The River/Watershed Game

Materials:

Poster Board
6 (or more depending on class and group size) Map pieces
Dry Erase Markers

Pre-game

Make six or more map pieces that, when put together, form a river (starting as a creek or stream at the top piece and ending with a large river, bay or ocean at the bottom). Make sure that each piece has some water on it. If laminated, you can reuse the map pieces as many times as you want. Apply Velcro pieces to the back of the map pieces and to the poster board.

The Game

Split the class into 6 (or more) equal groups. Read to the students the situation (you can also pass a copy out to each group). Allow them to develop their land as they want, but remind them that if there is a building, they will need a road, sewage treatment, power, etc.

Once everyone has finished developing their land, have each group place their property on the board one-by-one beginning with the smallest part of the river. Have the team explain what changes they have made to the property and how these changes on their property will affect the water on their property. Once all of the pieces are on the board, discuss what sort of impacts their plans will make on the entire watershed. Discuss land use alternatives that have a lesser impact on the watershed.
The River Game
“The Situation”

Your Great Aunt Moneybags has just passed away.

She has given you 50 acres of land.

Uncle Sam, the taxman, visits each year. You may use your land however you like, but you must find a way to pay these property taxes. (Aunt Moneybags had more than enough money to pay these taxes, but you are not so lucky.)

Illustrate your ideas on your map.
We will compare results later.

Do not forget to consider the need for some type of transportation, wastewater treatment, water supply, etc.

You are allowed to make arrangements with neighbors as you make your plans.
Be CREATIVE and have FUN!