



Ask Maxine

Does everyone really live in a watershed?
What if you live in the desert?

Yes! Everyone lives in a watershed. Even in deserts where it is extremely hot and dry, water is shed. Deserts typically receive ten inches or less of precipitation per year. The rain usually comes in brief downpours resulting in flooding as the water flows across the dry, caked soil. Remember, not all water in a watershed is above ground. Even in the desert, there are underground rivers and aquifers where water flows.

Death Valley is a desert located in the Badwater Basin watershed. The average high temperature in the summer is 116°F. It is home to animals like Kangaroo Rats which can live their entire lives without drinking a drop of water. But like all living organisms, they must have water to survive. The water they need to survive is metabolized by their bodies from starch and fats in the dry seeds they eat.



Maxine worked for NACD for 47 years. That's why we always ask Maxine.



SALT POLYGONS

After winter flooding, the salt on the Badwater Basin Playa dries into geometric polygonal shapes.

For additional information and smartphone app visit www.epa.gov/mywaterway

Answer Key: Watershed Scramble:

1. No matter where you are; you are standing in a watershed.

2. A watershed can range in size from a few to millions of acres.

3. Your everyday activities have an impact on your watershed.

4. The health of your watershed can have a huge impact on you.

Answer: A watershed is the area of land that catches precipitation and drains into a body of water.

How Did That Get In My Watershed?

1-2 habits, 2-3 sweep, 3-4 pollutants, 4-5 save, 5-6 erosion, 6-7 never, 7-8 rethink, 8-9 keep, 9-10 pet

Name That Watershed: largest area of connected watersheds—Great Basin, most watershed dams—Oklahoma,

home to American crocodile—Everglades watersheds, largest fresh water surface system—Great Lakes, 7 of me

were produced—hurricane, I can have a huge impact—coastal watersheds, I have no eyes—White Pine Amphipod,

during the 1930's—Small Watershed Dams, more water systems—Ground Water.



National Association of Conservation Districts

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<http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-program/>

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WATERSHEDS

OUR WATER, ©

OUR HOME



Drinking Old Shed Water



Are you thirsty? Does a glass of ice-cold, crystal-clear water sound good? Yes, it does! Do you know that a drink of water, whether from a fountain, faucet or bottle, could be thousands of years old and have travelled around the world a few times? The world's fresh water supply is not new. Our water is being constantly recycled through the earth's water cycle. That is why it is very important to be aware of the watershed you live in and how your lifestyle can affect it... And that glass of "old shed water" you are drinking!



Water vapor in the atmosphere condenses to form clouds and weather systems that can travel around the world.

condensation

Eventually the condensation becomes **precipitation** in the form of rain, snow, sleet, hail or fog.

precipitation

evaporation

Transpiration is similar to **evaporation**. It is the loss of water vapor from parts of plants – almost like sweating.

Water re-enters the atmosphere to start the cycle all over again by **evaporation** and **transpiration**.

transpiration

Once the precipitation lands, it can do two things:

it can be **SHED** off the land into a body of water like a stream

- OR -

it can **soak** through the soil until it reaches an underground body of water like an **aquifer**.

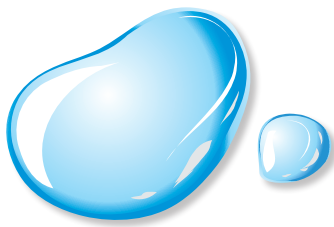
infiltration

Infiltration is the process by which water on the ground surface soaks into the soil.

The above diagram illustrates how you end up drinking recycled water that has been "shed."

So, whether your water comes from a well or a public water supply... it has been shed and recycled!





How Did That

Since we all live in a watershed our actions, habits and decisions can have a strong affect on the animals and plants that share life in the watershed with us.

Here are some of the things you can do to protect your watershed:



No Drain Dumping.

Never dump used motor oil, hazardous chemicals, pet waste, or any other materials down storm drains or on the ground. The water in storm drains flows to rivers, lakes or other bodies of water and could end up in our drinking water. Materials left on the ground can leach through the soil and end up in underground water supplies.



Car Care.

According to the US Bureau of Transportation Statistics, there are 263,600,000 registered passenger vehicles on the road. That's a lot of oil changes, leaking anti-freeze and car washes. If your vehicle leaks fluid on the street or in your driveway, it can end up in storm drains and pollute water sources. Watch for signs of leaks!



Pick Up After Your Pet.

Six out of every 10 homes have a four-legged pet. Do you? Care for your watershed by disposing of pet waste in the trash or toilet. Proper disposal means proper treatment. Pet waste left on the ground can wash into storm drains and ditches. From there it flows into lakes and streams where it can contaminate the water with harmful bacteria.



at Get In My Watershed?

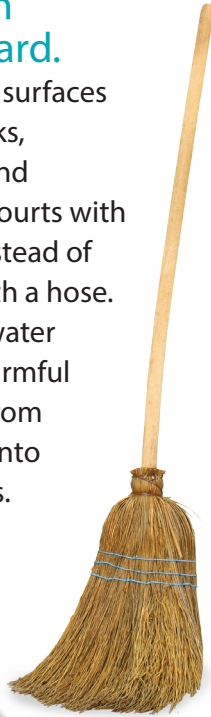
Talk The Walk.

Tell your family and friends how important it is to practice good conservation habits in your watershed.



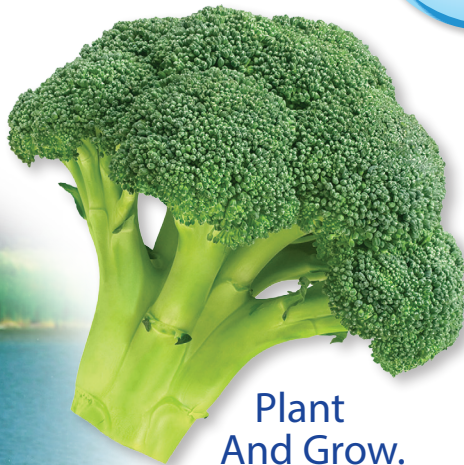
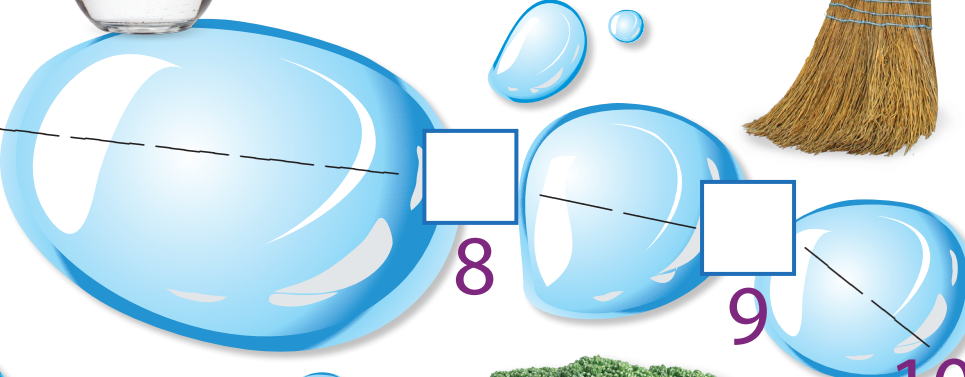
Go Green In Your Yard.

Sweep hard surfaces like sidewalks, driveways and basketball courts with a broom, instead of spraying with a hose. You'll save water and keep harmful pollutants from "shedding" into storm drains.



Conserve Water.

The average person uses 80 - 100 gallons of water every day!



Plant And Grow.

If there are bare spots in your yard, get busy planting. Plants prevent erosion which leads to soil being moved through the watershed into our lakes and rivers. Grow some healthy vegetables like broccoli or tomatoes.



Fill in the blanks in each drop of water by answering the following clues. The numbers before each clue tell you where the word begins and ends. The answers will share first and/or last letters with the letter that goes in the square.

- 1-2 Our _____ can have a strong impact on our watershed.
- 2-3 It is best to _____ hard surfaces.
- 3-4 Avoid spraying hard surfaces with a hose to prevent _____ from flowing into storm drains.
- 4-5 _____ water. The average person uses 80 - 100 gallons per day.
- 5-6 Prevent _____ by planting some vegetables.
- 6-7 _____ dump chemicals, waste or other materials down storm drains or on the ground.
- 7-8 Reduce, reuse, recycle and _____. Every change, big or small can improve the health of your environment.
- 8-9 Practice good vehicle maintenance. _____ an eye out for leaking anti-freeze or motor oil.
- 9-10 Pick up after your _____ to avoid harmful bacteria travelling through the watershed and contaminating water supplies.



Name That

Answer That Question

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Everglades Watershed | Hurricane |
| Great Basin Watershed | Oklahoma |
| Great Lakes | Small Watershed Dams |
| Ground Water | White Pine Amphipod |
| Coastal Watersheds | |

This watershed is the largest area of connected watersheds in North America. It spreads into parts of California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming. It is made up of mountains, rivers, lakes and deserts. This watershed is home to several endemic animal and plant species. Endemic species are incredible because they only live in one location on the **entire** planet. These are some of the endemic species found in this watershed: the White Pine amphipod, the Model Cave Harvestman and the Pygmy Rabbit. **What is the name of this watershed?**

Label them on the map.

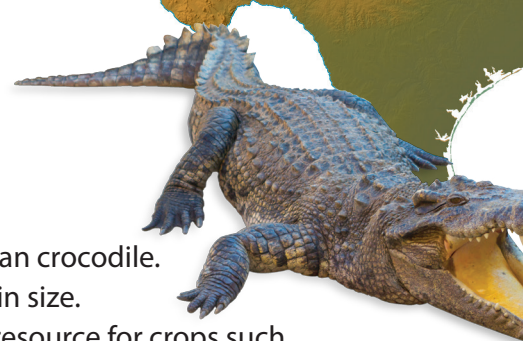
Draw a circle around the state that has the greatest number of small watershed dams.



I am home to the American crocodile.
 I am over 2 million acres in size.
 I am a great agricultural resource for crops such as citrus fruits, sugarcane, bell peppers, tomatoes, watermelon, squash and cucumbers.

What am I?

Label the area on the map showing the states affected by the Dust Bowl.



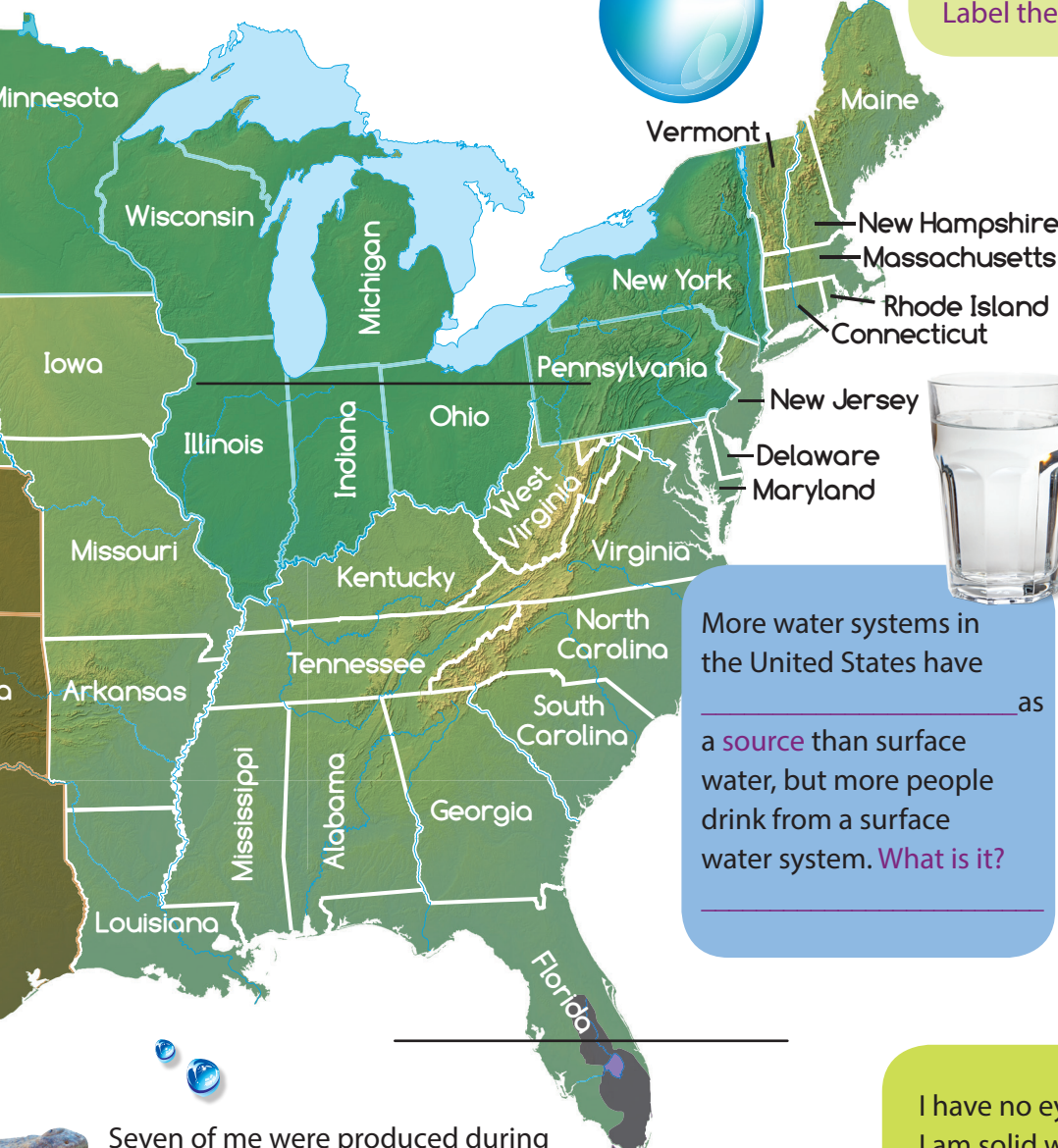
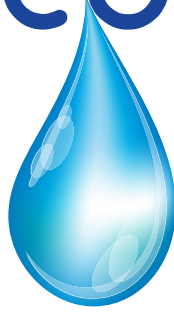
Watershed



The five _____

_____ form the largest fresh surface water system in the world. Their watershed boundaries cross the borders of 8 states. Label them on the map.

Fill in all of the blanks and follow the instructions by choosing the correct answer from the "Answer That Question" box. Use the lines on the map to label areas when requested.



More water systems in the United States have _____ as a source than surface water, but more people drink from a surface water system. What is it?

During the 1930's the Midwest United States suffered one of the worst natural disasters in history—the **Dust Bowl**. Several states were damaged by dust storms as soil was picked up and blown into neighboring states. The topsoil that didn't blow away was washed away by rains. Streams and rivers were clogged with sediment, and farm land and towns were flooded. One of the conservation practices that was put into place to reduce the damages caused by flooding was the construction of _____. These structures temporarily trap and store runoff water after heavy rainstorms. Label the area on the map showing the states affected by the Dust Bowl.



Seven of me were produced during the Atlantic _____ season in 2011. I can have a huge impact on _____ as I blow in with winds in excess of 100 miles per hour and cause water to flood down, through and within the watersheds.

What am I?

Trace the coastline where you think watersheds may have been impacted.



I have no eyes.
I am solid white.
I was discovered in March of 2011.
I live in underground waterways.
I live in only one place on the planet.
What am I?

In which watershed(s) do I live?

