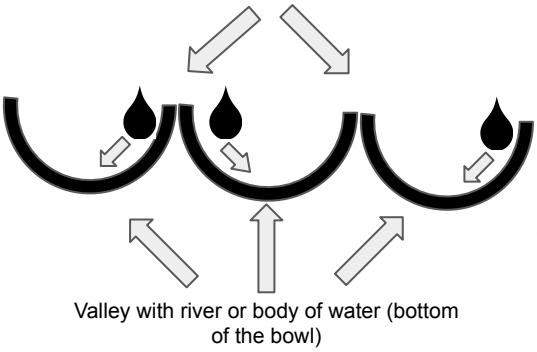
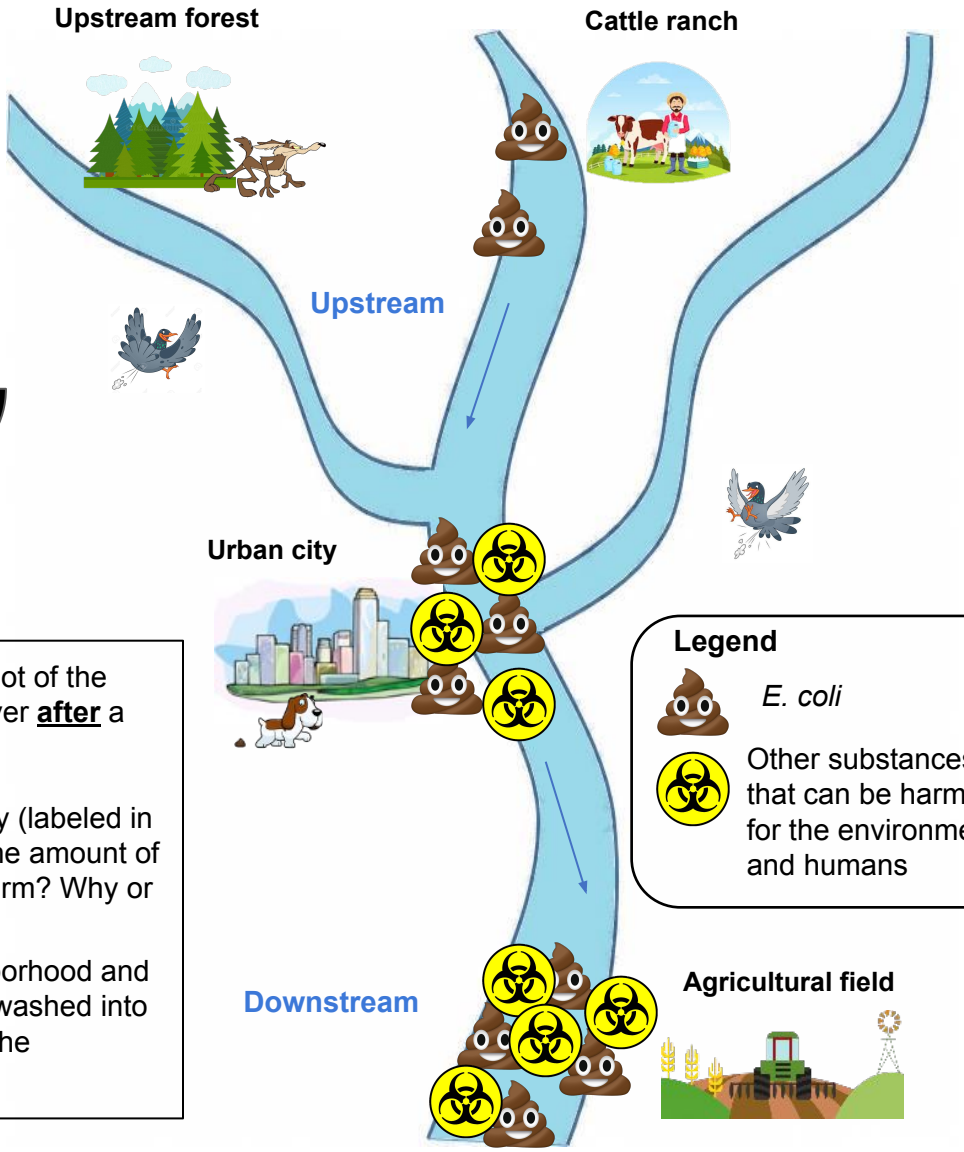
What the poop!? (for all ages!)

E. coli is a common bacteria found in poop of warm-blooded animals, like dogs and humans. If you eat or drink something with this bacteria in it, it can make you sick. Do you think there is a lot of *E. coli* in the Rio Grande? How did it get there? Learn more about *E. coli* and other pollutants in water through this activity!

*We all live in a **watershed,** or an area of land where water that falls on it drains to the lowest point. Watersheds are almost like a bowl, where water slides down the edges to the bottom:*





The watershed on the right is a snapshot of the pollutants that can be washed into a river **after** a storm happens.

1. Do you think that each community (labeled in black, bold text) releases the same amount of pollutants into the river after a storm? Why or why not?
1. Go for a walk around your neighborhood and try to find pollutants that can get washed into the river after a storm. What are the pollutants?

Take it to the next level:

This table has the amount of *E. coli* and other substances **BEFORE** a storm. Complete the table by counting how many emojis (*E. coli* and other pollutants) are in each of the communities **AFTER** a storm. Create a bar graph of the results for before and after a storm. Which community has the most polluted water after a storm? Why?

	Cattle ranch		Urban city		Agricultural field	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
E. coli	**1**		**2**		**1**	
Other	**0**		**1**		**1**	

Every community, including Albuquerque, is downstream of someone, and other communities are downstream of us! Research how contaminants like *E.coli,* pesticides, fertilizers, and oil impact animals and humans. What is one thing you can do to help decrease the amount of these substances in the river? Remember, there is no (dog) poop fairy!