

**Worksheets**

**Story of Cattai**

**What Happened to Our Creek?**

**What is a water catchment?**

A ‘catchment’ is an area that collects rainwater as it falls to earth. This water drains to the lowest point due to gravity, collecting in streams and creeks, which then combine to form larger waterways, such as lakes or creeks that flow to the sea. A catchment is physically defined by the landscape and can be seen on a map, bordered by a ring of hills. Within a large catchment there are many smaller catchments.

**Some suggestions to help reduce your impact on your local waterways:**

* take shorter showers
* use lawn clippings and fallen leaves for compost
* don’t put garden waste into stormwater drains
* don't put rubbish down the toilet or sink – it can clog up the sewer system
* only use the dishwasher when it is full to reduce the amount of water and detergent being sent to the sewer
* clean up your dog's poo when you take it for a walk
* plant trees, shrubs and native grasses along the creek bank to reduce erosion
* pick up litter when you see it, so that it doesn't wash into our waterways via stormwater drains
* ask smokers to make sure that they don't drop their cigarette butts on the ground, as these wash into our waterways via stormwater drains. Cigarette butts are slow to decay, and when fish swallow them, they can become sick or even die.

**Class Discussion**

**Student Sheet 1**

What is a water catchment?

Look at a map and find out which catchment your school is in:

List 5 ways that you might be able to reduce your impact on your local waterway:

1

2

3

4

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