Student Activity: Name _____

Your Drinking Water

All citizens should understand fundamental information about their drinking water: where it comes from; what contaminants might be in it; where potential contaminants come from; what to do about drinking water contamination; and where to go for more information. Public water suppliers are required to publish information about drinking water on a yearly basis. Students, and their parents, should be aware of this information about their drinking water.

Obtain a **Drinking Water Quality Report** for the water you drink at school or home. Answer the following questions about your drinking water.

1. What percentage of people in your county use ground water for drinking?

2. What percentage of people in Indiana use ground water for drinking?

3. Name the source of your drinking water (ground water, surface water, or a mix.)

4. What does MCL mean?

5. If any contaminants are found in your local drinking water list the level (or range of levels) found and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) health-based standard. Note that the level listed will usually be the annual average.

Contaminant	Level found in your water	Standard (MCL)

Watershed Connections

6. List the likely source of any contaminants found to be <u>in violation</u> of the EPA standards and the typical source.

Contaminant	Level found in your water	Standard	Typical source

7. Is your water supplier in compliance with monitoring, record keeping, treatment, and reporting rules? (Note – suppliers are only required to report any infractions to these rules, so if no information is listed in the water quality report they are in compliance.)

8. What groups of people are more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water?

9. If nitrate, arsenic, or lead levels are detected above 50% of EPA's standard what information is given to help you understand these contaminants?

10. Where can you get additional information about your drinking water supply?