

Seminole County Water Atlas Learning Kit

Explore Your Watershed Handout

Part 1 of 4 in the "Exploring the Water Atlas" Series

Water Atlas Curriculum Lesson 12

INSTRUCTIONS: Go to the website: www.Seminole.WaterAtlas.org

1. Go to Data & Mapping > Advanced Mapping Tool. You are looking at a Watershed Map of Seminole County.
2. Find your home or school:
 - a. Under "Search for" on the right side of the screen, click "an address."
 - b. Click inside the text box. Enter your street address, including the number and the street name, but not the city. Click "Go."
 - c. The map should change, displaying a red star at the location of your house or school. (If the address is not found, have an adult or your teacher help you locate it on the map.)
3. Turn on the map layer that displays water quality sampling sites, and refresh the map. Which organizations collect data about our water near your home/school? (If you don't see any markers at first, use the "Zoom Out" tool to display more of the map until you some appear.)

4. Find your watershed:
 - a. Choose the "Get Info/Identify" tool. Click once near the marker that represents your home or school. A new window will open. In what watershed is your home/school located?

 - b. Choose the "Select a Watershed" tool. Click on the map to bring up your watershed. You may need to make the window full screen.
5. What is a watershed?

Name:

Date:

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6. Find information about your watershed:

a. How big is your watershed? _____square miles

b. Find the list of water bodies (lakes and rivers) in your watershed. Name one you recognize, or one that has an interesting name.

c. Click the Geography/Land Use tab. For the most recent year shown, as a percentage:

_____How much land is being used for agriculture—to raise crops or graze animals?

_____How much is occupied by people and their "infrastructure"—houses, businesses, roads, utilities, etc.?

_____How much is unoccupied, either "barren," or covered by water, or in its "natural state"?

_____Between the earliest year shown and the latest, which land use category has experienced the largest change? Has it increased, or decreased, over time?

d. What is the division between wetlands and uplands? (Total should equal 100%.)

As of the year _____, the land cover is _____% Wetlands and _____% Uplands

7. Visit the [Digital Library](#) on the Seminole County Water Atlas. Find the map of St. Johns River Water Management District watersheds and basins, and open it.

You can see that your watershed is part of a much larger watershed—all of the lands drained by the St. Johns River.

The St. Johns River is divided into smaller basins. Most of Seminole County is in the Middle St. Johns River Basin.

The St. Johns River's headwaters are in the Upper St. Johns River Basin. Are they to the north or south of Seminole County? _____

The mouth of the St. Johns River is in the Lower St. Johns River Basin. Is it to the north or south of Seminole County? _____

In which direction does the St. Johns River flow? _____

Name:

Date:

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