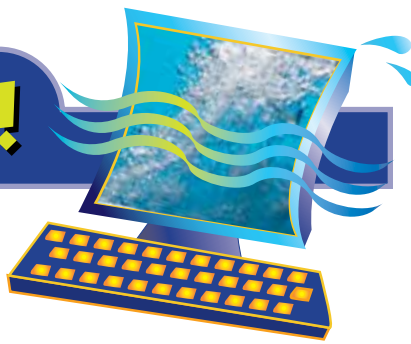


What's Wet on the Web!



The Southwest Florida Water Management District urges everyone to practice water conservation throughout the year. The water levels may rise and fall, but our water resources are limited. Let's encourage longtime residents and newcomers to use water wisely.

For additional information and activities about water, be sure to check out these sites on the Internet:

WaterMatters.org/Kids
Southwest Florida Water Management District

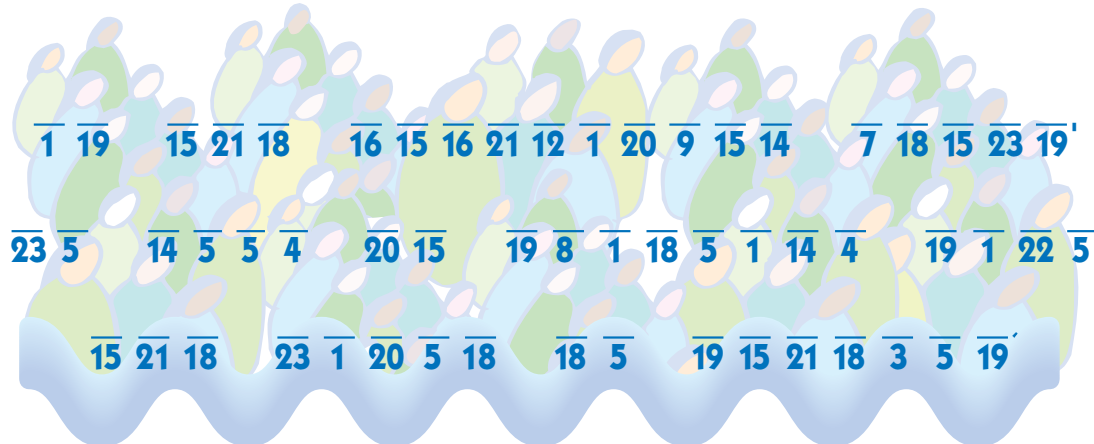
ga.water.usgs.gov/edu
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Water Science for Schools

epa.gov/ogwdw/kids
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Drinking Water Kids' Stuff



FIND THE HIDDEN WATER MESSAGE

- 1 = a
- 2 = b
- 3 = c
- 4 = d
- 5 = e
- 6 = f
- 7 = g
- 8 = h
- 9 = i
- 10 = j
- 11 = k
- 12 = l
- 13 = m
- 14 = n
- 15 = o
- 16 = p
- 17 = q
- 18 = r
- 19 = s
- 20 = t
- 21 = u
- 22 = v
- 23 = w
- 24 = x
- 25 = y
- 26 = z



Mail your message to us and we will send you a free prize!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

County _____ School _____

Teacher _____ Grade _____

Send to: **WaterDrops — Growth and Development Youth Education Communications Department**
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899



The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District's Human Resources Director, 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4702; TDD 1-800-231-6103 (FL only); or email ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org.

Southwest Florida Water Management District

WATERMATTERS.ORG · 1-800-423-1476
VISPT 04-10

WATERDROPS

Growth and Development

A Southwest Florida Water Management District Water Resources Newsletter for Grades 3-5

Hello Readers!

This issue of *WaterDrops* is about population growth and development. More and more people have moved to our area in recent years. You probably have met a few of them at your school or in your neighborhood. In fact, you may be one of these new people!

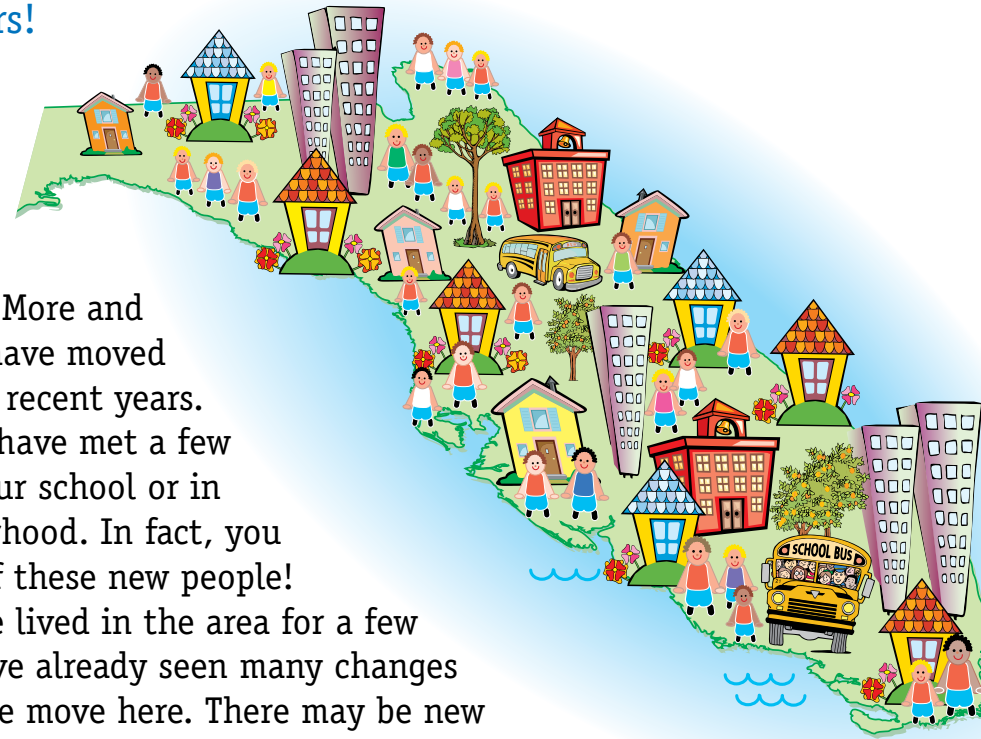
If you have lived in the area for a few years, you have already seen many changes as more people move here. There may be new stores and businesses. There may be new houses or entire neighborhoods. New schools may have appeared. As new buildings and roads are built, other things disappear. The developments may also cause wooded areas and wetlands to become smaller in size.

To help you learn more about growth and development in our area, we have included a feature story, articles, activities and

games. When you finish this issue, we hope you will understand the importance of protecting our water supply. In other issues of *WaterDrops*, you can learn more about how important water is to us. Don't forget to send in the activity on the back page for a free prize.



Happy Splashing!



- Water Drips & Drops
- Feature Story
- Take It Home
- Water Cycle Wanda
- Water in Our World
- Games & Puzzles
- What's Wet on the Web!

THE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD — FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™

“Whew! We finally made it,” said Father as he pulled the car into the driveway of their new home.

The family had driven all through the night so they could be in their new house by morning.

Mother stretched her legs as she got out of the car.

“Wow! Look at the SOLD signs in front of all those houses,” said Raymond. “Everybody must be moving into our neighborhood. Cool!”

Selena sat quietly in the back seat and thought about the new changes in her life. She would be living in a new house, in a new neighborhood and be attending a new school, which would open in just a few weeks. All of it seemed exciting and a little scary too. “I hope there are lots of girls my age,” said Selena softly.

Just as they began unpacking the car, a few neighbors approached and introduced themselves.

“You folks are really going to like this neighborhood,” said Mr. Johnson. “Everyone gets along well and each month we try to do a community project



together. The children help too. We’ve had a pond cleanup, a roundup of old paint cans and batteries for safe disposal, and a day

when we collected newspapers, cans and plastics for recycling. This

month, several of us are going to design and plant a Florida-friendly garden area near the entrance to the neighborhood. Your family may want to join us and meet some of the neighbors.”

Selena gave a puzzled look to her new neighbors. “What’s Florida-friendly?” she asked.

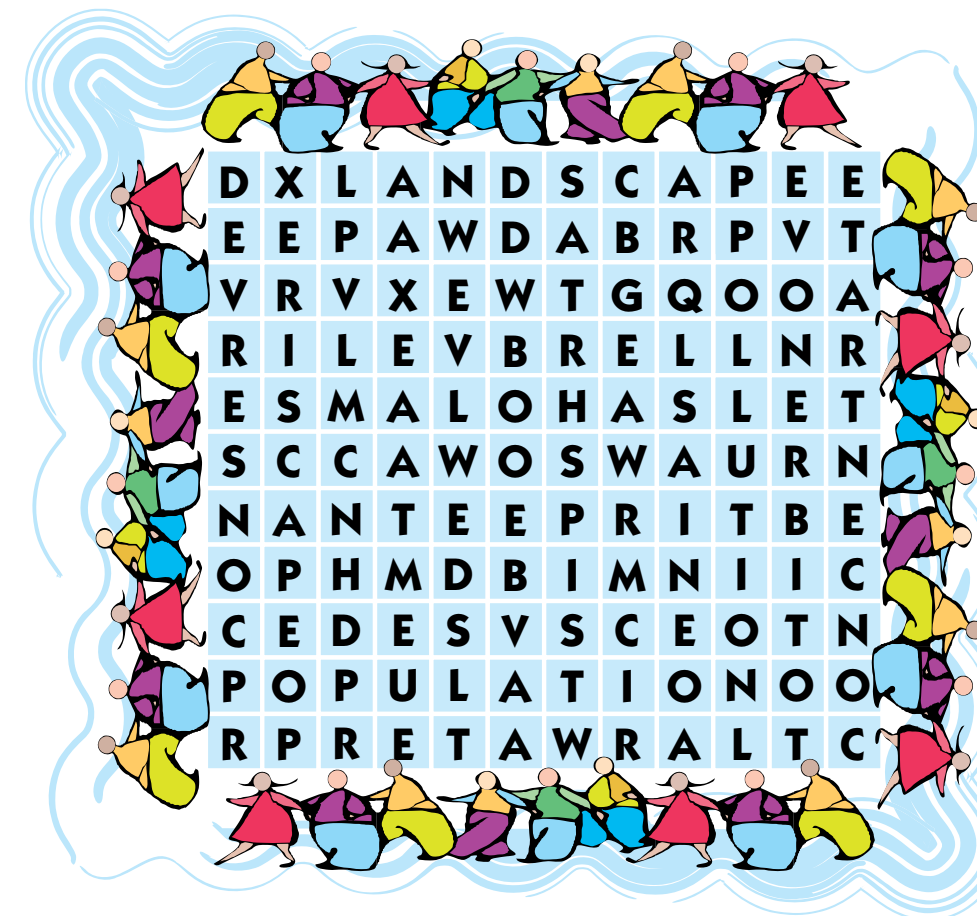
“It’s a way of having nice landscape areas without using a lot of water,” said Mr. Johnson. “The plants and bushes that live there don’t need a lot of water. Freshwater resources are limited, so it’s important that we all try to conserve water. A Florida-friendly garden is a great way to do just that.” Then Mr. Johnson pointed across the street and added, “Look at the area in front of our house. Instead of a lot of lawn, we have planted bushes and trees that don’t need much water. We also cover the ground near the plants’ roots with mulch to help conserve water.”

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words?

WORD BANK

- desal
- development
- conserve
- landscape
- concentrate
- population
- growth
- pollution
- water



WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the following groups of letters to form words that appeared in this issue. Then make up a sentence using some of the words.

thogrw _____

twrea _____

ppotiulan _____

borsghein _____

sadel _____

paleadscn _____

Water in Our World

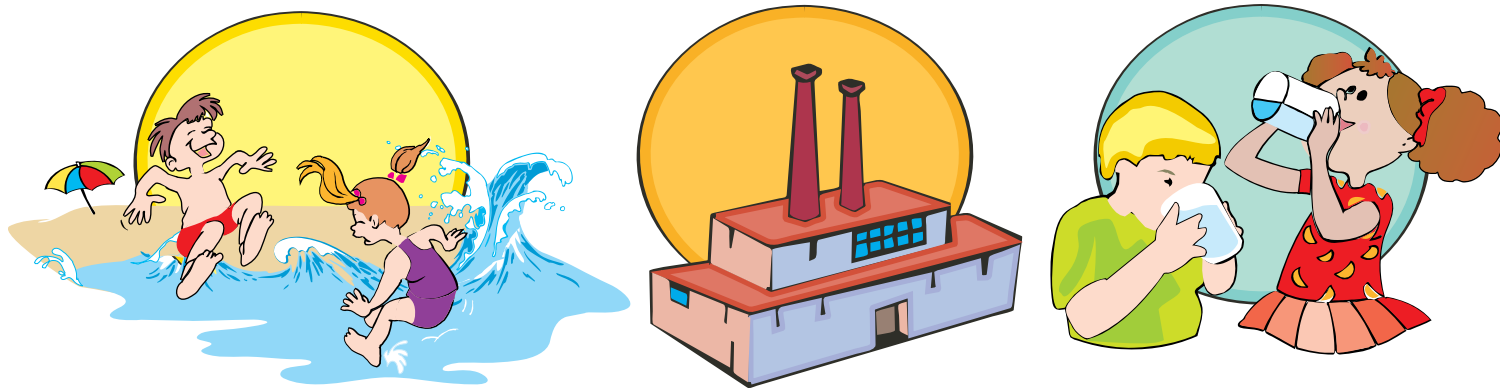
ALL ABOUT DESAL

As more people move to an area, more fresh **water** will be needed for drinking and other uses. One way to meet the increase in **water** needs is by changing salty **water** from the oceans into clean, fresh drinking **water**. It is a process called *desal*, which stands for desalination. It's really cool!

Desalination means to "de-salt" or to remove salt from salty or brackish **water** at a desalination facility. At this facility, extreme pressure is used to force the salty

water into a spiral path that will move through long tubelike layers of materials. As the **water** is pushed through the layers, a salty concentrate is left behind. The **water** keeps moving through the special tubelike layers until no more concentrate is left. Finally, the "desalted" **water** flows through holes into a drinking **water** tube.

Now, the next time you are asked about another source of **water**, you can talk about desal!



Let's see how much you learned about desal. For each question, circle Yes or No.

- Yes No Is desalination a process of changing salty **water** into fresh **water**?
- Yes No Can desal help us by providing another source of **water**?
- Yes No Does salty concentrate remain in the **water** that will be used for drinking?
- Yes No Will we need more fresh **water** as more people move into the area?

"Florida-Friendly Landscaping is becoming so popular that a lot of us are changing sections of our lawns to make Florida-friendly areas," said Mrs. Johnson. "Our **water** bill has gone down a lot."

"And we don't need to bother with all those fertilizers and pesticides," added Mr. Johnson.

"Why not?" asked Selena.

"Many Florida-friendly landscapes use plants that are native or adapted to this area, so they've developed natural ways of keeping bugs away. They are used to growing in Florida, so they don't need lots of fertilizer to help them grow."

"Did you know most households use up to half of their **water** outdoors?" asked a neighbor. "With so many people moving into new neighborhoods, it's really important for everyone to protect our **water** resources."

They all nodded their heads in agreement.

"At my old school, we learned that by saving **water** today, we will have enough for tomorrow," said Raymond. "Where we used to live, some people **watered** their lawns almost every day. Sprinklers were twirling around all the time."

"I think you will find it different here, Raymond,"



Describe a few ways people in your neighborhood could use less **water**. For extra fun, draw a picture to show your neighbors working together on a project.

WATERING OUTDOORS

Dripping or Spraying — What's the Best Way to Water Our Plant Areas?

Try this easy experiment at home — it's fun!

Sprinklers may work fine on our lawns. But plant areas often need a different method of watering. Choosing the best way to water plant areas around our homes can save water and money at the same time. It's a double bonus!

Materials:

- 2 index cards
- eye dropper and 1 cup water
- 1 spray bottle filled with 1 cup water
- pencil
- scissors
- construction paper

Directions:

1. Cut four circles the same size from the construction paper. Layer two circles to make the first plant area. Layer the other two circles for the second plant area.
2. Use the index cards to label each area "SPRAY" or "DRIP."
3. Use the sprayer to water the "SPRAY" area until it is saturated with water.
4. Use the eye dropper to water the "DRIP" area until it is saturated.

Questions:

1. About how much water was used for spraying?
2. About how much water was used for dripping?
3. Which plant area needed more water to become saturated?
4. Which method would you recommend for watering? Why?



Ask Water Cycle Wanda

Callihan asks: A friend told me that there are more than twice as many people living in Florida today than there were when my parents were my age. Is this true?

Water Cycle Wanda: Your friend is probably right. In 1970 there were about 7 million people living in our state. Now there are more than 18 million people living in Florida. This means we need to work even harder to protect our natural resources.

OUR GROWING NEIGHBORHOODS

When more people move into a neighborhood, many changes take place. It is important that you welcome your new neighbors and help them learn how important it is to save water. The best way to do this is to be a model WATER-SAVER.

Let's find out how much you know about saving water. For each statement, place an X under AGREE or DISAGREE. Then discuss your answers with your classmates.

AGREE

DISAGREE

- | | | |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Students can practice water conservation at school. |
| _____ | _____ | 2. We don't need to conserve water during rainy seasons. |
| _____ | _____ | 3. It's important to share the water resources. |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Watering driveways and sidewalks is a waste of water. |
| _____ | _____ | 5. There are many simple ways to save water indoors. |
| _____ | _____ | 6. Florida-friendly landscapes can be beautiful. |
| _____ | _____ | 7. Taking a short shower uses less water than a full bath. |
| _____ | _____ | 8. A household uses up to one-half of its water outdoors. |
| _____ | _____ | 9. Everyone can be taught about ways to save water. |
| _____ | _____ | 10. A Florida-friendly landscape needs more water than a lawn. |



Water-Saver Game

Select up to four players and find out who can create the longest list of different ways to save water indoors and outdoors in your neighborhood. Then compare your lists. The player with the longest list of conservation tips is the Water-Saver winner!