

Watershed Model

Supplies

- Molding materials - (ex. sand, dirt, playdoh, flour, rice, oats)
- Detail materials - (ex. rocks, sticks, raisins, chocolate chips)

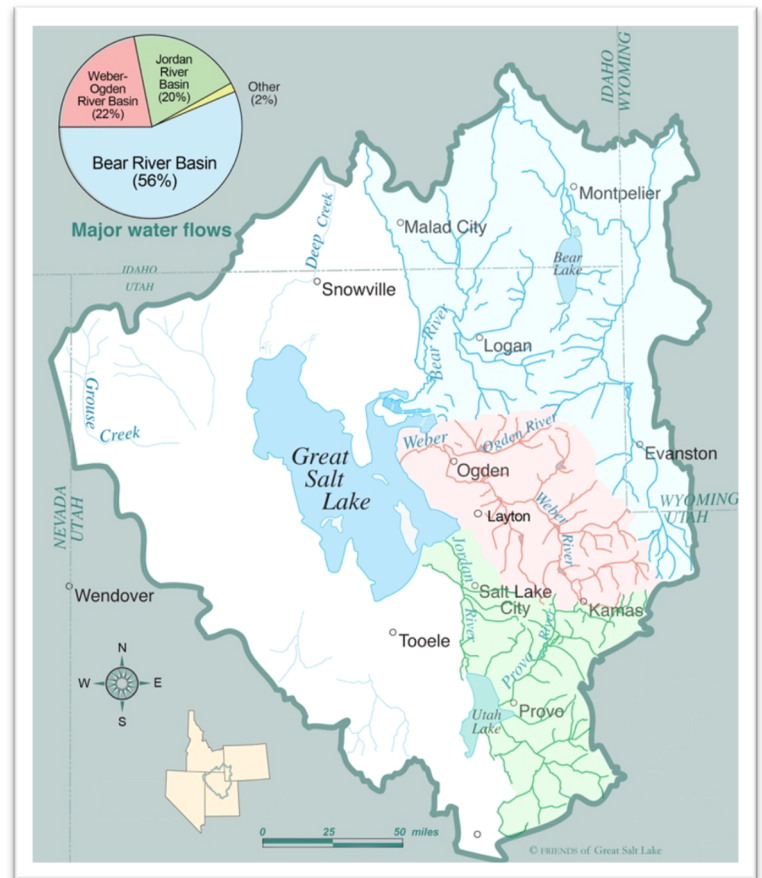
Background Information

Great Salt Lake is the lowest point in our watershed, a huge basin which is approximately 21,000 square miles. The surrounding, mineral-rich mountain ranges—the Wasatch, Stansbury, and Oquirrh mountains—provide Great Salt Lake with minerals (including salts!) through the streams and rivers that flow into the Lake. There are three major rivers that feed into Great Salt Lake: Bear River, Weber River, and Jordan River. Great Salt Lake is a terminal lake, meaning that no rivers flow out of the lake.

Activity Instructions

You will be using your building materials to model the Great Salt Lake watershed.

- Gather your molding and building materials on a flat surface.
- Using your molding materials, create a bowl shape and with a low point at the center.
- The lowest point of your bowl shape represents Great Salt Lake, and the high points of your bowl represent the mountain ranges surrounding the Lake.
- Next you will carve out the 3 major rivers that flow into the lake from the mountains. You can also use sticks or other materials to represent the rivers.
- Lastly, put your finishing touches on your model. You can use your remaining materials to mark cities, state lines, Antelope Island or some of the other 8 official islands in the Lake.



Brainstorm Questions

- How does water leave Great Salt Lake?
- Where does the salt come from?
- Can minerals and sediment evaporate?
- What would happen if water stopped flowing into Great Salt Lake?