

# PLAY



Winter  
2019

Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth

## Water Flows Through Pennsylvania

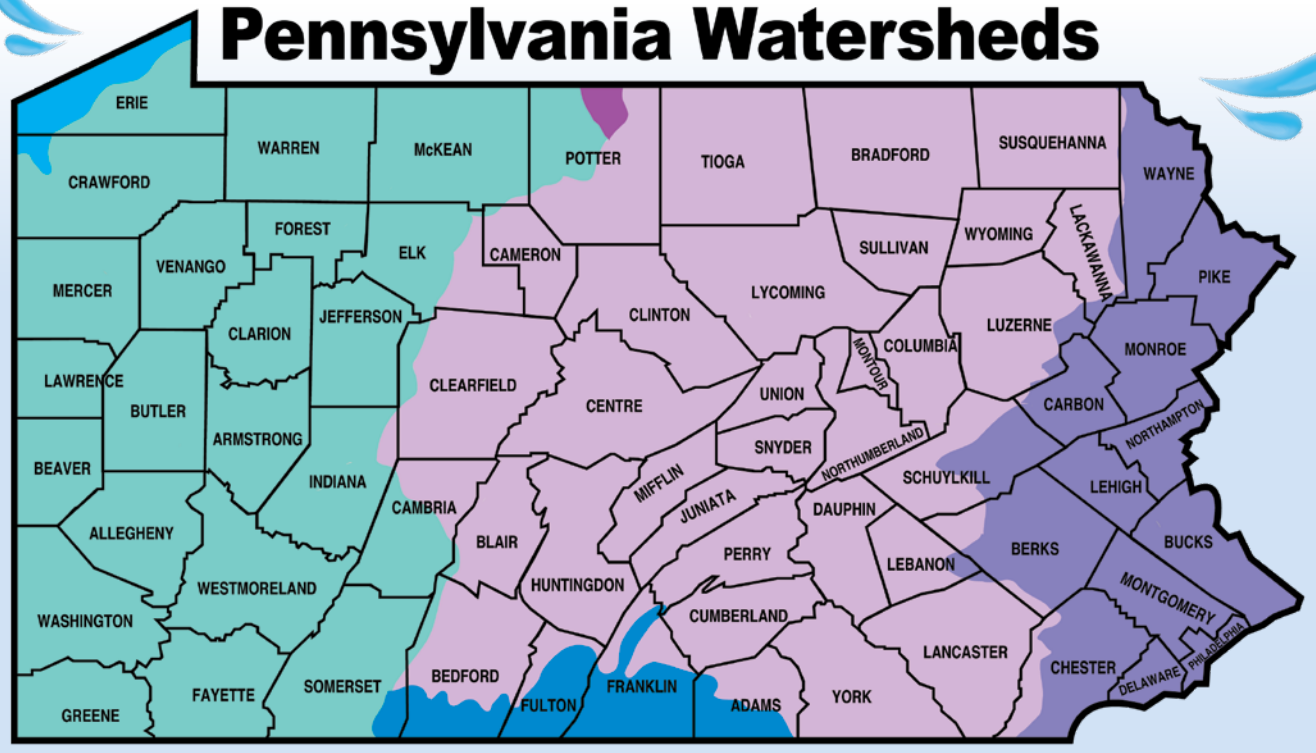
Water is all around you. It is in the ground under your feet. It flows by you in creeks. Water is in the sky, inside of trees and coming out of a garden hose.

When it rains, water on the ground travels to the ocean. The water stays within separate regions of land as it flows. Each region of land carries the water to new bodies of water, called *watersheds*. They can also be called *drainage basins*.

The invisible line that divides one watershed from the next is called a *watershed divide*. Rain that falls on one side of the watershed divide will drain into a stream in one watershed. Rain falling on the other side will drain into a different watershed.

A *river basin* is a land area that is made up of many watersheds that are drained by a river. There are 6 river basins in Pennsylvania. We call them the major watersheds.

### Pennsylvania Watersheds



- ERIE**
- OHIO**
- GENESEE**
- POTOMAC**
- SUSQUEHANNA**
- DELAWARE**

# Pennsylvania's Biggest Watershed

In the middle of Pennsylvania, there is a wide river. The state capital of Harrisburg sits on this river. Do you know the name of this river? It is the Susquehanna River.

The land around the Susquehanna River makes up the **Susquehanna Watershed**. This major watershed begins in New York. It runs through the center of Pennsylvania and ends up in Maryland.

Of the six major watersheds in Pennsylvania, there are three large ones and three smaller ones. The Susquehanna Watershed is the biggest watershed in Pennsylvania.

To find out the size of each major watershed, look at the "Pennsylvania Water Resources" box below.

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) was formed in 1866 to help protect the fish in

the Susquehanna River. Today, PFBC protects and conserves aquatic species throughout Pennsylvania.



## Pennsylvania Water Resources

### Major Watersheds:

1. Erie Watershed
2. Ohio Watershed
3. Genesee Watershed
4. Susquehanna Watershed
5. Potomac Watershed
6. Delaware Watershed

511 square miles within Pennsylvania  
 15,614 square miles within Pennsylvania  
 94 square miles within Pennsylvania  
 27,510 square miles within Pennsylvania  
 1,584 square miles within Pennsylvania  
 6,422 square miles within Pennsylvania

### Miles of Rivers and Streams (approx.)

86,000 miles

### Number of Lakes, Reservoirs and Ponds (approx.)

4,000

### Estuaries, Harbors and Bays (Delaware and Presque Isle)

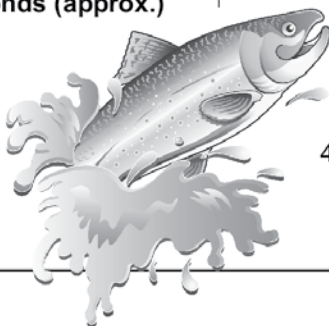
23 square miles

### Freshwater Wetlands (approx.)

404,000 acres

### Amount of Groundwater (approx.)

80 trillion gallons



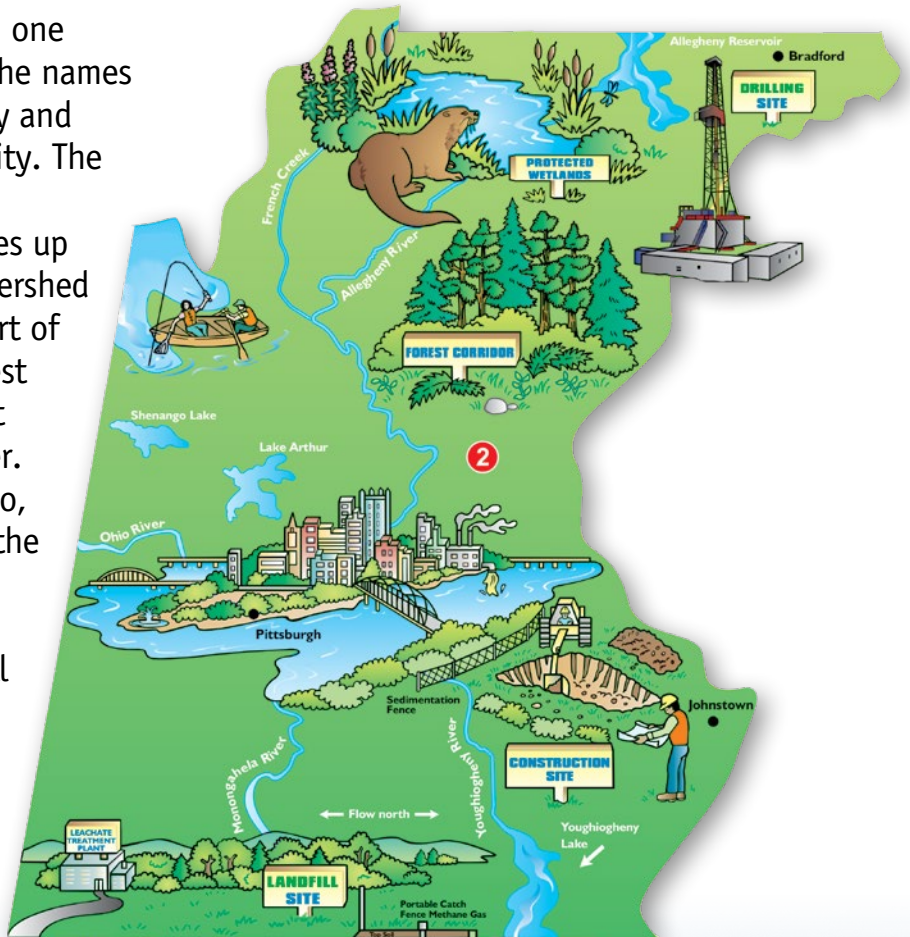
# The Water in the City of Pittsburgh

In western Pennsylvania, there are two rivers that flow into Pittsburgh and one river that flows out. Do you know the names of these three rivers? The Allegheny and Monongahela rivers flow into the city. The Ohio River flows out.

The land around these rivers makes up the **Ohio Watershed**. The Ohio Watershed leads water through the western part of Pennsylvania. It carries water to the Mississippi River. Then, it travels to the Gulf of Mexico, where the Gulf Stream carries it to the Atlantic Ocean.

When you visit Pittsburgh, travel over the many bridges, and you will see the rivers. You may also see some commercial boats.

Many cities are built on big rivers, because rivers are a great resource. Rivers provide water, food and transportation.



Point State Park, Allegheny County

# Pennsylvania's Eastern Border is a River

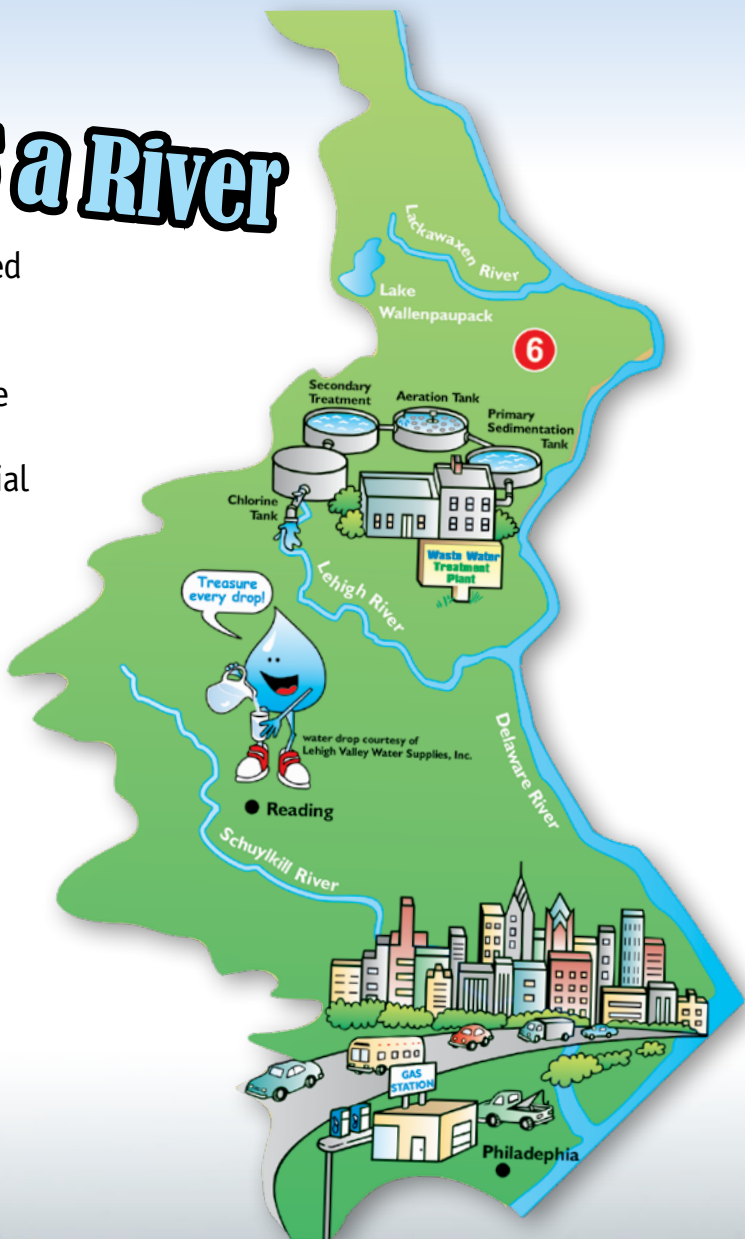
Pennsylvania's third largest major watershed has the same name as the river that is our eastern border. The city of Philadelphia sits on this river. Do you know its name? It is the Delaware River.

This river is also used for a lot of commercial ships. Visit the Philadelphia waterfront, and you may see big ships and tug boats.

The **Delaware Watershed** is called a *tidal basin*, due to tidal flows from the Atlantic Ocean. But, not all parts of the watershed are influenced by the tide.

Pennsylvania shares the Delaware River with four other nearby states—Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and New York.

The river is home to many fish including migratory fish that swim up from the ocean. We must all do our best to keep rivers clean and protected.



# Most Famous of the Three Smaller Watersheds

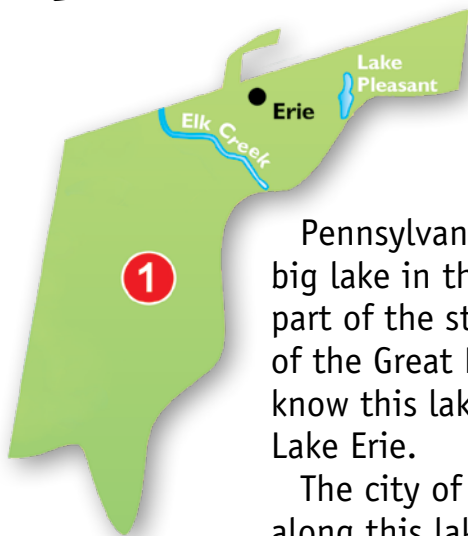
The State of Maryland has a big river called the Potomac River. Do you know where this river goes? It goes to Washington, D.C., our nation's capital.

Pennsylvania has a small part of the **Potomac Watershed**. It is in the lower southcentral part of Pennsylvania. Water



flow through Washington, D.C., starts its journey here.

# The Two Smallest Major Watersheds in Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania borders a big lake in the northwest part of the state. It is one of the Great Lakes. Do you know this lake's name? It is Lake Erie.

The city of Erie sits along this lake and is in the **Erie Watershed**. The water from this major watershed flows from Lake Erie over Niagara Falls. Then, it goes down the Saint Lawrence River and out to the Atlantic Ocean.

The last major watershed in Pennsylvania just touches the northcentral part of the state. It is the start of the Genesee River. Can you guess its name? It is the **Genesee Watershed**.

This watershed is in the northern part of Potter County, and water starts its trip in Pennsylvania and flows up into New

York state. It then flows into Lake Ontario and ends up in the Atlantic Ocean.



Presque Isle Bay, Erie County

# Keep Your Watersheds Clean

Polluting our watersheds will eventually pollute the water somewhere else. If we keep our water clean, it will help our friends downstream.

What are easy ways to help keep watersheds clean?

- Clean up, and do not leave trash behind.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle plastic, metal and paper.
- Do not flush chemicals and medicines down the drain.

Healthy water=healthy fish=healthy people.

## Clean Watersheds! Clean Water!



# Let's Review!

Now is the chance to show what you know about watersheds. Have your family

and friends do the following activities with you.

## Six Major Watersheds of Pennsylvania

Look through this issue of *PLAY* to find the names of the six major watersheds that are in Pennsylvania. Write the name

of the major watershed next to the numbers in the red circles on the image below. *Hint: the names are in bold.*



## Keep Your Watersheds Clean

On the lines below, list some ways you and your friends and family can help keep watersheds clean.

---

---

---

---

To learn which fish species are found in Pennsylvania's major watersheds, visit [www.fishandboat.com/Fish/PennsylvaniaFishes/GalleryPennsylvaniaFishes/Pages/PASpeciesWatershed.aspx](http://www.fishandboat.com/Fish/PennsylvaniaFishes/GalleryPennsylvaniaFishes/Pages/PASpeciesWatershed.aspx).

To learn more about PFBC, visit [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com). Visit PFBC on social media at [www.fishandboat.com/socialmedia](http://www.fishandboat.com/socialmedia).

*Produced by:* the Bureau of Outreach, Education & Marketing  
*Written by:* Dee Fisher, Central Regional Outreach and Education Coordinator, and Adam Spangler, Southcentral Region Education Specialist  
*Editor:* Spring Gearhart  
*Design and illustrations:* Andrea Feeney, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and PFBC archives  
*Photos:* PFBC archives and Spring Gearhart  
© Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission