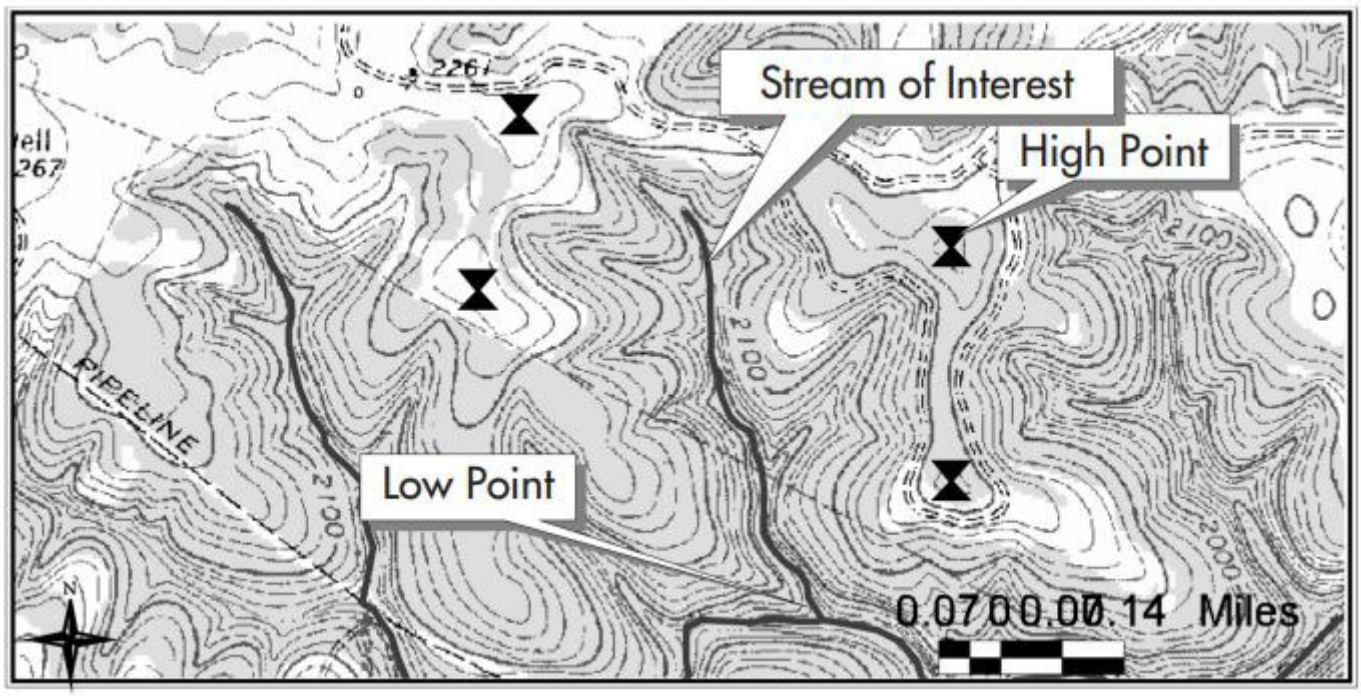
HANDOUT

Area Watershed Survey

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Environmental investigators surveyed the stream in this topographic map and discovered water pollution. Help the investigators find the pollution source by drawing the stream's watershed boundaries.



1. Look at the map and visualize the topography of the stream and the watershed. Imagine which way the water would flow over the land. Discuss together in groups.

2. Find the Stream of Interest and its Low Point.

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3. Mark the high points along the ridge of the stream.

4. Start connecting the high points, following ridges, and crossing slopes at right angles to contour lines.

5. Shade in or draw dots to fill in the estimated watershed area.

6. Locate the scale on the map and estimate the dimensions of the watershed.

Discussion

1. How does using a topographic map help environmental investigators do their job?

2. Why do environmental investigators need to identify watersheds in areas with water pollution?

3. Give an example of how an average Texan might accidentally pollute a watershed.

4. What are some ways we can help reduce watershed pollution?

Answer Key