

Water Wise Citizens



Southwest Florida
Water Management
District



Protecting Your
Water Resources



THE TAMPA TRIBUNE
It's Good To Know

Newspaper In Education

**A project of the
Southwest Florida Water
Management District
and The Tampa Tribune**

APRIL 1997

Dear Teachers and Parents:

Contents:



To ensure that Florida residents have a safe and adequate supply of water today and in the future, we must teach our children to be actively involved in the protection of Florida's water resources. A key component of this involvement is an understanding of the local and state system of water management protection.

This year's Water Wise Week publication is dedicated to demonstrating how children can get actively involved in water resource protection. Such involvement helps ensure that Florida's water is valued and protected. Florida's limited water resource creates a need to balance the needs of humans with protection of the natural environment.

This special edition outlines how and why water resources are managed in southwest Florida and how young people can make their voices heard. If you would like more information about water resource protection, please call the Southwest Florida Water Management District at 1-800-423-1476, extension 4757.

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Water Wise Week...

... is part of Water Matters, an environmental education program sponsored by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the League of Women Voters and The Tampa Tribune. The program's goal is to educate residents and visitors about water resource issues and encourage protection of the water resource.



Water Matters is a comprehensive program to actively engage community groups, students and organizations in protecting the water resource. The program includes these components:

- **Florida Waters Project** – Student field trips to local government meetings to witness the who, what, where, when, why and how of water resource policy-making.
- **Water Wise Week** – A program to teach students about water resources through the use of the newspaper.
- **Water Matters Video** – A 30-minute video to demonstrate how communities are working together to protect water resources. The video will air on broadcast and cable television.
- **Basin Grant Program** – Grants awarded for community groups to do projects which teach about water resources and encourage involvement in water resource protection.

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodations as provided for in the Americans With Disabilities Act should contact the Public Communications Department at (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (Florida only), extension 4757; TDD only 1-800-231-6103 (Florida only); fax (352) 754-6883; Suncom 628-4150; Suncom fax 663-6883.

Acknowledgments

The Water Wise Week tabloid is a special educational section published by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and The Tampa Tribune's Newspaper In Education program.

UNIT 1: Why Water Matters

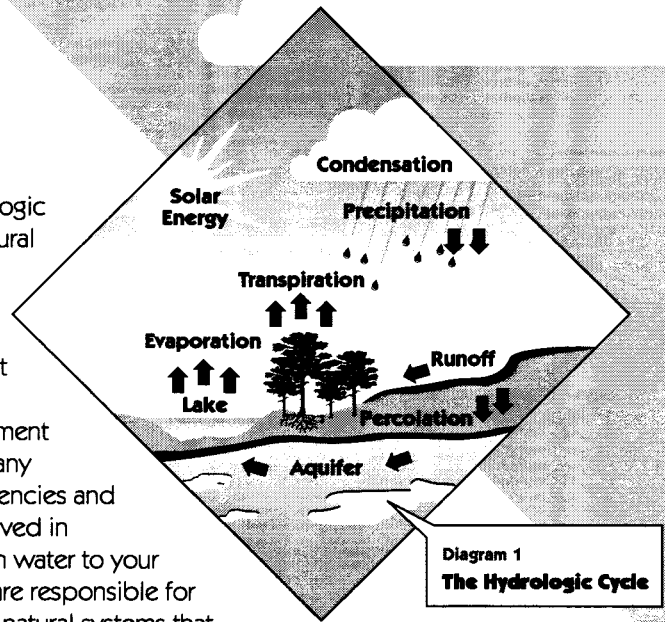
One of the first things each of us does every morning when we wake up is use *water*. We use water to brush our teeth, wash our faces and prepare breakfast.

You probably already know that water is necessary for your body to survive. More than 65 percent of your body is water. It helps cleanse your body's systems and carries vital nutrients and oxygen to different parts of your body. While water is necessary for your survival, it also provides recreational opportunities and economic support for many people. Humans aren't the only ones who need water. Animals and plants also need it to survive. Both humans and the natural environment are dependent on water.

But do you know where the water comes from that you use every day? All water travels through the environment through the *hydrologic cycle*. (Please look at Diagram 1 to follow along.) When the sun warms the surface waters contained in rivers and lakes, some of this water *evaporates* into the air. Water is also released into the air by plants through *transpiration*. This water released into the air takes the form of vapor, which rises into the sky. As these vapors hit the colder air in the sky, they form tiny water drops that stick together to make clouds. This process is called *condensation*. When clouds become full and heavy, they release the water back to Earth through *precipitation*. In southwest Florida, this precipitation is most often in the form of rain. As water hits the ground, it may end up in rivers and lakes again, *evaporate*, be absorbed by plants, or be absorbed into the ground. The amount of water that travels through this cycle is constant; it always

stays the same.

The hydrologic cycle is the natural process that provides you with water. But how does it get from the natural environment to your tap? Many government agencies and others are involved in delivering clean water to your home. Others are responsible for protecting the natural systems that provide the water. Throughout the following units, you will learn how and why water resources are protected in southwest Florida. You will follow a drop of water from the natural environment to the tap in your kitchen. And, most important, you will learn how you can play an active role in ensuring that you and your community have a safe and plentiful supply of freshwater for your needs, today and in the future.



Follow us on this adventure and learn how to become a Water Wise Citizen!

Citizen Action

1. Make three columns on a sheet of notebook paper. Label one column "KNOW" for what you already think you know about water. Label a second column "WHAT" for all of the questions you have about water and what you want to know after reading this special section. Make a third column titled "LEARNED" for everything you've learned about water after reading this tabloid. See if you can answer all of the questions you listed at the

beginning. Were the things you listed that you knew about water correct? Share this information with your class.

2. All water travels in the environment through the hydrologic cycle. During Water Wise Week, look through *The Tampa Tribune* for articles that discuss some uses for water. Clip each article for your notebook and summarize it. Are there any concerns about water that are

mentioned more than once? If so, what are they? Share them with your class.

3. Do a *Tribune* treasure hunt! In 10 minutes, find as many words as you can in the *Tribune* that relate to water. Write the words on a page in your notebook. Who in your class found the most words? Categorize your words. How many are nouns, pronouns, adjectives, or adverbs? What words are used most often?

UNIT 2: Why is Water Managed?

As mentioned in Unit 1, water is essential to all life. Because of this, it is also a resource that is in high demand by many different groups of people. To balance the water needs of different groups of people and the protection of the natural environment, various government agencies have been given the responsibility of managing water resources.

In southwest Florida, the demand for water resources has increased dramatically. Every day, more people come to live in Florida because of its beautiful natural environment and warm weather. All of these new residents need water for their basic needs and for fun activities such as swimming and boating. Local businesses and agriculture also need more water to accommodate the needs of more

people. For example, restaurants will have more customers and farmers may find an increase in the demand for certain crops they grow. Population

estimates show hundreds of people move to Florida each week, with many coming to live in west, central Florida.

Approximately 3.6 million people live within the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), a 16-county area that includes part or all of the following counties: Charlotte, Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota and Sumter. The land area of the SWFWMD covers approximately 10,000 square miles. There are five water management districts in Florida that are responsible for managing and protecting water resources within their respective areas. See

Unit 3 for more details about these agencies and their responsibilities.

Most of the increase in population in this region occurs in coastal areas. These are areas where freshwater is less plentiful and natural systems, such as wetlands and estuaries, are more vulnerable. This makes water management even more difficult and important.

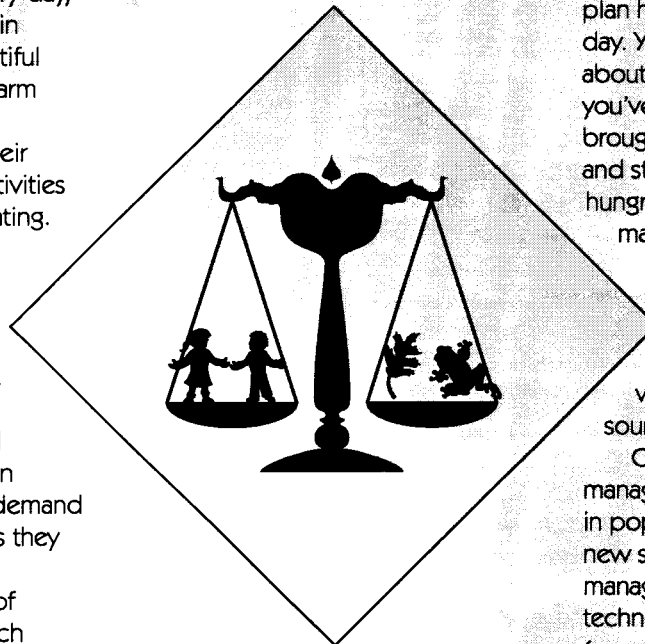
An often overlooked user of water is the natural environment

- Saltwater intrusion
- Lowered groundwater levels
- Loss of habitat for animals

Water is also managed to ensure an adequate supply for future needs. When you use any limited resource, you need to think about how you can make that resource last. Think about it like this: if you are on a camping trip and you bring only a certain amount of food, you will need to plan how much you can eat every day. You will also need to think about what you will do after you've eaten the food you brought. If you don't make a plan and stick to it, you might end up hungry for a few days! Well, water management is similar. We need people who are paying attention to water resources and how much water we can use today while identifying future water sources.

One major concern of water managers is the constant increase in population. We need to look for new sources of water. Water managers have begun to use new technologies such as desalination (removing salt from sea water) and reusing or recycling water, as well as effectively storing water during the rainy season for use in the dry season. As the years pass, Florida will have to depend more and more on these alternative sources of water and less on groundwater reserves. Currently, 80 percent of the water needs in southwest Florida are met with groundwater.

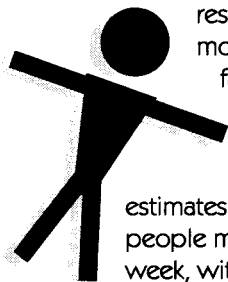
Being able to obtain quality water easily makes your life easier and more enjoyable. In order to ensure that an abundant supply of water is available now and in the future, it needs to be protected. The following unit will outline how the water management process in Southwest Florida works.



and its systems. In order to continue functioning correctly and to provide quality water resources, the natural environment requires a certain amount of water. Water management districts make sure the environment has the water it needs to function by limiting the amount of water that can be taken out for human uses.

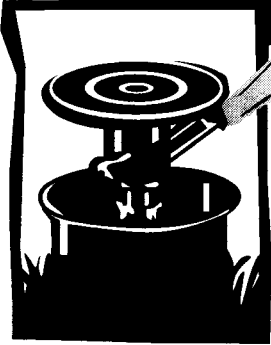
Some of the problems that can result when too much water is taken out of the natural environment are:

- Lowered lake levels
- Loss of some amount of moisture in wetland areas




INFORMATION BOX

Did You Know?

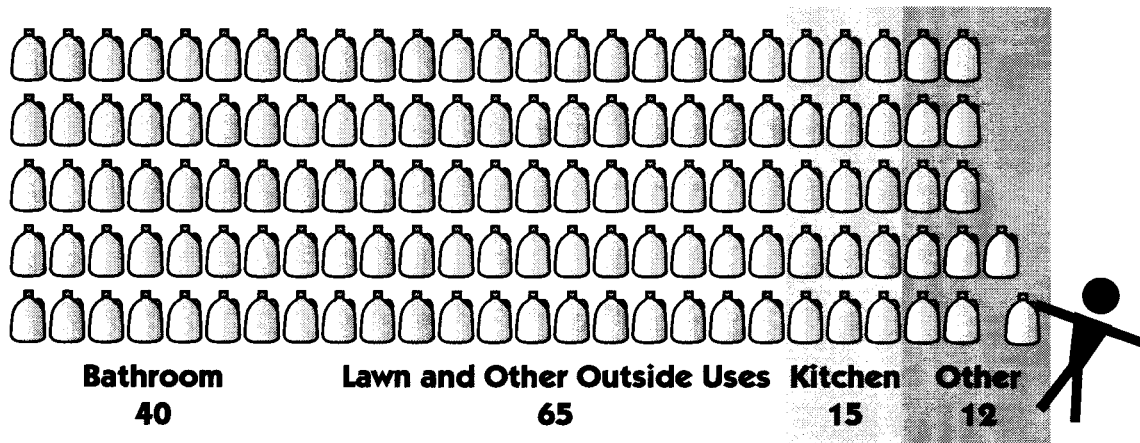


- Approximately 1.23 billion gallons of freshwater were used per day within the SWFWMD; 80 percent of this came from underground sources.
- Hillsborough County used the most water within southwest Florida for public supply.
- Residents of the City of Tampa receive their water from the Hillsborough River.
- Approximately 90 percent of strawberry growers have changed the way they water crops from watering the entire field to using drip irrigation systems.

- More water was withdrawn for public supply uses than for any other purpose (42.3 percent).
- Many agricultural water users are taking an active role in managing their water use by looking at things like soil moisture.
- The average citizen in southwest Florida used 132 gallons of water per day.

 =
1 Gallon of Water

Average Daily Water-Use Breakdown



These figures were collected from the "1995 Estimated Water Use in the Southwest Florida Water Management District" report.

Citizen Action

1. Advertisements are often used to sell a product or service. Some are used to sell or promote a message or idea. Find examples of both in the *Tribune*. Use these examples to help you design and write your own ad promoting an idea to help preserve our water resources.

2. Find an article in the *Tribune* that mentions another natural

resource. Clip the article and summarize why you think this resource is important. How does this resource relate to water resources? Discuss these ideas with your classmates.

3. With more and more people moving into our state, there will be more demand on our natural water supply and the quality of water available. Look in the

Tribune for an article that talks about how a human changed, or plans to change, an area. Will it have an impact on water resources? Are there positive or negative results of the change? Maybe there are both. What are they? Have a class discussion about whether the positive outcomes outweigh the negative impacts and why.

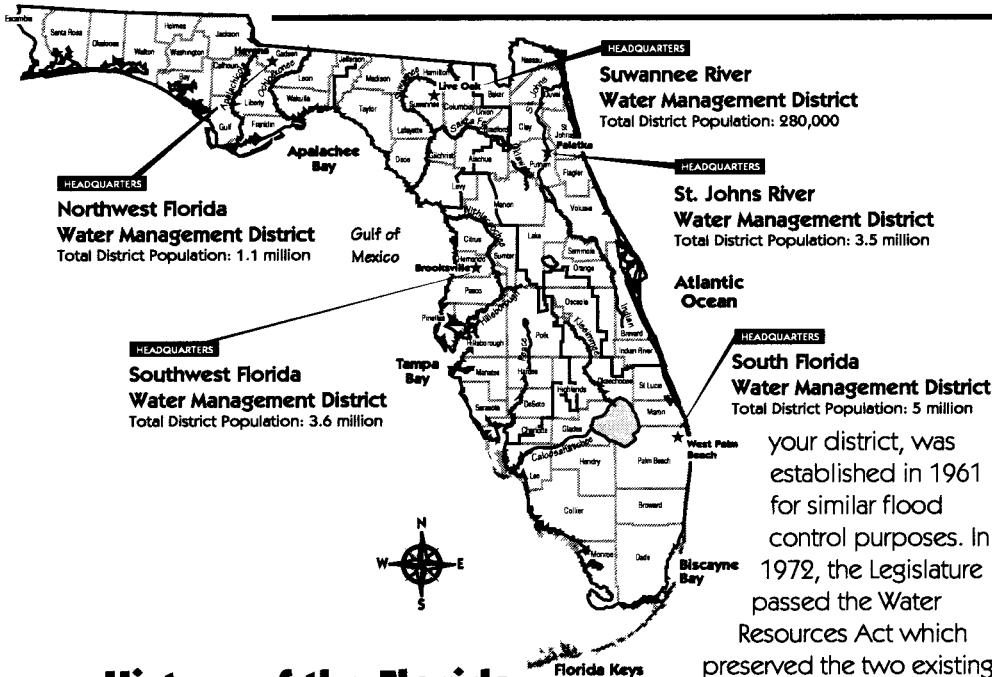
UNIT 3: How is Water Managed?

Now that you understand why water is managed, we're off to a new adventure — understanding HOW water is managed in southwest Florida. Before we begin, you should know that across the United States and around the world, water is managed differently. But no matter where you go, government

participates in water management because water is central to survival and economic prosperity. As population increases, clean and plentiful water will become even more scarce.

Before we start, you should know a key fact about Florida's water that has guided the development of certain agencies

to protect water resources. Florida's water is considered a *public resource*. In other words, water belongs to the public as a whole. This means that even if you own a piece of property, you don't own the water under the ground or on the surface. It belongs to everyone and must be managed with this in mind.



History of the Florida Water Management Districts

Water is managed in the state of Florida through a unique system of water management districts. The Florida Legislature created the first water management district, now known as the South Florida Water Management District, in 1949 to help south Florida deal with flood control issues. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD),

your district, was established in 1961 for similar flood control purposes. In 1972, the Legislature passed the Water Resources Act which preserved the two existing districts and provided that the entire state would be protected by water management districts.

There are currently five water management districts. They are divided along hydrologic, or watershed boundaries, which means that they are divided in such a way that the rain falling within the boundaries of a district stays in that district. You can see which counties are within each district by referring to the map above. These districts coordinate

with the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), an agency which is responsible for protecting and managing all aspects of Florida's natural environment (air, water and land).

The districts receive more than half of their funding from *ad valorem* taxes, a type of tax that people pay when they own property, such as land or a house. They also receive some money from permit fees, interest, and state and federal government.

Water management districts are the agencies responsible for determining how much water can be withdrawn from underground or from lakes and rivers without causing harm to the natural environment. The districts issue *permits*, or permission, to individuals or governments to use specific amounts of water for a specific purpose and period of time. The water management districts are mainly concerned that people have plenty of clean water available and that the natural environment that provides us with this water supply is protected. Flood protection also remains a key function.

Your Water Management District ...

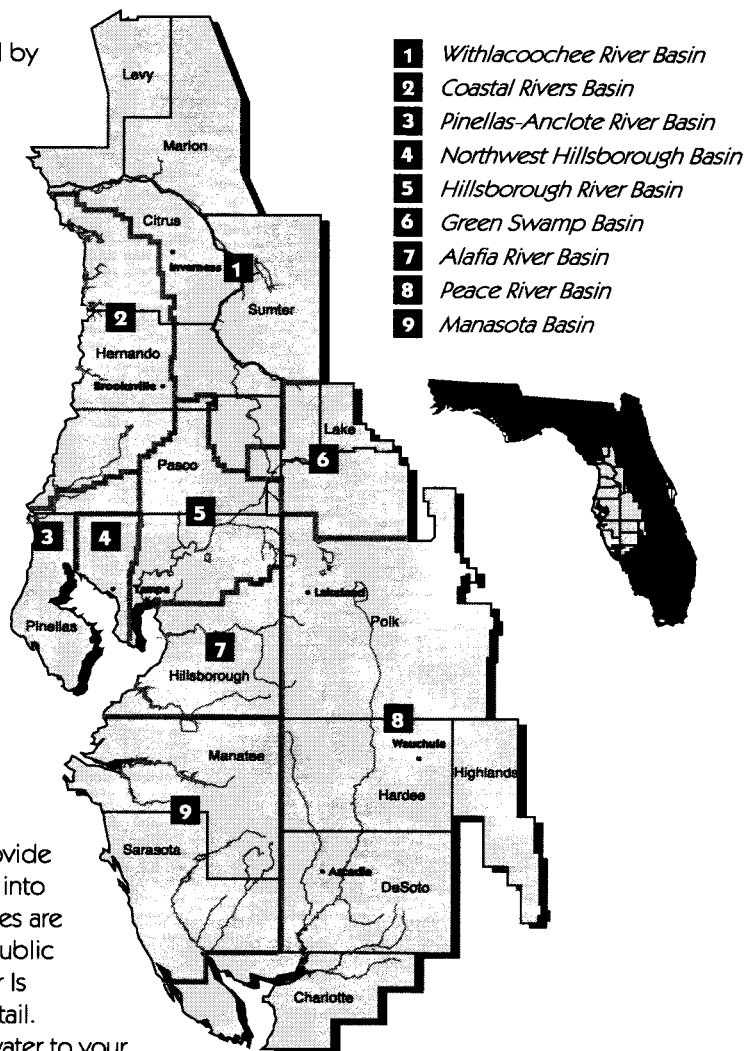
The Southwest Florida Water Management District makes its important decisions through the use of *boards*. *Boards*, often used by companies and other government agencies, are groups of people who review information and make informed decisions. The SWFWMD is governed by an 11-member board. Each board member is appointed by the Governor of Florida and confirmed by the Florida Senate. They serve four-year terms and are unpaid, citizen volunteers. Look at page 6 to see a close-up of the SWFWMD boundaries.

The SWFWMD is divided into nine hydrologic areas, referred to as *basins*. Each basin has a basin board, whose members serve three years as unpaid citizen volunteers appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. Basin boards are helpful because they identify water issues within a smaller, local area and provide programs and funding to help deal with local issues. Your district is the only water management district with this kind of system. All governing board and basin board meetings are open to the public. During each meeting, there is time for *public comment*. This means that anybody with concerns or questions has an opportunity to speak during the meeting.

The Water Supply Process

There are many other people involved in the delivery of clean water to your home. The SWFWMD coordinates with local governments to make decisions and solve water problems. Sometimes these local governments join together to form *regional water supply authorities* who withdraw water for a group of counties and cities. These water supply authorities then deliver water to local water utilities. Water utilities sell water to customers and provide it through a system of pipes. These pipes bring water into your home for you and your family to use. Water utilities are generally owned by the government to provide the public with a basic need. The following section, "How Water Is Managed For You," describes this process in more detail.

You can see that the protection and delivery of water to your home is complex and involves many different governments and agencies. But this fact increases your ability to get involved at many different stages of the decision-making process. After you have fun with "How Water Is Managed For You," turn to Unit 4 to learn how you can participate in water management!



Citizen Action

1. There are many local, state and federal government agencies, as well as private organizations, businesses and individuals working hard to protect Florida's environment and water resources. See how many of these groups or individuals you can find mentioned in the *The Tampa Tribune*. What are they doing to protect the environment and the state's natural resources? Summarize the article or articles for your class.

2. Check the *Tribune's* editorial section for examples of articles written based on fact and opinion. Then select an article about a water resource or environmental issue and write your own editorial about the issue. Be certain to voice your opinion on the issue and how the problems might be solved. Share your writing with your class. Send a copy of your editorial to the *Tribune* Editor.

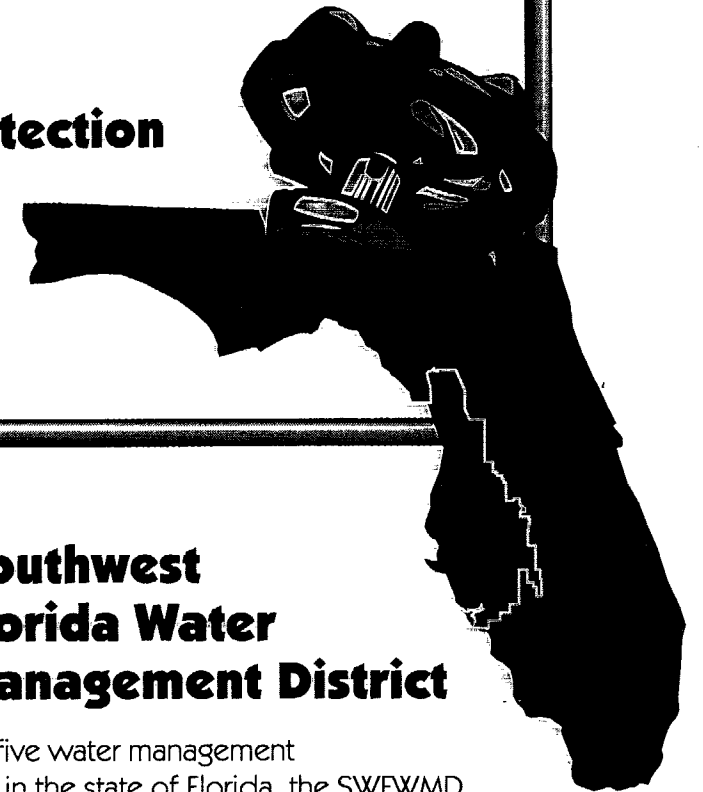
3. After writing your editorial, research local agencies and organizations that are helping to protect water resources. Write a letter to one or more of these groups to ask how you might get involved.

Additional idea:

Get together with your class to work with a local organization on a water project, such as conducting a water audit of your school.



How Water is Managed for You



1. Department of Environmental Protection

The state agency which is responsible for protecting all of Florida's natural resources. They work in cooperation with the water management districts to ensure the state's water resources are managed effectively

3. Water Supply Authorities

A voluntary cooperative between city and/or county governments to manage water resources. Different counties and cities work together to ensure that a region has enough quality water for all its users. They generally own or manage wellfields where they can pump large quantities of water out for their member government and they also may hold permits from the SWFWMD to withdraw certain quantities of water from surface water sources, such as lakes or rivers.

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

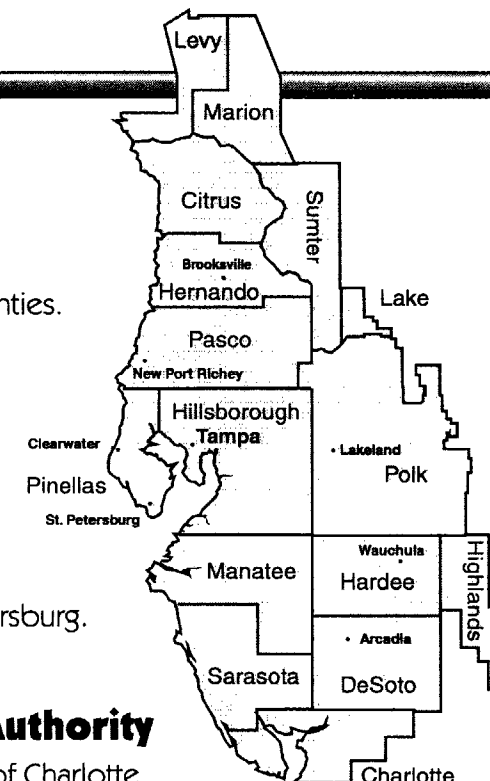
Provides water to the water utilities of Citrus, Hernando and Sumter counties.

Tampa Bay Water

(Formerly West Coast Regional Water Supply Authority)
Provides water to the water utilities of Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties, and the cities of New Port Richey, Tampa and St. Petersburg.

Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority

Provides water to the water utilities of Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties.

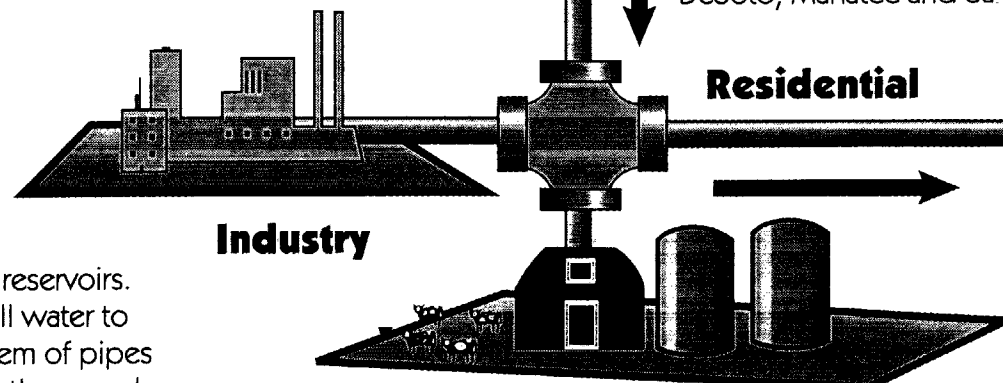


2. Southwest Florida Water Management District

One of five water management districts in the state of Florida, the SWFWMD is responsible for managing and protecting water resources within west central Florida. They receive the majority of their funding from ad valorem or property taxes. The SWFWMD coordinates with local governments to solve water problems. The SWFWMD serves a regulatory function, protecting the environment and the water resources. It does not directly supply water to people — this is accomplished by water supply authorities and water utilities.

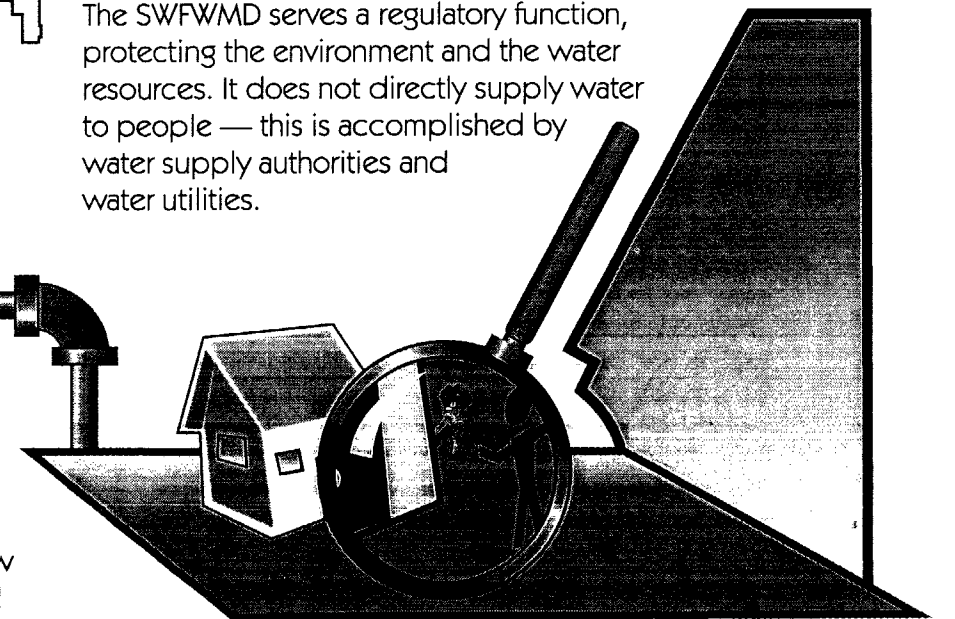
4. Local or County Water Utility

Water utilities generally receive water supplies through a system of pipes from regional wellfields. They may also directly receive supplies from surface water sources like rivers or reservoirs. After cleaning the water, utilities then sell water to customers and provide it through a system of pipes to homes or businesses. Utilities are mostly owned by the government to provide the public with a basic need, but some systems are private.



5. Your Home

And now the water has arrived at your home! When you turn on a faucet, you should always think about the value of the water — how precious it really is and how much work had to be done for it to get there!



UNIT 4: How You Can Get Involved

There are many ways that young citizens can get involved in protecting southwest Florida's water resources. One of these ways is to participate in the decisions that are made about water resources in your community. The Southwest Florida Water Management District encourages you and your family to let us know how you feel about the decisions being made to protect water resources. The SWFWMD works directly with many citizen groups and individuals to resolve differences on water issues so that the greatest benefit is achieved for everyone involved. We need feedback from citizens to make informed decisions because

balancing the needs of water users with the natural environment is a tough job.

Your participation in water resource decisions might be communicating with a variety of government representatives about your concerns. You might communicate through letters or by phone or you can influence your local and state government by attending meetings where water decisions are being made.

Because of a law called the Florida Sunshine Law, all Florida government meetings are open to the public. Anybody can go to

one of these meetings and comment on the decisions being made. There is also a law providing that all documents created by public agencies can be viewed by the public.

Another way for you to get involved is to communicate your feelings about water resource issues to your local newspaper. Don't forget about the most powerful tool you have to make a difference in water resource management — your voice! *The Tampa Tribune's* editorial section offers you a place for you to express your opinion on important issues. You might be surprised when you open *The Tampa Tribune* one day and see your letter to the editor in print! Did you know more than 240,000 people read *The Tampa Tribune* each day? Your message would also reach government representatives that way! In addition to giving you a place to express your opinion, the *Tribune* and other publications, such as magazines, help you learn about current issues so you can become a more informed citizen.



Equally as important as expressing yourself is acting positively every day to protect your water resources. Conserve water when you can. When you use water, try to think about how much that water is really worth to you. It's essential to your survival and your quality of life — it allows you to go swimming and boating and enjoy other outdoor activities with your friends and family.

Get involved with local and regional government decisions by taking positive and conscious action every day to protect your water resources. Listed below are some brief conservation reminders and water-use figures so you can figure out how much water you and your family use every day.

Conservation Citizen

1. Turn off the water when you're not using it. It's just going down the drain.
2. Take shorter showers. You'll have more time to have fun!
3. Make sure your hose has a shut-off nozzle so that water runs only when you need it.
4. Run the dishwasher only when it's full. If washing dishes by hand, fill up one sink basin with soapy water and the other basin with clean water for rinsing.
5. Keep cold water in the refrigerator so you don't have to run the faucet until the water gets cold.

How Much Water Does It Take?

Listed below are the average amounts of water it takes for various uses. If you and your family have put water-saving devices around your home, these amounts will be slightly lower. If the toilets in your residence are newer, they use less than 2 gallons per flush.

Shower	7 gallons per minute
Baths	28 gallons
Faucets	3 gallons per minute
Washing machine	55 gallons per load
Dishwasher	15 gallons per load
Lawn watering	3 gallons per minute
Toilet	6 gallons per flush

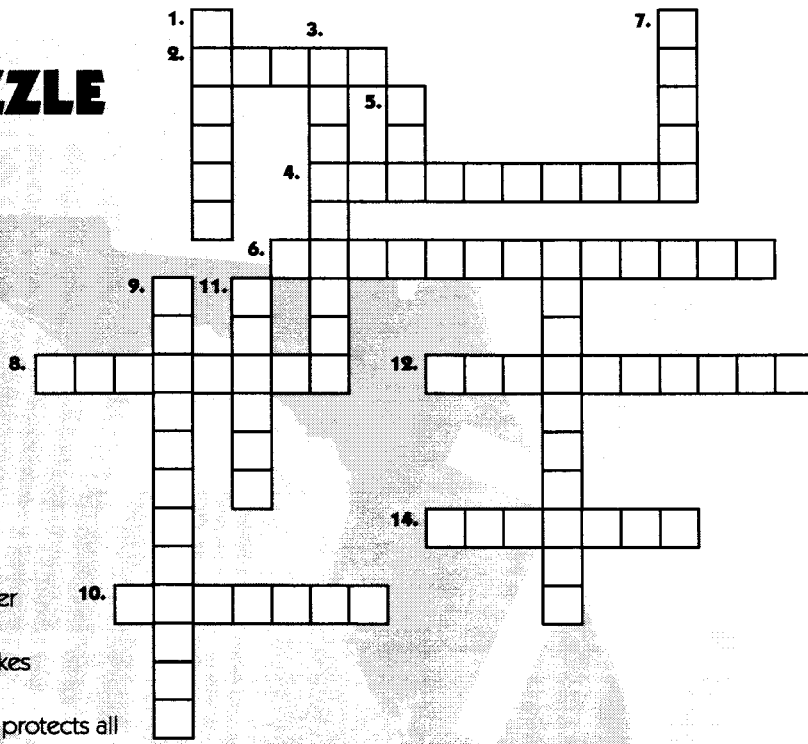
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

2. One of the first things you use every day
4. The number of people living in a particular area
6. Plants release water vapor through _____
8. We must all save or _____ water
10. Water comes to your home from a water _____
12. The cycle through which water travels through the environment
14. This tabloid is helping you to become a Water Wise _____

Down

1. Abbreviation for the Southwest Florida Water Management District
3. The sun's energy causes surface waters in lakes and rivers to _____
5. An abbreviation for the state agency which protects all aspects of the natural environment
7. The SWFWMD is divided into nine hydrologic _____s
9. Converting salt water into fresh water
11. The right or permission to use water
13. People need water but also use it for _____



KEY:

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1=A | 14=N |
| 2=B | 15=O |
| 3=C | 16=P |
| 4=D | 17=Q |
| 5=E | 18=R |
| 6=F | 19=S |
| 7=G | 20=T |
| 8=H | 21=U |
| 9=I | 22=V |
| 10=J | 23=W |
| 11=K | 24=X |
| 12=L | 25=Y |
| 13=M | 26=Z |

HIDDEN MESSAGE

2 5 1 23 1 20 5 18 23 9 19 5 3 9 20 9 26 5 14
 4 15 25 15 21 18 16 1 18 20 2 5 3 1 21 19 5 23 1 20 5 18
 13 1 20 20 5 18 19 20 15 1 12 12 15 6 21 19

Citizen Action

1. Improving Florida's natural resources is the job of all citizens. Look for an article in *The Tampa Tribune* about something that was "improved" or "restored." What is mentioned as being restored? Why is it valuable? What might have happened if it was not restored?

2. Look through the *Tribune's* Classified section for jobs related

to the environment. How many different jobs can you find? In your notebook, write about one job you would like to have and why. Share your work with your class.

3. It is the responsibility of every citizen to help conserve and protect water resources. Make a list of the many different uses of

water. Record the ways you and your family use water. Then list the ways you can conserve and protect water resources. See if any of your ideas are mentioned in newspaper articles.

UNIT 5:

Being a Water Wise Citizen

Now that you understand the water management process and how you can get involved, there are ways that you can be a Water Wise Citizen. Being a good water citizen is more than just being aware that water resources need to be protected within the state of Florida. It's similar to being a good overall citizen.



What do you think of when you hear "good citizen?" Most likely you would describe a good citizen as one who follows the laws, helps out his or her neighbor and participates by voting in elections.

A good water citizen, therefore, could be described as somebody who recognizes the real value of water resources and takes personal action to protect them. Not only is it important that you protect water resources by conserving and using water wisely, but also that you get involved in water issues and make your voice heard. Only by hearing from diverse voices can water managers know what concerns and questions people have about water management.

Each of us needs water every day. Therefore, we each have a responsibility to the natural environment which supports water resources. We must all share in the costs and in the work of protecting water resources. If each of us takes action to use water wisely and to get involved in the water management process, we may be able to prevent future problems. It is less expensive to prevent problems from occurring than it is to try to solve problems after they occur.

At right are some helpful hints for young citizens about how they can become Water Wise Citizens. Try them and share them with your friends and family!

Water Hints:

1. Keep current about water issues in your area. Read the *Tribune*, watch the news and listen to the radio.
2. Talk to others within your community about water issues and how you might improve your community's water quality.
3. Go to your local library, newsstand, or bookstore to find books and magazine articles about water resources.
4. Turn off faucets, wash only full loads of laundry, use the toilet only for its intended use (not for disposing of trash or insects) and take shorter showers.
5. Reduce the amount of chemicals you use inside and outside the house by disposing of chemicals and waste products correctly.
6. Work with your classmates to educate those in other classrooms and the community about water issues.
7. Volunteer with a local group or organization that needs help protecting natural areas and wildlife.
8. Look at your family's water bill. Divide the total number of gallons used by 30. Then divide this number by the number of people who live in your residence. This is how many gallons each person used per day. (For example: $12,000 \text{ gallons} \div 30 = 400$. Including yourself, there are 4 people living in your residence so $400 \div 4 = 100$ gallons per day.) See how much you can lower this number during the next month.
9. Protect natural areas. When you go to the beach or park, make sure you put garbage where it belongs and don't leave anything behind.
10. Share what you've learned about being a Water Wise Citizen with your community and family. Working together, we can ensure that water resources are protected and valued.

Word Search

A T Y P A R T I C I P A T E N R
 R W T H C F L O R I D A K P H S
 E N V I R O N M E N T G B W L S
 S H V G A F N J W L E I D A V E
 O K P A L T B S P T C H Z T B C
 U M H L J V P K E D I B J E G O
 R V O L U N T E E R O W G R N R
 C P S O F T H D A Y V K T W I P
 E M J N W S W F W M D E G I A K
 N O I S I C E D K G Z P L S R T
 Z M T A M P A T R I B U N E D Y

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Florida | 5. conserve | 9. voice | 13. SWFWMD |
| 2. environment | 6. volunteer | 10. decision | 14. drain |
| 3. citizen | 7. resource | 11. participate | 15. Tampa Tribune |
| 4. water wise | 8. gallons | 12. process | |

Citizen Action

1. The water management process is complex and involves many different governments and agencies that help make decisions about our natural resources. Look through *The Tampa Tribune* for a water problem facing your community. In your notebook, describe the problem and if any action is being taken to correct it. Do you have any of your own solutions?

2. The SWFWMD makes its important decisions through the use of boards. Boards, used by companies, government agencies

and organizations, are groups of people who review information and make decisions. Find an article in the *Tribune* that discusses how a board is helping a company or agency make decisions. Compare this to what you have learned about the SWFWMD boards. Clip the article for your notebook and summarize the main points. Report your findings to your class.

3. The water management districts receive their funding through a tax that people pay when they own a piece of property, such as land or a house. Find an article in the

Tribune that mentions some form of tax that helps protect water resources or the environment. After reading the article, answer the following questions in your notebook:

- What kind of tax is being discussed?
- Who is being affected by the tax?
- Who or what will benefit from the tax?
- Is the article saying that the tax is good or bad?

Resources List

For more information about water resource management, contact the Southwest Florida Water Management District at 1-800-423-1476 (Florida only) or (352) 796-7211 during office hours (between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.), or any of the agencies or organizations listed below. Remember — don't make any long distance calls without checking with your parents first!

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Tampa Office
3804 Coconut Palm Drive • Tampa, FL 33619
(813) 744-6100
Responsible for protecting all of Florida's natural resources (land, air and water).

Tampa Bay Water

(Formerly West Coast Regional Water Supply Authority)
2535 Landmark Drive, Suite 211
Clearwater, FL 34621
(813) 996-2835
Provides water to the water utilities of Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties, and the cities of New Port Richey, Tampa and St. Petersburg.

Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority

1451 Dam Road
Bradenton, FL 34202
(941) 316-1776
Provides water to the water utilities of Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties.

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Jack Sullivan, Director
P.O. Drawer 190
Tallahassee, FL 32302
(904) 224-5366
Provides water to the water utilities of Citrus, Hernando and Sumter counties.

You may also contact your local water utility. Look at your home water bill to find out who delivers water to your home. Their phone number and address should also be listed on the bill. If you are not on a public water system (i.e., you have a personal well on your property) and would like more information, contact the SWFWMD at the number listed above.

Hidden Message Answer

From Page 10

**Be a Water Wise Citizen.
Do your part because
water matters to all of us.**

NOTE TO PARENTS, TEACHERS AND OTHER EDUCATORS:

The SWFWMD has a variety of other materials available about water management. Call us to request any of the following:

Brochures

- District Water Plan
- Southwest Florida Water Management District
- Water Management Districts of Florida

Other Resources

- 1997 Florida Waters Project Teacher's Guide
- Estimated Water Use Report (1994)
- Hydrologic Cycle Activity Sheet
- Annual Report

Answer Key

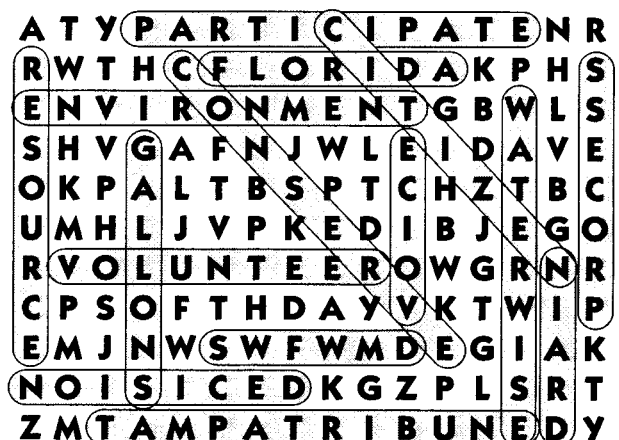
Citizen Crossword Puzzle

From Page 10

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. SWFWMD | 8. conserve |
| 2. water | 9. desalination |
| 3. evaporate | 10. utility |
| 4. population | 11. permit |
| 5. DEP | 12. hydrologic |
| 6. transpiration | 13. recreation |
| 7. basin | 14. citizen |

Word Search Answer Diagram

From Page 12



Now that you've learned how YOU can get involved in your local water issues, let's involve everyone! You've learned about how water management works in your community and how to make your voice count in water resource decision-making. Get your community involved!

Vocabulary

ad valorem: a type of property tax; where the water management districts get most of their funding

basin board: a body of volunteer citizens responsible for making local water decisions; a part of the SWFWMD

condensation: the physical process of a vapor turning into a liquid

conservation: careful use of a resource; limiting waste

desalination: the process of converting salt water into fresh water

evaporation: the process of changing water from a liquid to a vapor

governing board: the decision-making body of each water management district; made up of citizen volunteers

hydrologic cycle: the cycle of water through the environment; never-ending process

manage: to direct or administer the use of something

permit: permission to use something

plan: a detailed method for accomplishing a specific goal

population: the people within a given geographical area

precipitation: water from the atmosphere in the form of rain, snow, hail, etc.

regional water supply authority: a group of local governments which work together to obtain the rights to develop needed water resources

SWFWMD: the Southwest Florida Water Management District; responsible for protection and management of water resources in west central Florida

transpiration: the release of water vapor into the atmosphere by plants and trees

water resource: any and all water on or beneath the surface of the ground

water utility: an agency or company that provides water to customers through a system of pipes

Southwest Florida
Water Management
District



Protecting *Your*
Water Resources



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