# Brief Description: This activity covers the basics of how a river flows and where it ends up through coloring a model of a stream near you, and showing an example of this through an outdoor model. The activity covers these questions:

***Water Quality*Distance Learning – Elementary School Activity**

**My River Model**

What’s the difference between a lake and a river?

How can we make a model of river basin?

How does a river change the surface of the Earth?

How does the sun impact runoff from precipitation?

How might plants and animals depend on the health of a river?

# Specific Instruction

1. Students will look up their address on AcmeMapper or another mapping service, Google Maps is fine too.
2. Identify a river or stream near their home.
3. On a piece of paper, they will try to draw a diagram of the river they researched. It can be part or all of the river. They’ll take a photo.
4. Next, they will build a model of their river with the soil they found outside. They gradually pour water on to simulate a river flowing from headwater and record observations on student sheet. See student page for more details.

# Standards Correlation

3.E.2.1Compare Earth’s saltwater and freshwater features (including oceans, seas, rivers, lakes, ponds, streams, and glaciers).

3.E.2.2 Compare Earth’s land features (including volcanoes, mountains, valleys, canyons, caverns, and islands) by using models, pictures, diagrams, and maps.

4.E.2.3Give examples of how the surface of the earth changes due to slow processes such as erosion and weathering, and rapid processes such as landslides, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes.

5.P.2.1Explain how the sun’s energy impacts the processes of the water cycle (including evaporation, transpiration, condensation, precipitation and runoff).

5.L.2.3Infer the effects that may result from the interconnected relationship of plants and animals to their ecosystem.

# For More Information: You have options to assign your students additional exercises with this activity:

1. Write 2-4 sentences about what you observed. Try to use the following words in your description:

Mountain, Valley, River, Lake, Erosion

1. Record a video to describe your model. How did you make it? Can you identify different land forms in the soil? How did the water flow? Did the water move any soil? What happened when the soil moved? Where did it go?
2. Create a dance to demonstrate how the water flows down the stream. Record a video of your dance and share it with your teacher!
3. Complete the Student Copy Sheet: What Happened to My River?