

Tributaries of the James River

1. What is a Tributary? Define in your own words.

A smaller stream or river that flows into a bigger river or lake, or the mainstem.

2. Name three major tributaries that empty into the James:

Jackson River, Cowpasture River, Chickahominy River, Appomattox river, Rivanna River, Hardware River, Maury River, and Tye River. Any three of these are acceptable.

3. Activity: Which Tributary am I?

Go to Google Maps (<https://www.google.com/maps>) and enter the Latitude and Longitude for each Letter below. Using google maps, you can figure out the name of the tributary, as well as track its flow to the James River. The first one is done for you.

- A. 37.617987, -78.909168

What is the Name of your Tributary?

Buffalo Creek

How does this Tributary flow into the James River?

Buffalo Creek > Tye River > James River



Does this Tributary system empty into the Upper, Middle, or Lower Section of the James River? How do you know?

Middle James, because the Tye River empties into the James downriver of Lynchburg, but upriver of Richmond.

B. 37.617987, -78.909168

What is the Name of your Tributary?

Whistle Creek

How does this Tributary flow into the James River?

Whistle Creek > Maury River > James River

Does this Tributary system empty into the Upper, Middle, or Lower Section of the James River? How do you know?

Upper James, because the Maury River empties into the James River upriver of Lynchburg.



C. 37.990952, -78.310051

What is the Name of your Tributary?

Buck Branch

How does this Tributary flow into the James River?

Buck Branch > MeChunk Creek > Rivanna River > James River

Does this Tributary system empty into the Upper, Middle, or Lower Section of the James River? How do you know?

Middle James, because the Rivanna River flows into the James downriver of Lynchburg, but upriver of the Fall Line in Richmond.



D. 37.339360, -76.950791

What is the Name of your Tributary?

Morris Creek

How does this Tributary flow into the James River?



Morris Creek > Chickahominy River > James River

Does this Tributary system empty into the Upper, Middle, or Lower Section of the James River? How do you know?

Lower James, because the Chickahominy River flows into the James River downriver of the Fall Line in Richmond.

Final Challenge (Optional): See if you can figure out your Watershed Address!

Type your own address into Google Maps and see if you can figure out where water from your own yard will end up.

What Mainstem do you contribute to?

What is the path that the water from your yard will take?