Watershed Search

Follow these directions for the accompanying map. You will need blue, green, red and regular-leaded pencils.

- 1. What is the name of your city? Locate and label it on the map and write it in with your pencil.
- 2. Find the river nearest to where you live. Label the mountain range where it begins.
- 3. In BLUE, trace the path of this river from its source to where it meets the sea.
- 4. With a GREEN pencil, color in the salt water near the mouth of that river.
- 5. In RED, circle where the freshwater river meets and mixes with the salt water from the ocean. This place is called an estuary.

- 6. Find and label these rivers and trace their paths using BLUE: Fraser, Nooksack, Skagit, Stillaguamish, Snohomish, Duwamish, Puyallup, Nisqually, Deschutes, Chehalis, Willapa, Columbia.
- 7. In RED, circle the estuaries where these rivers meet the salt water.
- 8. Label the following cities with your regular pencil: Portland, Olympia, Tacoma, Seattle, Everett, Stanwood, Bellingham, Vancouver, BC.
- 9. How many of these cities are near an estuary?
- 10. Find and label Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia. This "inland sea" is one large estuary with many smaller estuaries in it. Color it blue.

As you may have noticed, many cities in Washington are built near an estuary. This is also true for many of the largest cities in the world. **Bonus:** Look at a world map. List 10 large cities built on estuaries. Make a list of ways these cities might affect their estuary.

Adapted from South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

