

Watershed Memories Worksheet

Watershed Interview

Name: _____

Date: _____

Before You Begin

If you are able to record your interview with a voice recorder or camera, and have permission from the interviewee, do so. If not, you will have to take notes while you are interviewing. It is important, even if you know the person well, to explain why you are interviewing them and what you intend to do with the information they give you. If you are going to display it in some form somewhere, make sure the person is aware of this and agrees to it. They may feel more comfortable talking to you if it is just for you and your class. In most cases though, people are happy to share their life experiences with interested young people.

If you contribute this information to a larger history or watershed project the following details are important for researchers and historians. Even if you keep your findings for yourself and not look at them until you're twenty years old, you will be glad you wrote down the following:

1. Full legal name of the elder being interviewed (include maiden name if female):
2. Date and place of birth:
3. Date of Interview:

Prepare questions to ask before the interview. You will get answers with more detail if you ask specific open-ended questions instead of a broad, general "What do you remember about this watershed area in the past." It is also a good rule to begin with simple questions first.

Let your interest guide your questioning. Here are some sample questions you can start with.

Question Examples

- Is the house you lived in as a child still here? If so, where is it?
- Where did you go to school as a child?
- Do you have any memories of activities (playing, fishing etc.) at [insert name of local river or waterbody]?
- Where there things you did as a child or young person that you can no longer do here?
- Do you have any pictures that show this area in the past?
- Did you or anyone you know make a living from natural resources in our watershed (eg. forestry)? If so, can you tell me about it? What was different from how it is now?
- Did you or anyone you know harvest plants for food or medicine from our watershed?
- What do you think has changed the most?