

# WATERDROPS

Volume 1 - Issue 1

## Teacher's Guide

Welcome to the first issue of WaterDrops! As part of the Splash! Water Resource Education program, the Southwest Florida Water Management District offers this water resource newsletter for elementary students in grades 3–5. The newsletter, correlated to grades 3–5 of the Sunshine State Standards, provides an interesting way for students to increase their awareness and respect for our precious water resources.

WaterDrops includes fiction, nonfiction, writing and drawing activities, games, and Web sites to explore. Let WaterDrops make a splash in your classroom!

Sincerely,



Beth Bartos  
In-School Education Coordinator  
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Page 1

**Hello Readers!**

Water plays an important role in our lives. Ask students to list several ways that we use water. Discuss what it means to use water wisely.

Page 1

**Water Drips and Drops**

It's fun to learn facts about water. A typical person uses a large amount of water on a daily basis. Following are a few ways to conserve water. Take shorter showers. Install low-flow showerheads. Run only full loads in a washing machine or dishwasher. Water lawns only when necessary. Fix leaky faucets. Ask students to add to the list.

*Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.2.2.1*

Pages 2 & 3

**Feature Story**

Read the story together. Discuss the different parts of the water cycle: solar energy, evaporation, condensation, precipitation, transpiration, percolation. Explain the importance of percolation in this continuous cycle.

*Sunshine State Standards: LA.A.2.2.1, VA.B.1.2.1*

Page 4

**Take It Home**

Discuss the importance of water conservation in the home. Have students identify the type of showerhead used in their homes. Explain the examples included in the experiment. Then change the shower time to 5 minutes and redo the calculations. Encourage students to try the shower experiment at home. For an extended activity, make a chart of their results. Ask students to draw conclusions based on this information and list ways to conserve water.

*Sunshine State Standards: MA.A.3.2.3, MA.B.1.2.2, SC.D.2.2.1*

Page 4

**Ask Water Cycle Wanda**

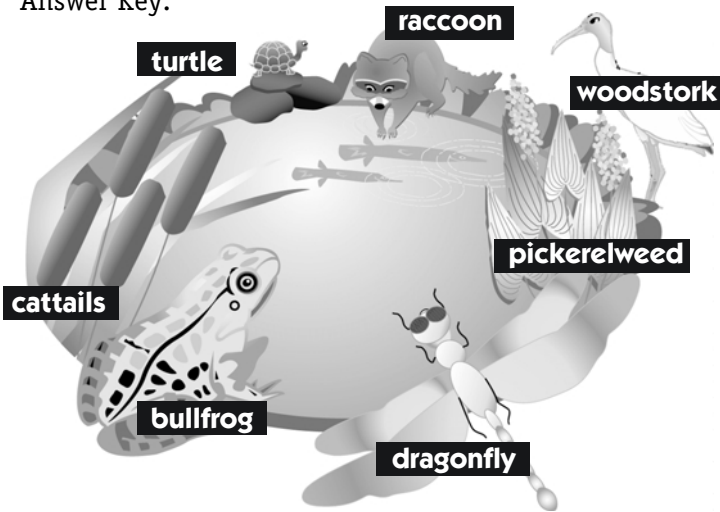
Select two students to play the roles of Roberto and Water Cycle Wanda. Ask these students to read their parts. Discuss with the rest of the class where they may be able to locate additional information about hail and rain. Sources of information may include books, pamphlets, TV weather channel, radio, Internet, etc. Ask students to think of another question for Water Cycle Wanda and send it to the address listed at the bottom of page 4.

*Sunshine State Standards: SC.A.1.2.2*

Discuss the many kinds of plants and animals that live in or near a pond. Help students to complete the labeling activity. Ask students to write a few sentences about playing at a pond. For an additional activity, locate books on pond life and have students research different plants and animals that may live in this habitat.

Sunshine State Standards: LA.B.2.2.5, SC.G.1.2.2

Answer Key:



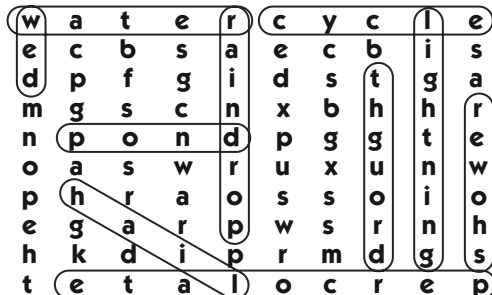
Before reading the article, ask students to share their experiences with lightning and thunderstorms. Read the article together and ask students to complete the sentences at the bottom of the page.

Sunshine State Standards: LA.A.2.2.1

Fill-in-the-Blank Answer Key:  
environment, 7,000, shelter

WaterDrops Word Search

- pond
- dew
- water
- cycle
- raindrop
- percolate
- drought
- lightning
- hail
- shower



Answer Key:

rainstorm, percolate, splash, drops, lightning, shower

Surf the Web sites listed for interesting topics about water. As an extended activity, ask students to prepare research questions and search for answers on the Internet.

The National Wildlife Federation —  
<http://www.nwf.org/kids/cool/water2.html>

Surf Your Watershed —  
<http://www.epa.gov/surf>

The Southwest Florida Water Management District —  
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swfwmd/kids.html>

Water Wiser —  
<http://www.waterwiser.org>

The Environmental Protection Agency —  
<http://www.epa.gov/kids>

Discuss several ways that families can conserve water in their homes. This closing activity can be submitted by an individual student or as a classroom set.

Many other free materials are available from the Southwest Florida Water Management District. We also offer water resource workshops for teachers in your county. Forms are included for your convenience.

Please contact us at 1-800-423-1476 if you have any questions or suggestions about our water resource education programs.

Southwest Florida  
Water Management District



The District does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation under the ADA should contact the Communications Department at (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (Florida only), TDD only 1-800-231-6103 (Florida only).

