

WATERDROPS

Watershed Issue

Teacher's Guide

Welcome to the watershed issue of WaterDrops! As part of the Splash! Water Resources Education program, the Southwest Florida Water Management District offers this water resources newsletter for elementary students. The newsletter is correlated to grades 3-5 of the Sunshine State Standards and provides an interesting way for students to increase their awareness and respect for our precious water resources. To better prepare your students for testing, we have included WaterDrops Challenge, which contains items similar to those that may appear on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

This issue of WaterDrops focuses on watersheds. It includes fiction, nonfiction, writing, drawing and problem-solving activities, games, and a Web site to explore. All of the information and activities are designed to teach students about watersheds. Let WaterDrops make a splash in your classroom today!

Many other free materials are available from the Southwest Florida Water Management District. To order water resources education materials, call 1-800-423-1476, ext. 4757 (Florida only), or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4757, or visit the Educators section at www.swfwmd.state.fl.us

Sincerely,



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

in that area. Water always flows downhill, so an area's elevation determines watershed boundaries. Be sure to read all parts of the newsletter before you use it with your students. For additional background information, visit the Web sites presented on page 8 of the newsletter, or contact the District at 1-800-423-1476, ext. 4757, to request a copy of *Water Smart Connections*.

Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.1.2.4, SC.D.1.2.5.

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Water Drips & Drops

It's fun to learn facts about water. On a map of North America, ask students to locate the Mississippi River. Use a pointer or your finger to trace the main part of the river, as well as the different tributaries. Ask students to identify different cities located near the river.

Sunshine State Standards: SS.B.1.2.1, SS.B.2.2.2, SC.G.2.2.2

Pages 2 & 3

Feature Story

Read the story together. Emphasize the fact that a healthy watershed is vital for a healthy environment and economy. Discuss the importance of keeping a watershed clean and healthy. Ask students to describe their ideas about a school area cleanup. Then ask students to complete the writing activity.

Sunshine State Standards: LA.A.2.2.5, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.6, SC.D.2.2.1, SC.G.2.2.1

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Take It Home

Prepare your students for the activity that they will do at home. You may want to do a demonstration of the experiment in the classroom. Make sure that students have the materials for completing the experiment at home. Ask students to read the directions for making a watershed. Encourage them to try the experiment at home. Ask students to share their notes and draw conclusions about what they learned about watersheds. For an extended activity, organize a contest for the most interesting watershed.

Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.1.2.3, SC.D.1.2.4, SC.D.1.2.5, VA.A.1.2.1

Page 1

Hello Readers!

A watershed can be defined as an area of land that water flows across as it moves toward a stream, lake, river or coast. A watershed is a collection site for all the water in an area. The water, solids, sediments and dissolved materials within a watershed drain toward the water body

Ask students to give examples of different watersheds. Then select two students to play the roles of Terry and Water Cycle Wanda. Ask the students to read their parts. Emphasize that watersheds exist in many forms and that we all live in a watershed.

Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.1.2.4, SC.H.2.2.1

Ask students to think about the different types of fresh water bodies. Discuss their different characteristics based on shape and size. Read the descriptions together and ask students to complete the activity.

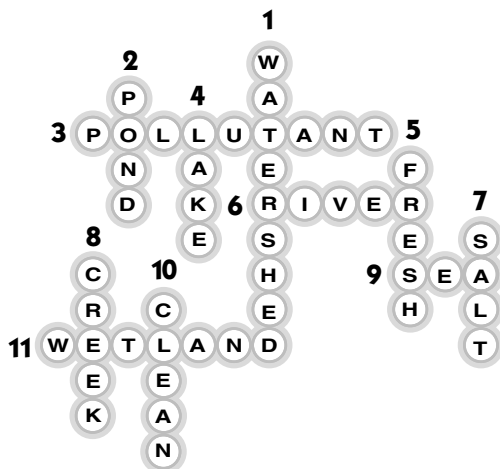
Answers: 1= creek, 2= pond, 3= lake, 4= river, 5= wetlands

Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.1.2.4, SS.B.1.2.1

Discuss the concept of pollution with your students. Ask students to describe several different types of pollution that can harm the environment. Read about how pollutants affect the quality of our water. Ask students to complete the fill-in-the-blank exercises.

Fill-in-the-Blank Answer Key:
pollutants, we (humans, people), many

Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.2.2.1, SC.G.1.2.2, SC.G.2.2.1



Surf these Web sites for additional information about watersheds.

<http://www.epa.gov/surf/states/FL>

<http://www.epa.gov/kids/pollutiondrawing.htm>

Discuss the importance of protecting our watersheds. Then ask students to decode the hidden message. This closing activity can be submitted by an individual student or as a classroom set.

Hidden message: Watersheds are like neighborhoods. Let's keep them clean!

WATERDROPS Challenge

Items included in the Challenge are similar to those presented on the *Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)*. Make copies of the challenge and distribute them to students. Emphasize that taking the Challenge will provide good practice for preparing for the FCAT. Students should be allowed to use the **WaterDrops** issue if necessary.

Answers to multiple-choice items: 1-d, 2-b, 3-a, 4-d

Answers to extended response items:

- Answers should demonstrate an understanding of ways people can take personal responsibility for helping to protect their watershed.
- The response should include a general definition of a watershed and reasons for protecting a watershed.

Sunshine State Standards: LA.A.2.2.5, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.6, SC.D.2.2.1, SC.G.2.2.1

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

Please contact us at 1-800-423-1476, ext. 4757, if you have any questions or suggestions about our water resources education program. Visit our Web site at www.swfwmd.state.fl.us.

WATERDROPS Challenge

Directions:

Let's see how much you have learned about watersheds. Do your best and meet the challenge!

Choose the best answer.

1. No matter where we live, we all live in a watershed. What can be part of a watershed?

- a. a land area where water moves across and drains into a water body**
- b. a neighborhood**
- c. a pond, creek or stream**
- d. all of the above**

2. All of the following are true statements about watersheds EXCEPT one. Which one does NOT belong in the list?

- a. Watersheds can exist in all shapes and sizes.**
- b. The sun, stars and clouds are part of a watershed.**
- c. To protect our watershed, we must keep it clean and healthy.**
- d. Many different bodies of fresh water can be part of a watershed.**

3. Many kinds of pollutants can cause damage to a watershed. What are pollutants?

- a. materials that can cause our water to become unclean or impure**
- b. materials that help to clean and purify the water**
- c. materials that are added to improve our drinking water**
- d. none of the above**

4. There are many ways people can help to protect the health and quality of a watershed. Which tip does NOT belong in the list?

- a. Help organize a neighborhood cleanup.**
- b. Teach others about what pollutants can do to our water.**
- c. Encourage people to learn more about protecting our environment.**
- d. Do nothing.**

