

What is a Watershed?

Essential Question: What is a watershed?

Objective: Students will be able to describe the components of a watershed.

Standards:

SS.6.G.1.4

Utilize tools geographers use to study the world.

SS.6.G.2.3

Analyze the relationship of physical geography to the development of ancient river valley civilizations.

Materials:

- Loose-leaf folder
- Student page, **A Typical Gulf Coast Watershed** (printed copy or PowerPoint projection provided)
- Student page, **Hillsborough River Watershed** (printed copy or PowerPoint projection provided)
- Student page, graphic organizer - **Watershed Web**
- <http://www.hillsborough.wateratlas.usf.edu/HRWA/watershed.asp> - The site will provide some basic information about the watershed

Setup/Prep: 5 Minutes

Lesson Duration: 20 Minutes

Directions:

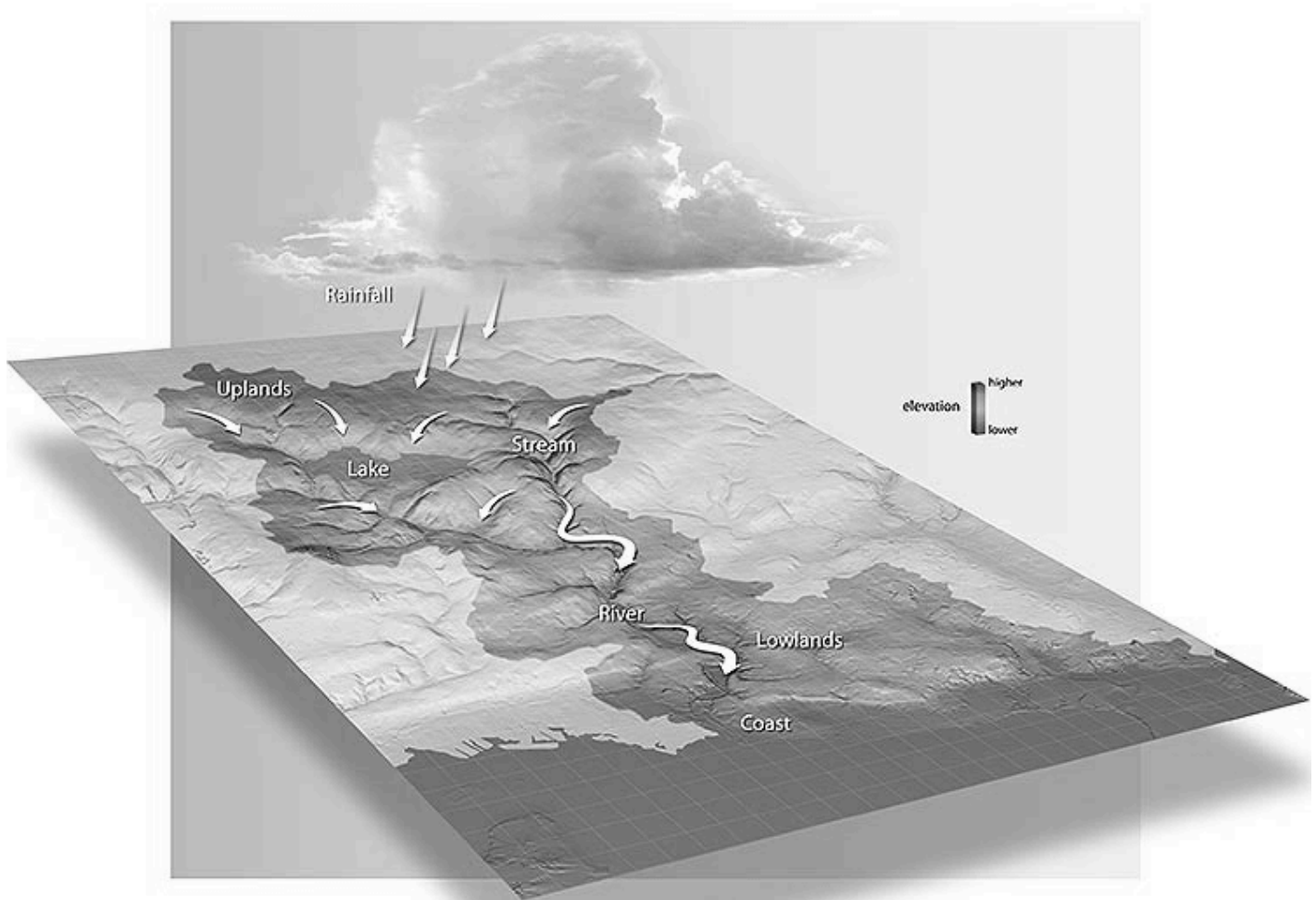
1. Use projection or provide a copy of the **Typical Gulf Coast Watershed** diagram.
2. Review the parts of the watershed listed on the diagram.
3. Use projection or provide a copy of the **Hillsborough River Watershed** map. Ask your students to record observations in the graphic organizer, **Watershed Web**.
4. Ask the following questions to guide their observations.
 - a. What do you see?
 - b. What is the title of the map?
 - c. Is this area flat?
 - d. Where does the river begin?
 - e. Where does the river end?
 - f. Do you live near this river?
 - g. Where are the cities on the river?
5. Explain to students that the white square on the map is the area they will be visiting for the field study of the Hillsborough River Watershed.

Assessment: Students will complete a graphic organizer describing features of the watershed.

Alternative Resources:

For additional information and free materials on watersheds, contact The Southwest Florida Water Management District at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/education/>

A Typical Gulf Coast Watershed



Source: Southwest Florida Water Management District

HILLSBOROUGH RIVER WATERSHED

*The Hillsborough River watershed spans 690 square miles across portions of Hillsborough, Pasco and Polk counties.
At 54 miles in length, the river and its tributaries spill an average of 212 million gallons of water per day into Hillsborough Bay.*



Created by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Communications Department, Visual Communications Section, 2008

Name _____

Watershed Web

