

Mission Possible: Water for Tomorrow



Water Conservation Mission Checkpoints 2025-2026

October 2025

- **Show Better Month**
Shorter Showers Save Water

January 2026

- **Water Poster Contest Launch**
Get info at WaterContest.org

February 2026

- **Sprinkler Spruce Up**
Efficient Irrigation Saves Water

March 2026

- **Fix a Leak Week**
March 17-23

April 2026

- **Water Conservation Month**
Reduce Use to Save Water
- **Water Wise Award Nominations**
Open through June 30

May 2026

- **Drinking Water Week**
May 4-10
- **Water Reuse Week**
May 18-24

June 2026

- **Water Quality Report Published**
Find online at PascoCountyUtilities.com

All dates subject to change.
Visit PascoCountyUtilities.com for updated information.

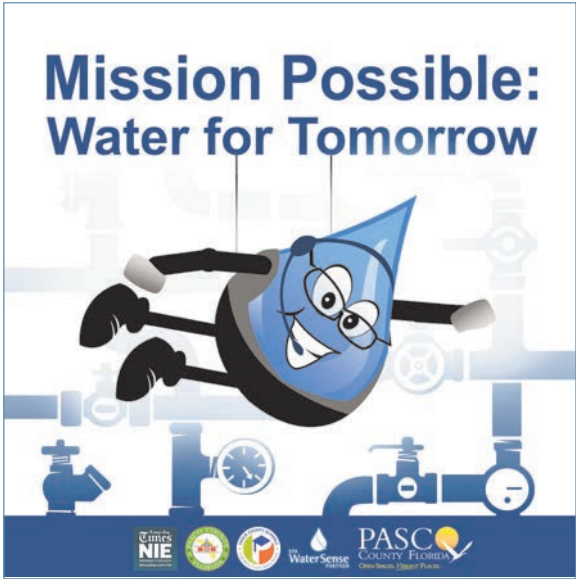
Cover Art: Agent Drippy is on a mission to help Pasco residents save and conserve water.

Water Conservation Mission Description

Communities across Florida are growing rapidly. Our available water resources remain an unchanging quantity. As a result, our water resources may become stressed, especially during the drier spring and fall months of the year.

Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to learn as much as you can about water and water resources. Then, join others in our community to help reduce stress on our water resources by taking these three important actions:

- Use water as efficiently as possible.
- Keep our water resources clean.
- Share what you know about water with others.

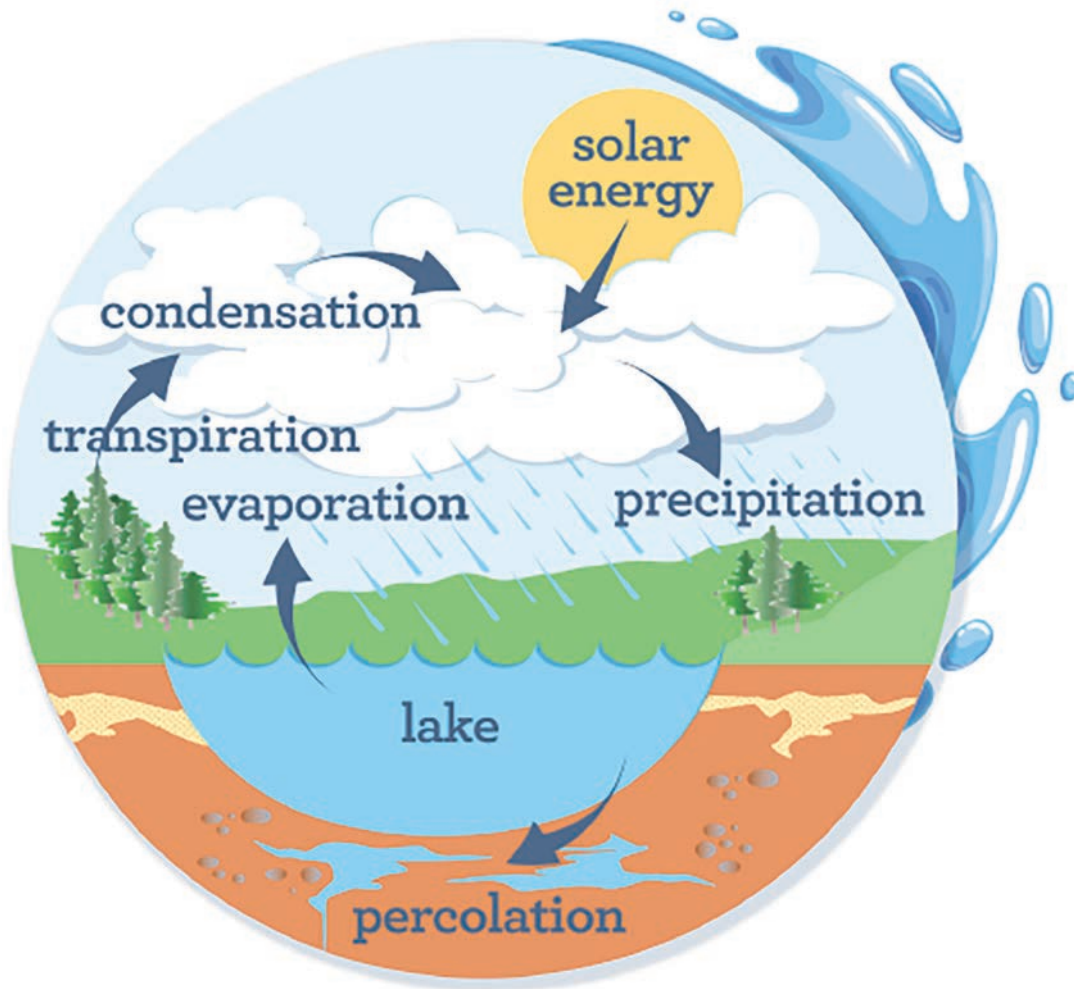


Water Conservation Mission Guidance Files

Water Travels Around the Earth.....	3
Wetlands Work for Water	4
A Word or Two About Water	5
Tracking Down Toilet Leaks.....	6
What's Your Water Footprint?	7
Mission Possible: H2O Art Gallery Avenue.....	8 & 9
Find and Fix Leaks	10
Estimate Your Water Use.....	11
5 Easy Ways to Save Water.....	12
Rain Sensors Save a Lot of Water.....	13
Reclaimed Water for the Win	14
Where Does Your Drinking Water Come From?	15

Water Travels Around the Earth

Mission Goal: Identify the energy source that fuels the movement of water around the Earth.



The water cycle is the path that all water follows as it moves around the Earth in different forms. Liquid water is found in oceans, rivers, lakes — and even underground. Solid water (ice) is found in glaciers, snow, and at the North and South poles. Water vapor — a gas — is found in Earth's atmosphere.

Condensation: tiny droplets of water formed when water vapor (or gas) rises into the air and cools.

Transpiration: process where plants release water vapor into the atmosphere.

Evaporation: vapor created when the sun heats water in lakes, streams and rivers.

Solar Energy: energy provided by the sun for the never-ending water cycle.

Precipitation: moisture released when clouds become heavy and form rain, snow and hail.

Percolation: movement of water through the ground.

Source: NASA: *Climate Kids*, [ClimateKids.nasa.gov](https://climatekids.nasa.gov).

Illustration courtesy of Southwest Florida Water Management District.

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

MOVING WATER

The world's water moves among lakes, rivers, oceans, the atmosphere and the land in an ongoing cycle called the water cycle. The water cycle describes how water evaporates from the surface of the Earth, rises into the atmosphere, cools and condenses into clouds and falls again to the surface as precipitation. Visit <https://gpm.nasa.gov/education/videos/water-cycle-animation> to watch an animation of Earth's water cycle. Using the cartoons in the Tampa Bay Times as models, create a cartoon strip depicting the water cycle. This can be created on paper or digitally. Share your cartoon with your class.

Florida Standards: SC.35.N.1.1; SC.35.N.1.2; SC.35.N.1.3; SC.35.N.1.4; SC.35.N.3.1; SC.712.E.6.6; SC.35.P.9.1; SC.5.E.7.1; SC.912.L.17.10; ELA.35.C.1.3; ELA.35.C.1.4; ELA.35.C.2.1; ELA.35.C.3.1; ELA.35.C.4.1; ELA.35.R.2.2; ELA.35.R.2.3; ELA.35.R.2.4; ELA.35.V.1.1; ELA.35.V.1.3; ELA.35.F.2.1; ELA.35.F.2.2; ELA.35.F.2.3; ELA.35.F.2.4



Wetlands Work for Water

Mission Goal: Identify the wetlands' role in the Earth's water cycle and other natural processes.

Wetlands are abundant in Florida. Some are wet all year. Others are wet and easy to see only when we have a lot of rain. An easy way to understand wetlands is to think of them as natural areas that have wet soils or areas that are covered by water for at least part of the year.

Wetlands soak up water and slowly filter it through the ground. In Pasco County, wetlands refill, or recharge, the Floridan Aquifer. The Floridan Aquifer provides about 50 percent of the water that Pasco County relies on for drinking water.

In addition to natural wetlands, Pasco County has one of the world's largest man-made wetland areas in the world. Known as the 4G Ranch Wetland Recharge Area, the site has 15 recharge cells across a 176-mile area. About 2.5 million gallons of reclaimed water are added daily to the man-made wetland to help sustain regional water supplies.

Other functions wetlands perform include:

- Helping our environment stay clean and healthy.
- Reducing flooding.

The Floridan Aquifer is a large, underground layer of porous rock that stores water. It is a primary source of drinking water for much of Florida, including Pasco County. Overuse of the aquifer can result in reduced water for streams and lakes, land subsidence, and saltwater intrusion in coastal areas.

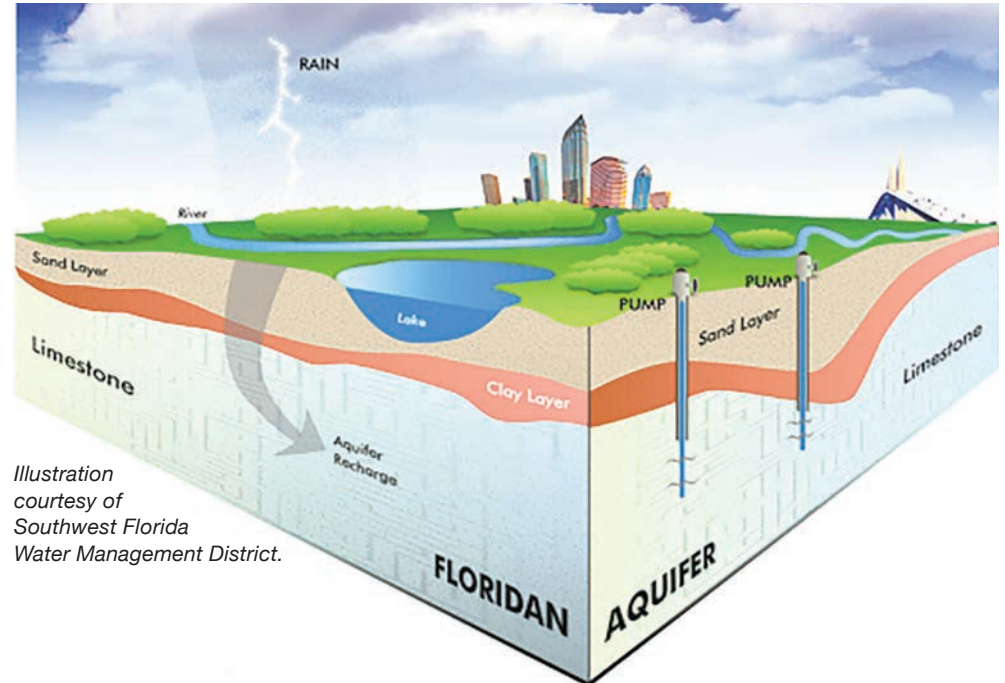
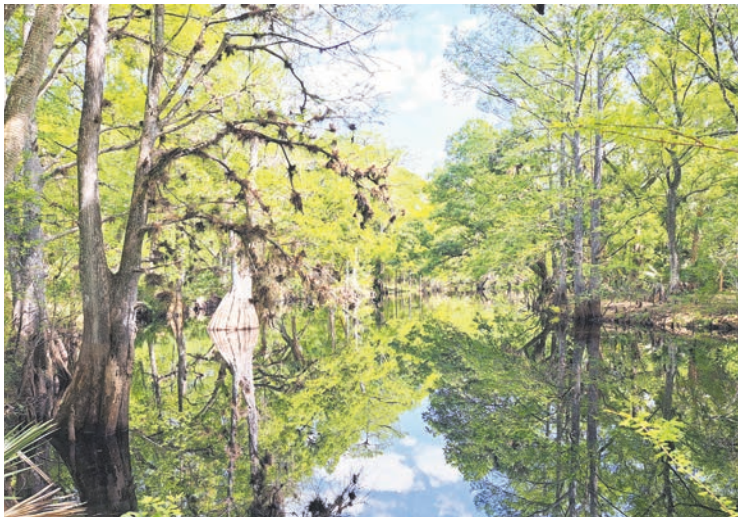


Illustration
courtesy of
Southwest Florida
Water Management District.

The Green Swamp



The Green Swamp is a wetland that covers parts of Polk, Lake, Sumter, Hernando and Pasco counties. The swamp covers 110,000 acres, which is about the size of 83,300 football fields!

In the Green Swamp, rainwater drains across its surface to create four major Florida rivers: the Withlacoochee, the Ocklawaha, the Hillsborough and the Peace.

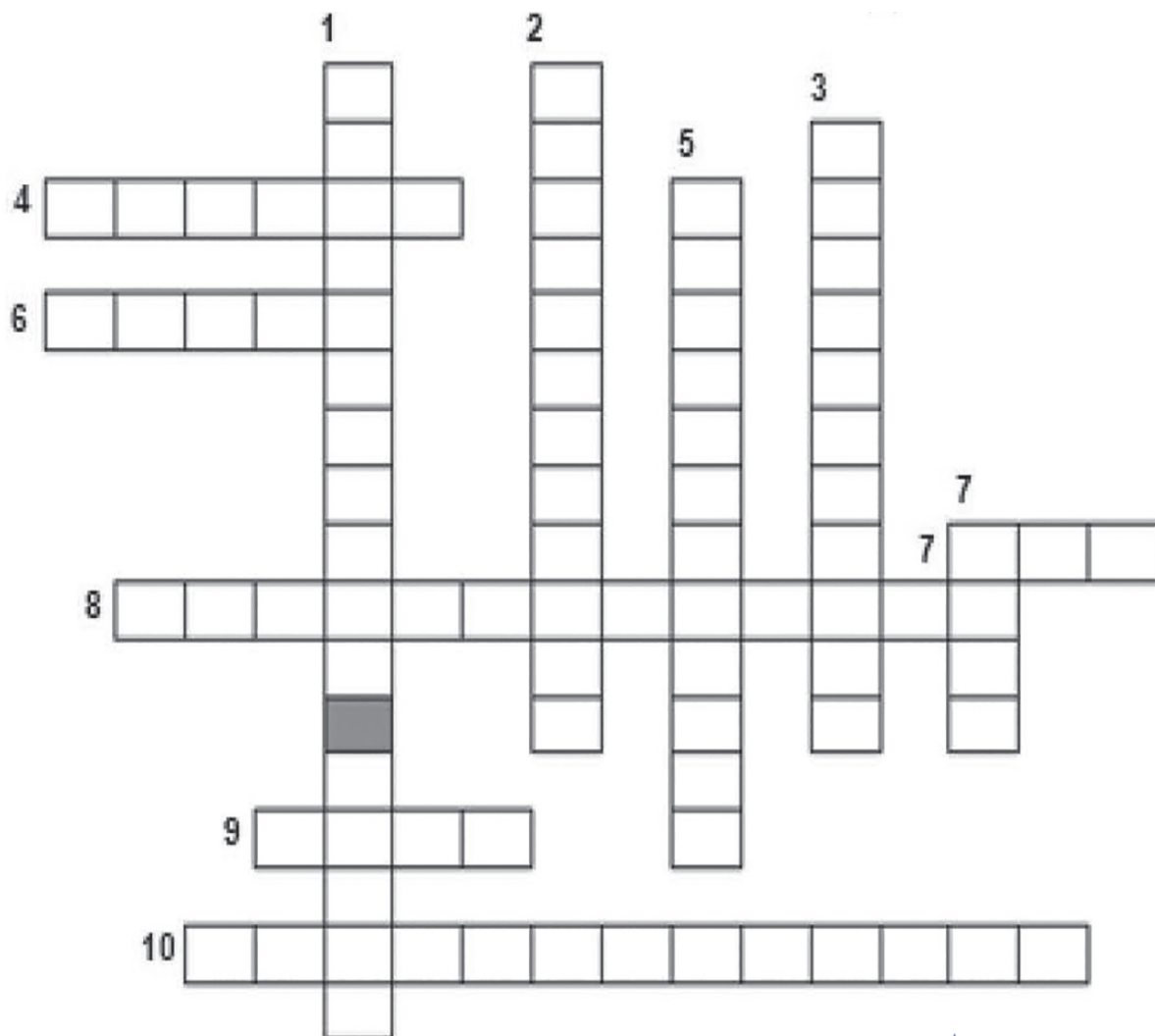
Rainwater also seeps through the soil to replenish the Floridan Aquifer system. Scan the QR code at right to take a quick virtual visit to the Green Swamp in Pasco County.

Explore the
Green Swamp
west tract
here! ↓



A Word or Two About Water

Mission Goal: Complete this crossword puzzle to test your water vocabulary.



Agent Drippy says that he always powers up his word knowledge by using his vocabulary words in sentences.



Across

4. Visible (and sometimes fluffy looking) masses in the sky made from water and ice droplets.
6. A large stream of water.
7. Center of the solar system (and the energy that drives the water cycle).
8. When water vapor rises from plants into the air, we call it this.
9. A body of water surrounded by land.
10. When rain or snow falls, we call it this.

Down

1. Water that is below the Earth's surface.
2. When water gathers in lakes, seas or oceans, we call it this.
3. When vapor rises from water into the air, it is known as this.
5. When gas changes to liquid, we call it this.
7. Frozen flakes that fall from the sky during winter.

Follow @PascoWater on X for water and water-related information.

Answers on page 15.

Tracking Down Toilet Leaks

Mission Goal: Learn about indoor leak detection basics to help protect our water sources.

Leaks can happen anywhere, but most leaks in a home are toilet leaks. Two common toilet leak sites are the flapper valve and the overflow pipe.

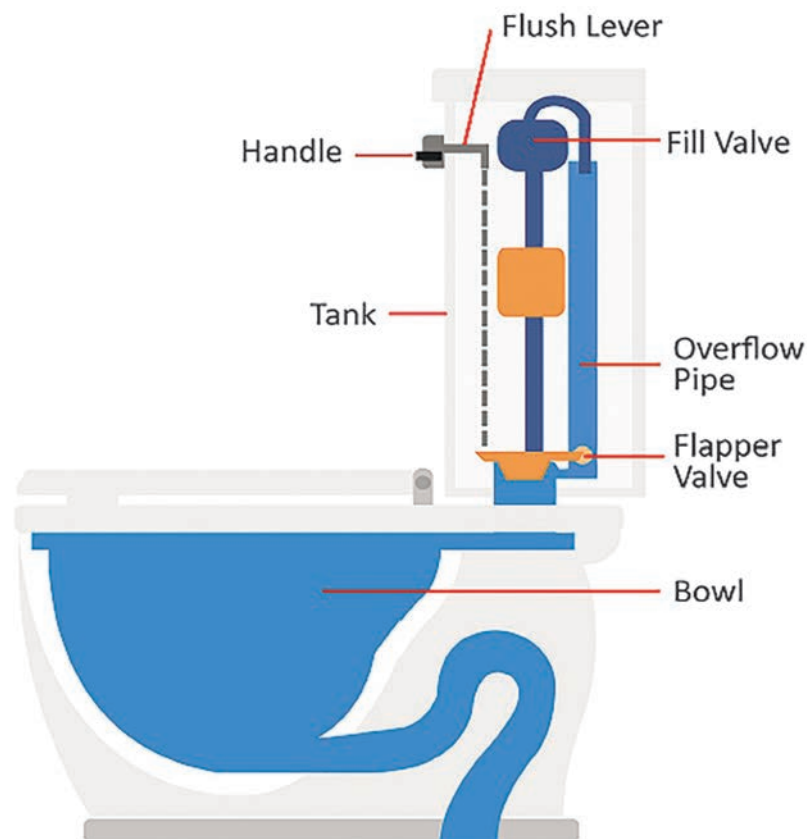
Check for flapper leaks by adding a leak detection dye tablet or a few drops of food coloring into the toilet tank. Wait 30 minutes. If you see color in the toilet bowl, there is a leak at the flapper.

If the flapper appears to be deteriorated or does not seal completely, it should be replaced. You can find a replacement flapper at a local hardware or big-box store.

If you see water flowing over the top of the overflow pipe, that means the water level in the tank is too high. You can adjust the water level in different ways, depending on the type of toilet.

Older toilets have a float arm that can be bent down (Be careful or it may break!) to adjust the water level so it stops a half inch below the top of the overflow pipe when refilling. For many newer toilets, the water level can be adjusted by turning a small knob on the fill valve.

Free toilet leak detection tablets are available at all Pasco County Utilities Customer Service Center locations.



One Water is One Path to Water for Tomorrow



Art by Sianna Carney, 1st Place 2nd Grade, 2024 Water Poster Contest, Schrader Elementary.
See pages 8 & 9 for the 2025 winning art.

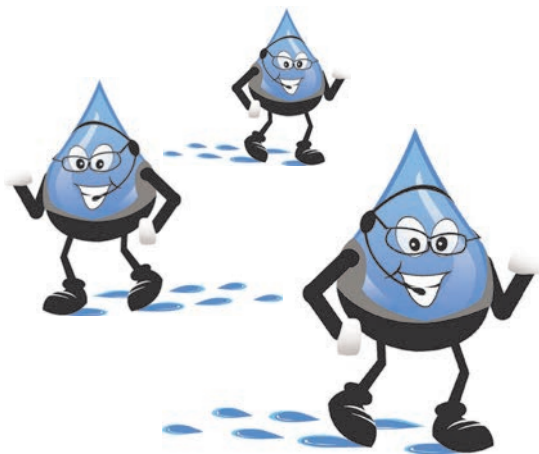
We call water by different names: river water, rainwater, ground or underground water, sewage, and stormwater, but, at the end of the day, water is water.

Stormwater recharges groundwater. River water and groundwater are treated to become drinking water. Drinking water becomes sewage. Sewage is reclaimed for irrigation. Irrigation evaporates to become clouds, which then drop rain.

In the past, water management has focused individually on water sources. One Water is a forward-looking approach based on the idea that water is a finite resource that should be managed as a single system. An example of One Water thinking is capturing stormwater for irrigation use. Two immediate benefits: storm-related flooding and irrigation demands on potable water supplies are reduced.

What's Your Water Footprint?

Mission Goal: Recognize the way water contributes to our daily lives and activities.



Water footprint measures the volume of fresh water needed to produce the goods and services we use. Your water footprint includes the water you use from the tap plus the “virtual water” used to produce the food you eat, the products you buy and the energy you use. At the end of the day, our virtual water use makes up most of our water footprint.

For example, it takes nearly 3,200 gallons of water to make one smart phone and about 660 gallons of water to produce a single cotton T-shirt. That's because growing cotton requires a lot of irrigation water, and manufacturing smart phones take a lot of water because metals have to be mined and refined, both of which use a lot of water.

You can estimate your own water footprint online at WaterCalculator.org to increase your understanding about the important role water plays in your life and the need to use our water resources wisely.

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

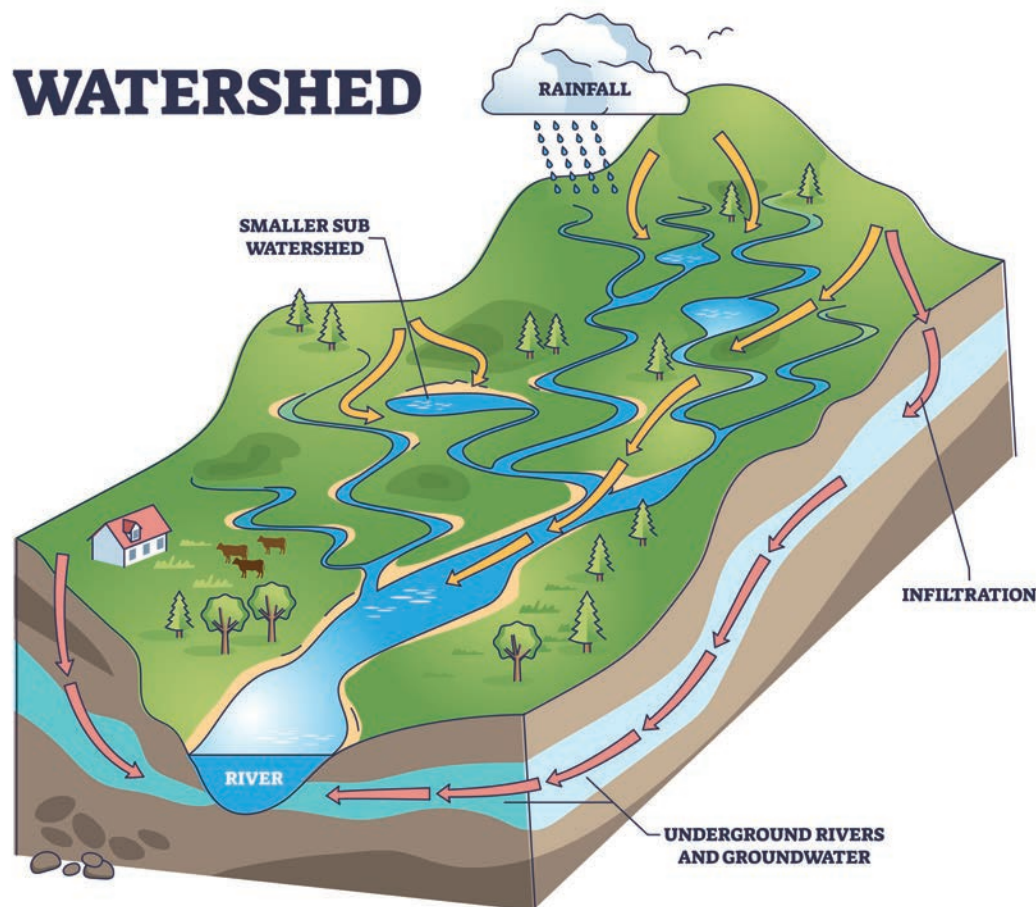
WATERSHEDS

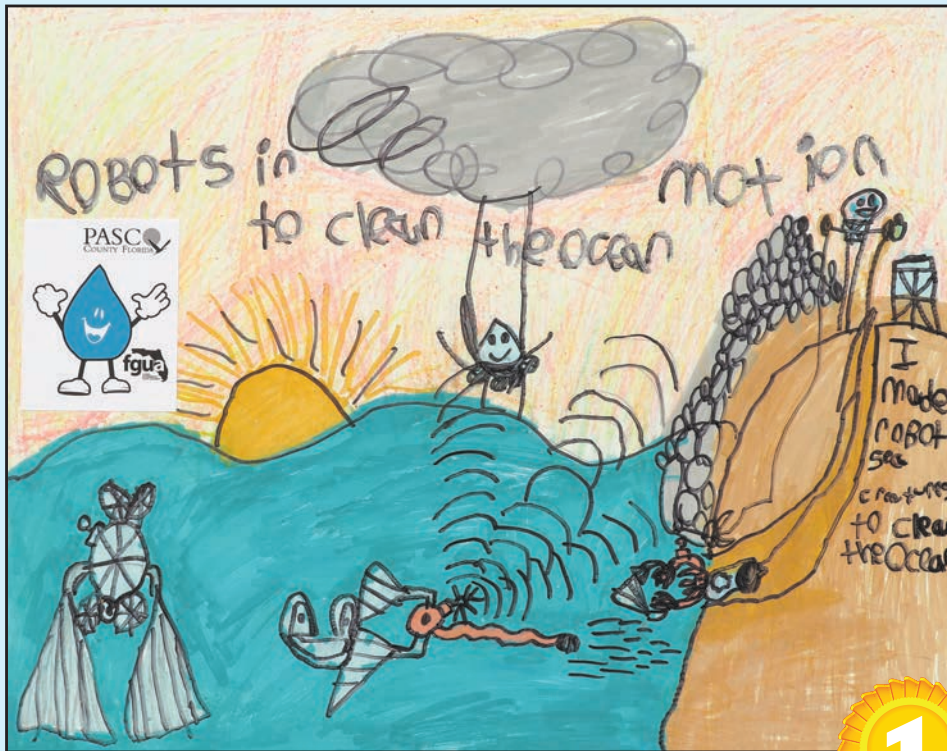
We all live in a watershed, and everything we do on land can affect the health and well-being of our surrounding bodies of water. What you do in and around your home and in your community impacts our watershed. We all share the responsibility, so we can all make simple changes to help prevent pollution and promote a healthy watershed for all of us.

It is time to use your critical thinking skills. Using the Tampa Bay Times, review the articles and ads for a one-week period. Save all articles that focus on conservation and the environment. Write down the main points for each article. Be sure to comment on whether the article focuses on positive or negative choices.

Choose one of the points represented in one of the articles to write a research paper. You can focus on any aspect of the article. After your paper is written, create an oral presentation for your class. Explain whether the information you found is positive, negative, helpful or harmful. Be sure to use specific examples from the article and your research in your paper and presentation.

Florida Standards: ELA.35.C.1.3; ELA.35.C.1.4; ELA.35.C.2.1; ELA.35.C.3.1; ELA.35.C.4.1; ELA.35.R.2.2; ELA.35.R.2.3; ELA.35.R.2.4; ELA.35.V.1.1; ELA.35.V.1.3; ELA.35.F.2.1; ELA.35.F.2.2; ELA.35.F.2.3; ELA.35.F.2.4





Hunter Hipps

Kindergarten, Sanders Memorial Elementary



Mission Possible: H₂O

Since 2010, Pasco County students have used art to share with friends and neighbors via the Water Poster Contest. This science, technology, engineering, and math (STEAM) program is a joint educational outreach project of the Florida Governmental Utility Authority, known as FGUA.

The poster contest was developed with guidance from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. To date, nearly 20,000 students have studied the importance of water and the program-provided materials, and created art to share what they learned. The contest received 1,111 entries from 14 schools, 42 participating students.

This publication mirrors the theme of the 2025 Water Poster Contest: Mission Possible: Water for Tomorrow. Watch for the poster contest in January at WaterContest.org.



Karam Alhabbal

1st Grade, Odessa Elementary



Elizabeth Satinoff

2nd Grade, Sanders Memorial Elementary

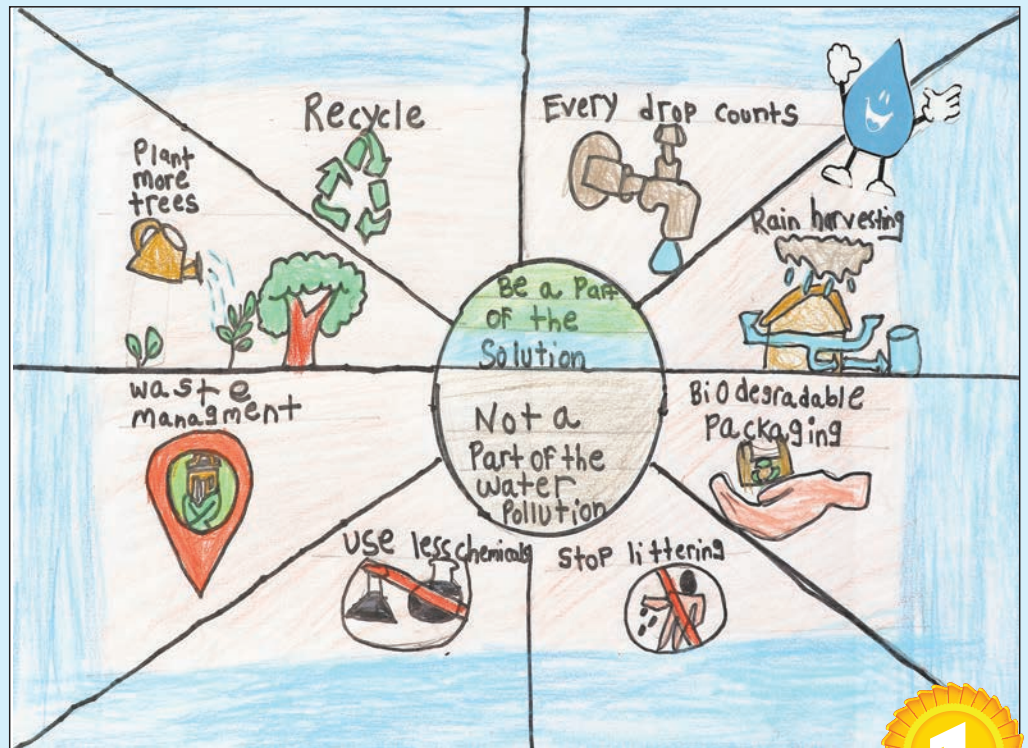


Art Gallery Avenue

Share water conservation messages with family, science, technology, engineering, arts and program between Pasco County Utilities and the

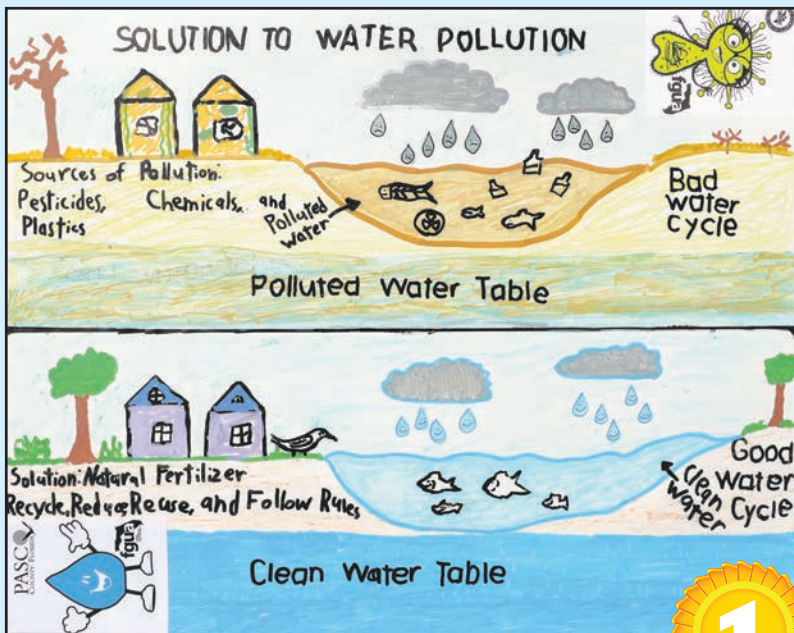
the District School Board of Pasco County. The importance of water and water conservation using what they learned. For the 2025 contest year, participating teachers and one home schooler.

Poster Contest theme –
the launch of the 2026



Dhruv Padiyar

4th Grade, Wesley Chapel Elementary



Ezaan Rabbi

3rd Grade, Odessa Elementary



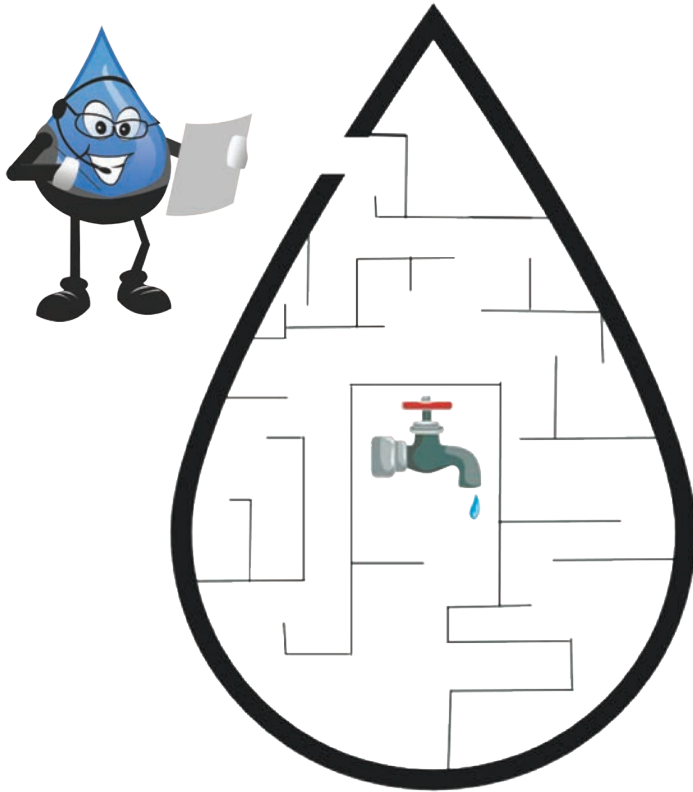
Jessica Cako

5th Grade, Athenian Academy



Find and Fix Leaks

Mission Goal: Find the drippy faucet so it can be fixed to help save water.



Help Agent Drippy locate the dripping faucet to fix it.

If you run into a dead end and need help, go to page 13 to see the path to finding the leak.

A faucet dripping once every second wastes nearly 6 gallons of water a day.

About Leaks



- The most common source of indoor household leaks is the toilet.
- A leaky toilet can lose 30 to 300 gallons of water a day.
- Other common leak sites are drippy faucets, leaky showerheads, damaged irrigation heads, water softeners and pools.
- About 10 percent of U.S homes experience leaks that waste at least 90 gallons of water or more a day.



Think About It: Water Facts

- A gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds.
- In the water cycle, accumulation is a holding stage where most of Earth's water is collected as rivers, lakes and oceans.
- Water is vital. You can live for about a month without food, but only about a week without water.
- The human brain is 75 percent water.
- Water is called the universal solvent because it can dissolve more substances than any other liquid.
- Water helps to regulate the Earth's temperature.

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

WATER CONSERVATION

Water plays an important role in our lives. Because we live in a state surrounded by so much water, we often forget about the importance of conservation. Your objective is to conserve water by using water-saving appliances. Use a broom instead of a hose outside on porches and driveways. Shut off the water while brushing your teeth. Other options are run a full load of laundry, use rain barrels in gardens and take shorter showers. With your classmates, do some research on water conservation using the Tampa Bay Times and the internet. Create a class list of the best ways to conserve water. Next, using the articles and advertisements in the Times as models, create a full-page advertorial focusing on water conservation. An advertorial is a type of advertisement that is designed to look like a newspaper article. Instead of selling a product or service, an advertorial provides information. Design your advertorial on a poster board and share what you have created with your class.

Florida Standards: SC.45.N.1.2; SC.45.N.1.3; SC.45.N.1.4; SC.45.N.1.5; SC.45.N.1.6; SC.45.N.1.7; SC.45.N.1.8;; SC.45.E.6.6; ELA.35.C.1.3; ELA.35.C.1.4; ELA.35.C.2.1; ELA.35.C.3.1; ELA.35.C.4.1; ELA.35.R.2.2; ELA.35.R.2.3; ELA.35.R.2.4; ELA.35.V.1.1; ELA.35.V.1.3; ELA.35.F.2.1; ELA.35.F.2.2; ELA.35.F.2.3; ELA.35.F.2.4

Estimate Your Water Use

Mission Goal: Calculate your household water use to compare with Tampa Bay averages.

University of Florida experts tell us that the average household in the Tampa Bay area — including Pasco County — uses 141 gallons of water indoors each day. Households that irrigate can use between 1,000 and 2,500 gallons of water every irrigation event.

How much water does your household use each month? Find out by using the chart below.

Record the minutes or events for each activity. Multiply the minutes recorded by the number of gallons per minutes shown. After completing all activity squares, add the totals for each indoor water use to estimate your family's monthly water use.

If your family's water use is more than the area average, 141 gallons, find ways to reduce use at bit.ly/PascoWatering.

	Minutes used per month

	x 2 gallons a minute
	Total monthly use

Garbage Disposal

	Minutes used per month

	x 2 gallons a minute
	Total monthly use

Brushing Teeth

	Minutes used per month

	x 2 gallons a minute
	Total monthly use

Washing Hands

	Minutes used per month

	x 2 gallons a minute
	Total monthly use

Washing Dishes by Hand

	Minutes used per month

	x 2 gallons a minute
	Total monthly use

Taking a Shower

	Minutes used per month

	x 2 gallons a minute
	Total monthly use

Irrigation by Hose

	Minutes used per month

	x 2 gallons a minute
	Total monthly use

In-Ground Irrigation

	Minutes used per month

	x 2 gallons a minute
	Total monthly use

Dishwasher

	Minutes used per month

	x 2 gallons a minute
	Total monthly use

Laundry

If all water users in Pasco County Utilities service area saved 1 gallon of water a day, more than **10 million gallons a month** would be saved.

5 Easy Ways to Save Water

Mission Goal: Look for ways that you can save water to help protect our fresh water supply.

About 71 percent of the Earth's surface is covered with water. But, only about 3 percent of Earth's water is fresh water. And, only about 1 percent can be used as drinking water. The other fresh water is locked up in glaciers, ice caps, and permafrost, or buried deep in the ground. The rest of the Earth's water — about 97 percent — is saltwater that makes up our oceans and seas. Adopting the habit of saving water is one way to help protect our fresh water supplies. Here are five things you can do to adopt water-saving habits.



Stop the flow. Water doesn't need to be running while you are busy brushing your teeth. Turning it off until you are ready to rinse will save water. Also, be sure that the faucet is turned off all the way after washing your hands.

Don't waste a drop. If you don't drink all the water in your glass or bottle, use it to water plants or flowers in the garden. Leftover ice cubes can go right into small plant pots. They will slowly melt to give the plant roots just a "sip" of water.



Scrape, don't rinse after meals. When you are helping to clean up after meals, scrape food scraps into the trash before loading the dishwasher. Washing and rinsing dishes in the sink uses more water than a properly loaded/adjusted dishwasher.

Take a shower in place of a soak. A shower uses less water than filling the bathtub as long as you don't stand under the spray too long. If you shorten the shower by just a minute you will save about 2 gallons of water.



Don't use the toilet for trash. Used paper towels and tissues belong in the garbage. Only flush the 3 Ps — pee, poo and (toilet) paper. When you use the toilet as a trash can, you can waste 1 to 3 gallons of water.

Rain Sensors Save a Lot of Water

Mission Goal: Identify the benefits of having a rain sensor connected to automatic irrigation.

All automatic irrigation systems in Florida are required to be connected to an active, working rain sensing device. A properly installed standard rain sensor can reduce water use by up to 30 percent. A soil moisture sensor is estimated to save more than 15,000 gallons of water annually. Weather-based controllers can save up to 30-40 percent during dry conditions and 70-90 percent during normal rainfall conditions.

Standard rain sensor

- Collects rainfall, which signals the irrigation controller when pre-set trigger point is reached.
- Prevents irrigation during and immediately after a rain event.
- Easy to set, mount and wire to controller.
- Must be installed so that the opening at the top is in an upright position and is not covered by roofing, trees or other obstructions.
- Device has an expected lifespan of 1-3 years in our climate. The cup contains either a felt or cork medium that easily can be replaced.



Soil moisture sensor

- Measures/estimates the amount of water in the soil and must be placed in driest zone in the landscape.
- Requires proper installation and calibration.
- Device has an expected lifespan of 3-5 years.
- Responds to moisture set points based on soil type and other site-specific conditions.



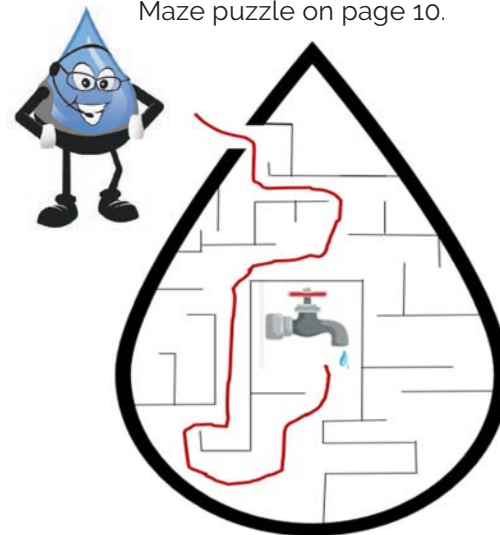
Weather-based controller

- Monitors rain, wind, sun, humidity and temperature to calculate daily evaporation and plant water use.
- Adjusts irrigation schedules to apply only the amount of water needed.
- Requires connectivity; can link for operation by phone or computer dashboard.
- Requires accurate zone-specific input (soil, plant type, light conditions, etc.) for optimum results.



Find & Fix Leaks Maze (Solution)

Maze puzzle on page 10.



***Thank You
for Conserving Water!***

Reclaimed Water for the Win

Mission Goal: Identify three ways reclaimed water reduces potable water use in Pasco County.

Reclaimed water is treated wastewater. Using reclaimed water for irrigation or for industrial processes saves fresh water. For that reason, it is an important part of managing our water resources.

Purple piping is a signal that the pipe contains reclaimed water. Piping and devices such as water meters and irrigation heads are purple to send a visual message that they carry reclaimed water that is not intended for drinking or other human consumption. Purple piping also helps plumbers, engineers and maintenance crews avoid connecting reclaimed lines with drinking water pipes.

Pasco's reclaimed water system contains about 715 miles of piping, ranging in size from 3/4 inch to 42 inches in diameter. The system provides irrigation to nearly 40,000 locations, and it delivers an average of 25 million gallons of water daily for irrigation, industrial and environmental use.

Follow the steps here to learn how wastewater is converted to reclaimed water and distributed for various uses across Pasco County:

Step 1: Wastewater from toilets, sinks, tubs, washing machines and other indoor drains passes through a screen at the wastewater facility to remove large debris.

Step 2: The water enters primary clarifiers where remaining solids settle to the bottom of a tank.

Step 3: The water is treated to break down any remaining organic materials.

Step 4: The reclaimed water is then disinfected to remove any remaining bacteria before storage for irrigation and environmental or industrial use, as needed.

Step 5: The reclaimed water is stored in two reservoirs and a series of storage tanks located across the county.

Step 6: Reclaimed water is moved from storage to distribution pipes for customer access. Pasco's reclaimed water system can deliver about 25 million gallons of reclaimed water a day to help conserve our potable resources.



In Florida, when reclaimed water is used for irrigation in areas with public access, such as parks, golf courses and residential areas, signage is required. The signage is a safety measure to advise that the water is not for drinking. The signage is required to include a "Do Not Drink" alert in both English and Spanish, along with the standard international symbol for non-potable water. Where reclaimed water is stored in lakes, ponds or where it is used in decorative features, the signage also must say "Do Not Swim."

Facts about Pasco County's Reclaimed Water System



- Currently, Pasco County delivers reclaimed water for irrigation to approximately 35,000 connections to include homeowners, communities and businesses.
- A portion of Pasco's reclaimed water supply is used to recharge 15 wetland infiltration cells at the 4G Ranch project. The project provides aquifer recharge as well as wetland and lake restoration.
- Starting early next year, the new Shady Hills Energy Center in northwest Pasco will receive about 3 million gallons of reclaimed water daily to help cool the energy-producing equipment.

Where Does Your Drinking Water Come From?

Pasco County Utilities buys about 95 percent of the county's drinking water from Tampa Bay Water, the regional wholesale water provider. The balance of the utility's customers receive treated groundwater from wells operated by the utility.

The water received from Tampa Bay Water is a blend of treated groundwater, surface water and seawater.

- Fifteen deep wells, drawing from the Floridan Aquifer, provide groundwater to Tampa Bay Water.
- The Alafia River, Hillsborough River and the Tampa Bypass Canal are the surface water supply sources for Tampa Bay Water's surface water.
- Surplus river and canal water is stored in the C. W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir, to meet water demands during dry times.
- Tampa Bay provides the seawater included in Tampa Bay Water's drinking water blend.

Pasco County Utilities provides drinking water to about 375,000 people who live, work and play in Pasco.



GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

DO THE RESEARCH

The major source of our water supply in Florida is the Floridan Aquifer. The aquifer is a huge underground reservoir, made up of porous limestone rock, which holds groundwater like a sponge. The water in the aquifer comes from rainfall that soaks into the ground. Rainfall that is not absorbed is called surface or stormwater runoff. We take water from the aquifer for human use through springs (natural openings in the ground where water flows directly from the aquifer to the surface) and wells (artificial holes drilled into the aquifer).

Research the following terms:

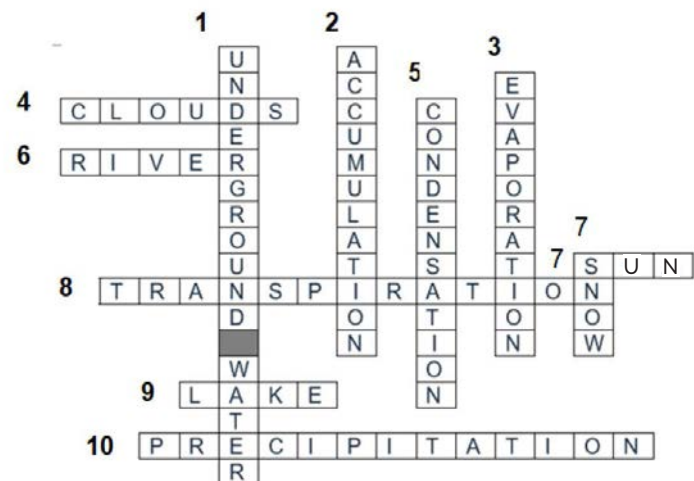
- Freshwater
- Groundwater
- Potable water
- Wastewater
- Reclaimed water
- Spring water
- Stormwater runoff

Create a poster depicting the types of water and what the water is used for. Share the information you learn with your class.

Standards: SC.35.N.1.1; SC.35.N.1.2; SC.35.N.1.3; SC.35.N.1.4; SC.35.N.3.1; SC.35.P.9.1; ELA.35.C.1.3; ELA.35.C.1.4; ELA.35.C.2.1; ELA.35.C.3.1; ELA.35.C.4.1; ELA.35.R.2.2; ELA.35.R.2.3; ELA.35.R.2.4; ELA.35.V.1.1; ELA.35.V.1.3; ELA.35.F.2.1; ELA.35.F.2.2; ELA.35.F.2.3; ELA.35.F.2.4

Water Crossword (Solution)

Crossword puzzle on page 5.



Saving Water Matters

Water conservation is an integral part of Pasco County Utilities' commitment to provide its customers with a dependable high-quality water supply — today and into the future.



While water conservation is using water wisely and using only what you need, it also is about so much more. For example:

- Water conservation “stretches” our available water supplies to help keep water costs as low as possible.
- Water conservation helps the ponds and lakes we rely on for aesthetics and recreation.
- Water conservation helps to ensure that habitat is available for the wildlife that makes Pasco County a good place to live.

For more information about water, wastewater and reclaimed water services and water conservation, visit PascoCountyUtilites.com.

GOING BEYOND THE TEXT

PROTECTING YOUR ENVIRONMENT

The best way to protect our environment is by working together. Conserving water, recycling and protecting our wildlife are important for Earth's future and for future generations. Look for articles in the Tampa Bay Times that show or focus on examples of people, groups or organizations working to protect the environment. Make a list of those involved and the actions they are taking. Select one of the environmental groups or issues you have read about and do some research about it. Then think about what actions you can take to protect the environment. Share your ideas and what you have learned by writing a blog post or short essay that incorporates the information you have learned.

Florida Standards: SC.5.E.7.2; SC.4.P.8.2; ELA.35.C.1.3; ELA.35.C.1.4; ELA.35.C.2.1; ELA.35.C.3.1; ELA.35.C.4.1; ELA.35.R.2.2; ELA.35.R.2.3; ELA.35.R.2.4; ELA.35.V.1.1; ELA.35.V.1.3; ELA.35.F.2.1; ELA.35.F.2.2; ELA.35.F.2.3; ELA.35.F.2.4

About NIE

The Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program (NIE)

is a cooperative effort between schools and the Times Publishing Co. to encourage the use of newspapers in print and electronic form as educational resources — a “living textbook.”

Our educational resources fall into the category of informational text, a type of nonfiction text. The primary purpose of informational text is to convey information about the natural or social world. NIE serves educators, students and families by providing schools with class sets of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Tampa Bay Times, plus award-winning original educational publications, teacher guides, lesson plans, educator workshops and many more resources — all at no cost to schools, teachers or families.

In 2024-2025, NIE provided nearly 200,000 print copies and more than 10 million e-Newspaper licenses to Tampa Bay classrooms. For more information about NIE, visit tampabay.com/nie, email ordernie@tampabay.com. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/TBTNIE.

NIE Staff

Jodi Pushkin,
manager,
jpushkin@tampabay.com
Sue Bedry,
development officer,
sbedry@tampabay.com



Credits

Project manager:

Sue Bedry, Times staff

Designed by:

Stacy Rector,
Fluid Graphic Design,
stacyrector1@comcast.net,
fluidgraphicdesign.com

Written by:

Sandra E. Anderson,
Pasco County Utilities Customer
Information & Services Director
Phoenix McKinney, Pasco County
Utilities Water Conservation
& Efficiency Coordinator
Jodi Pushkin, Times staff

©Tampa Bay Times 2025

Cover art:

Vanesa Shook,
Pasco County Utilities
Communication Coordinator

Florida Standards

This publication and its activities incorporate the following Florida Standards for elementary school students: ELA.25.EE.2.1; ELA.25.EE.3.1; ELA.25.EE.4.1; ELA.25.EE.5.1; ELA.25.EE.6.1; ELA.25.C.1.1; ELA.25.C.1.2; ELA.25.C.1.3; ELA.25.C.1.4; ELA.25.C.1.5; ELA.25.C.2.1; ELA.25.C.3.1; ELA.25.C.4.1; ELA.25.F.1.3; ELA.25.F.1.4; ELA.25.F.2.1; ELA.25.F.2.2; ELA.25.F.2.3; ELA.25.F.2.4; ELA.25.R.2.1; ELA.25.R.2.2; ELA.25.R.2.3; ELA.25.R.2.4; ELA.25.V.1.1; ELA.25.V.1.2; ELA.25.V.1.3; SC.25.CS-CC.1.3; SC.25.CSCP.1.1; SC.25.CS-CP.1.2; SC.25.CS-CP.1.3; SC.25.CS-CP.1.4; SC.25.CS-CP.2.2; SC.25.CS-CS.2.1; SC.25.CS-CS.2.2; SC.25.CS-CS.2.3; SC.25.CS-CS.2.4; SC.25.CSCS.2.5; SC.25.E.6.3; SC.25.E.6.6; SC.25.E.7.1; SC.5.E.7.2; SC.25.N.1.1; SC.25.N.1.2; SC.25.N.1.3; SC.25.N.1.4; SC.25.N.1.5; SC.4.P.8.2; SC.35.P.9.1