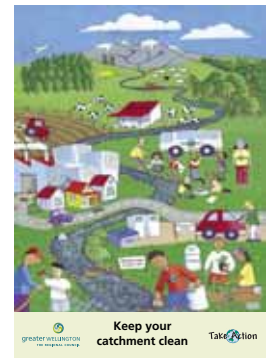
We all live in a catchment

Learning outcome

- Students can define the boundaries of a catchment on an aerial photograph.
- Students can recognise the major catchments in the Wellington region.

Method

1. Using the catchment aerial photograph (**BLM 7**), see if the class can define the boundaries of a catchment. The high points (mountain ridges) will often mark the boundary; on one side the water drains into one river and on the other side into another river. On both sides of the ridge is a different catchment although in many cases they will meet up and become part of one larger catchment.
2. Using the map of the Wellington region's main rivers (**BLM 8**), see if the students can recognise the major catchments. As a class or in groups, answer the following questions:
 - What is the name of the longest river on the map?
 - What is the name of the main catchment closest to where you live?
 - Can you find the edges of the catchment for each river? (Answer: the dotted lines).
 - Which rivers on this map flow into the following waters?
Wellington Harbour
Cook Strait
Tasman Sea
Pacific Ocean
3. Using the Keep your Catchment Clean Poster, answer the following questions:
 - Where is the water coming from?
 - How many tributaries can you spot?
 - Which pollutants might affect the health of the stream as it travels towards the sea?



Teachers' notes

This is a good activity for familiarising the students with maps and aerial photographs. We created these maps on our GIS (Geographic Information System). If you would like more detailed maps or aerial photographs of your local area we may be able to supply you with these. Please email the Action Crew for more information (actioncrew@gw.govt.nz).