A Journey Along the River

**Essential Question:** How do the characteristics of the Hillsborough River change on its journey to Tampa Bay?

**Objective:** During the bell work lessons, the students will revise short paragraphs to strengthen the clarity, coherence and conventions of the writing.

**Standard(s):**
LA.FS.6.L.1.1
Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
   e. Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.
LA.FS.6.L.1.2
Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
   a. Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.
   b. Spell correctly.
LA.FS.6.W.2.5
With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

**Materials:**
- Student page: *A Journey Along the River* Language Arts Bellwork sheets
- Pen or pencil

**Setup/Prep time:** 5 minutes

**Lesson Duration:** 12 days @ 5 min. each

**Directions:** Project or hand out the individual bell work assignments at the beginning of class.

**Assessment:** Students will revise short paragraphs to strengthen the clarity, coherence and conventions of the writing.
GREEN SWAMP

Source: The Southwest Florida Water Management District

**Vocabulary**
swamp – a wetland predominantly covered with trees  
*Ranchers raise cattle in the Green swamp.*
aquifer - a layer of underground rock or sand that stores water  
*Our well gets water from the aquifer.*

**Revising & Editing:** A fellow sixth grader has written the paragraph below. Read the student writing paying attention to issues with clarity, coherence (flow) and conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization). Rewrite the paragraph revising it to improve clarity, coherence and conventions.

**Student Writing:** The green swamp is an area of land covering about 870 square miles in central Florida. The green swamp features sandy soils that allow rain to easily percolate down into the Floridan aquifer. The Hillsborough River begins in the Green Swamp, the Southwest Florida Water Management District has purchased and is protecting about 125,000 acres of land in the Green Swamp.

**Revised Paragraph**

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
CRYSTAL SPRINGS

Vocabulary

spring – a natural outflow of water directly from the aquifer to the surface, supplying flow to a river or other body of water.

Springs form when water, which is under pressure, flows up through a natural opening in the ground.

tannin – a reddish-brown chemical released from leaves and bark that decay in water.

The reddish-brown coloring of tea comes from tannin.

Revising & Editing: A fellow sixth grader has written the paragraph below. Read the student writing paying attention to issues with clarity, coherence (flow) and conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization). Rewrite the paragraph revising it to improve clarity, coherence and conventions.

Student Writing:

about five miles downriver from highway US 98 the hillsborough river receive a large volume of water from crystal springs crystal springs is a magnitude 2 spring discharging 40 million gallons of water per day into the Hillsborough river. The clear spring water flows over a dam and mixes with the tannin colored water of the river. surrounding the springs is crystal springs preserve A 525-acre sanctuary devoted to environmental education and dedicated to the preservation of Florida's natural environment

Revised Paragraph

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Vocabulary

chert – a low grade flint that is found in the limestone rocks of the Hillsborough River

The Indians that lived along the Hillsborough River chipped chert from the river’s exposed limestone rocks to make tools and weapons.

limestone – a rock formed from skeletal fragments of marine organisms

The limestone rock found under the sand in Florida was created in ancient seas.

Revising & Editing: A fellow sixth grader has written the paragraph below. Read the student writing paying attention to issues with clarity, coherence (flow) and conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization). Rewrite the paragraph revising it to improve clarity, coherence and conventions.

Student Writing:

Timucuan Indians that lived along the Hillsborough used chert to make knives scrapers, ax heads and spear points. Balancing on the limestone rocks, Katy, Cody, and me crossed the river. A exposed piece of rock is be very slippery. During the rainy months of July, August, and September the rocks are deep under water.

Revised Paragraph
SEVENTEEN RUNS

**Vocabulary**

maze - a complex and confusing series of pathways

*Jonathon and his friends got lost trying to make their way through the maze of trees in the forest.*

**Revising & Editing:** A fellow sixth grader has written the paragraph below. Read the student writing paying attention to issues with clarity, coherence (flow) and conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization). Rewrite the paragraph revising it to improve clarity, coherence and conventions.

**Student Writing:**

seventeen runs is a confusing maze where the main river channel breaks into many branches as moves through a swamp. This is the most difficult section of the Hillsborough River and one of the more challenging short paddling trips in all of Florida. Seventeen runs is a great example of a braded stream people often become lost as they try to paddle through this area of the hillsborough river.

**Revised Paragraph**

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
Vocabulary

**environmental studies** – the study of human interaction with the environment

*In my Environmental Studies course we learned that people often have an impact on the habitat of animals.*

Revising & Editing: A fellow sixth grader has written the paragraph below. Read the student writing paying attention to issues with clarity, coherence (flow) and conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization). Rewrite the paragraph revising it to improve clarity, coherence and conventions.

**Student Writing:**

natures classroom is a 365-acre environemental studies center and learning laboratory sit in the real florida environement. Since 1969 more than 328000 sixth grade students in hillsborough county public shools have experienced natures classroom; Nature's classroom gives children an first-hand unspoiled look at nature and creates respect and a appreication to keep it that way. studnets monitor the health of the hillsborough river biologically by collecting data on the number, diversity of birds and reptiles.

**Revised Paragraph**

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
THE TAMPA BYPASS CANAL

Source: The Southwest Florida Water Management

Vocabulary

canal – a waterway created by humans
Reggie steered his boat through the canal connecting the two lakes.

Revising & Editing: A fellow sixth grader has written the paragraph below. Read the student writing paying attention to issues with clarity, coherence (flow) and conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization). Rewrite the paragraph revising it to improve clarity, coherence and conventions.

Student Writing:
The tampa bypass canal is a 14-mile long waterway that is operated by the Southwest florida water management District, the waterway includes a costructed canal an several concrete flood-control structures. When there a large amount of rainfall and flooding this structure redirects the rising waters in the Hillsborough River into the constructed canal and down to the bay. The Canal protects Homes and Businesses in Temple Terrace and Tampa From Flooding.

Revised Paragraph

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Source: The Southwest Florida Water Management District
THE RESERVOIR

Vocabulary
reservoir – a natural or man-made area where water is collected and stored for future use
Most of Tampa’s drinking water comes from a reservoir in the Hillsborough River.

Revising & Editing: A fellow sixth grader has written the paragraph below. Read the student writing paying attention to issues with clarity, coherence (flow) and conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization). Rewrite the paragraph revising it to improve clarity, coherence and conventions.

Student Writing:
the reservoir is located between 50th st and the dam and people like to boat fishe in the reservoir and riverhills ave runs along side the reservoir for quit a distance also before the reservoir was built tampas water come from wells cisterns and tanks.

Revised Paragraph

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
THE DAM

Vocabulary

dam - a barrier that impounds or retains water in a stream
Water only flows over the dam during the rainy season.

Revising & Editing: A fellow sixth grader has written the paragraph below. Read the student writing paying attention to issues with clarity, coherence (flow) and conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization). Rewrite the paragraph revising it to improve clarity, coherence and conventions.

Student Writing:
The first dam across the Hillsborough river was made of wood…this dam back the river up causing it to flooded several cattle ranches up river and the second dam was made of concrete and used the falling water to generate electricity

Revised Paragraph
SULPHUR SPRINGS

Vocabulary
contaminated – to be made impure
Sulphur Springs has been contaminated by bacteria from stormwater runoff.

Revising & Editing: A fellow sixth grader has written the paragraph below. Read the student writing paying attention to issues with clarity, coherence (flow) and conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization). Rewrite the paragraph revising it to improve clarity, coherence and conventions

Student Writing:
at the bottom the spring is at the bottom the concrete swimming pool. The water flow over a dam down a run and enter the Hillsborough river but three generations of the mullins family learned to swim and snorkle in the spring, sulphur springs has been close to swimming since 1986 due to high bacteria level.

Revised Paragraph

__________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
THE SUBURBAN RIVER

Vocabulary
suburb – a residential area at the edges of a city
Dan lived in the suburbs but rode the bus into the city to go to a magnet school.

Revising & Editing: A fellow sixth grader has written the paragraph below. Read the student writing paying attention to issues with clarity, coherence (flow) and conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization). Rewrite the paragraph revising it to improve clarity, coherence and conventions.

Student Writing:
many of the people who live along the river have dock for their boats dr and mrs newhouse often sit on their dock watching for manatees in the past people often built seawalls on the shorelion of their property today native vegetation and rocks are used to creat a saffer more natural shorelion.

Revised Paragraph

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
THE URBAN RIVER

Vocabulary

skyscraper - a multi-story building whose architectural height is at least 150 feet tall

Many of the downtown banks are located in skyscrapers.

Revising & Editing: A fellow sixth grader has written the paragraph below. Read the student writing paying attention to issues with clarity, coherence (flow) and conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization). Rewrite the paragraph revising it to improve clarity, coherence and conventions.

Student Writing:

on both sides of the urban part of the river the skyscrapers of downtown tamp has been built on both sides of the urban part of the river. The many bridges cross the urban river help people inter downtown to work, many groups and governement agencies are involved in beatifying the banks of the urban river and the riverfront parks and boardwalks allow people to relax from their hectic jobs.

Revised Paragraph

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
THE RIVER MOUTH

Vocabulary

mouth – the lower end of a river or stream.

The Tampa Convention center is located at the mouth of the Hillsborough River.

delta – an accumulation of sediment at the mouth of a river.

The Mississippi River delta is covered by marshes and swamps.

dredge – any device, machine, or vessel that is used to excavate and remove material from the bottom of a body water.

The large dredge was able to remove sand from the main shipping channel to make it easier to bring large boats into the port of Tampa.

Revising & Editing: A fellow sixth grader has written the paragraph below. Read the student writing paying attention to issues with clarity, coherence (flow) and conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization). Rewrite the paragraph revising it to improve clarity, coherence and conventions

Student Writing:
the delta of the Hillsborough river has been converted into a series of residential islands and mr davis created the first of these islands using a dredge to dig up sand and deposit on part of the original delta and davis island, harbor island are both residential islands formed from the Hillsborough river delta…to reach tampa general hospital on davis you have too take a bridge

Revised Paragraph

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________