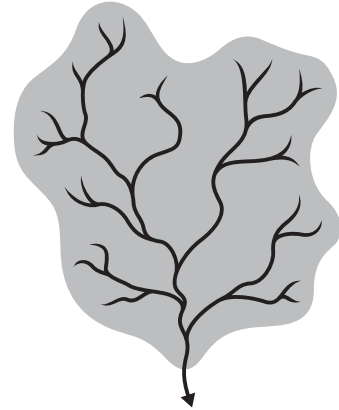


# Investigating rivers and streams

A river basin is the area drained by a river.

The diagram on the right shows what a river basin looks like. It is the area containing all of the streams that drain to a chosen place.

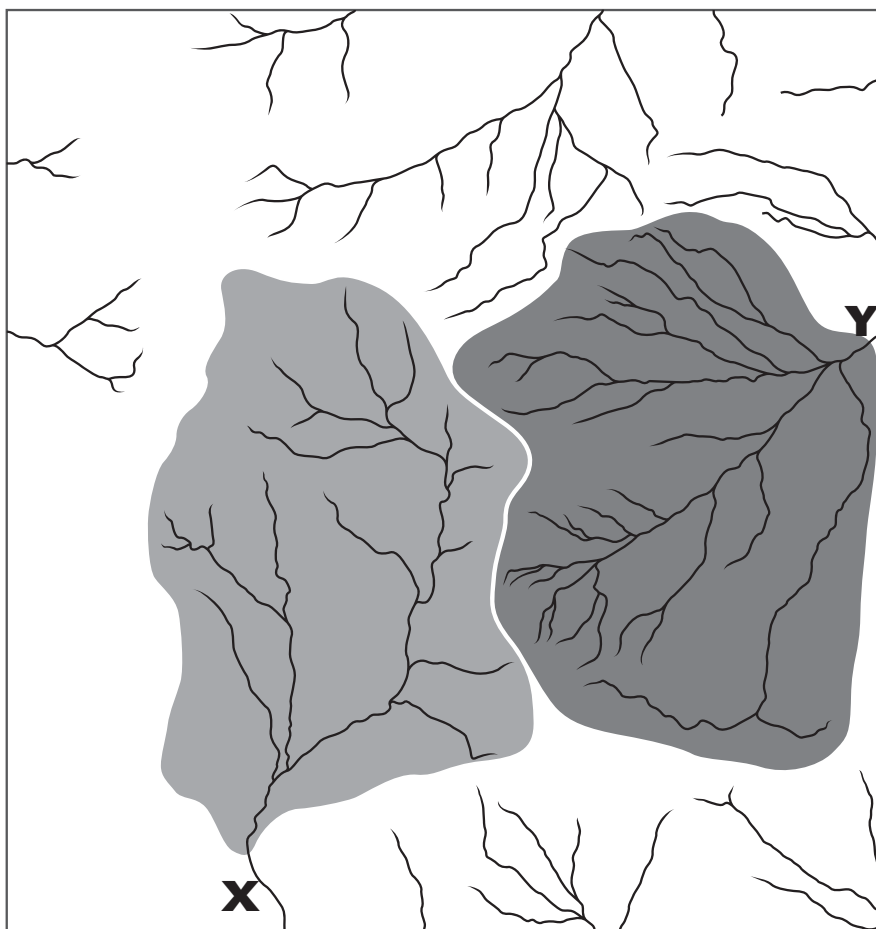


Look at the diagram below which shows the streams in an area. Draw a line around the streams that drain to point X. This is the basin for X. Now do the same for Y to find the basin to point Y.



## Answers

see map below



## Background support

A drainage basin is the most fundamental unit of a river system. Rivers drain all of the area within their basin.

Students can find out the basin by looking at all of the streams that drain to a certain point and then putting a line around them as shown in the example at the top of the page.

When students do this exercise they should not leave gaps between basins. It does not matter if the less able do not follow this, but the more able should be encouraged to understand that the whole of an area has to drain to the rivers that run across it.

With the more able you may also want to find the basin for the area covered by your local map. The aim is to keep the size of the basin down, so you will have to choose a basin that does not take up a whole roll of tracing paper. Hilly and mountain country maps are often better to use than lowland.

The benefits of this exercise are in getting

students to work with a map and to extract information from it that can be applied to particular purposes. Many students are not familiar with interpreting maps and will need a lot of assistance.