

## Components of the Watershed

**Essential Question:** What does a watershed do for me?

**Objective:** Students will be able to identify socioeconomic benefits and human uses within a watershed.

**Standard(s):**

SS.6.G.3.2

Analyze the impact of human populations on the ancient world's ecosystems.

SS.6.E.1.1

Identify the factors (new resources, increased productivity, education, technology, slave economy, territorial expansion) that increase economic growth.

**Materials:**

- Student pages - **Socioeconomic Benefits/Human Use Issues** (one set for each group)
- One envelope per group
- Piece of paper for each group

**Prep time:** 10 Minutes

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1. Cut apart the **Socioeconomic Benefits/Human Use Issues** sheets
2. Place all of the pieces in a single envelope.

**Lesson Duration:** 20 Minutes

**Directions:**

1. Place students in groups of 3 - 4.
2. Pass out the envelopes with the Socioeconomic Benefits/Human Use Issues strips.
3. Have students create a T- Chart and place each fact under the correct heading (Socioeconomic Benefit or Human Use Issue).
4. Ask students the following questions after they have completed the activity:
  - a. Who uses the watershed?
  - b. Who lives in a watershed?
  - c. How does a watershed benefit a community's economy?
  - d. How has the watershed been altered?

**Assessment:** The students will complete a T Chart of the benefits and issues of the watershed.

**Alternative Resources:**

If time permits, show the video clip from:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/water101/index.html>

A great reading and activity booklet on watershed:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/watershedexcursion.pdf> (Student copy)

[http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/watershedexcursion\\_teachers.pdf](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/watershedexcursion_teachers.pdf) (Teacher copy)

This booklet will provide additional information on human use of watersheds:

[http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/water\\_smart\\_connections.pdf](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/water_smart_connections.pdf)

**Socioeconomic Benefits**

- | - - - - -  
| **Temporarily store flood waters, protecting property**  
| **owners downstream from severe flooding.**  
| - - - - -
- | **Tampa Bay region is one of the most heavily developed**  
| **and urbanized areas of Florida.**  
| - - - - -
- | **Processing phosphate rock and shipping it to the Port of**  
| **Tampa for distribution all over the world.**  
| - - - - -
- | **A riverfront location increases the property value of**  
| **homes.**  
| - - - - -
- | **The watershed provides an ideal environment for the**  
| **construction of new homes.**  
| - - - - -
- | **In the past, cypress lumber was harvested along the**  
| **river and shipped from the port.**  
| - - - - -
- | **The commercial center of downtown Tampa is built at**  
| **the mouth of the river.**  
| - - - - -
- | **The interstate highway system that brings commerce to**  
| **Tampa crosses the rivers and creeks of the watershed in**  
| **a variety of locations.**  
| - - - - -

**Human Use Issues**

- Construction of ditches, canals, and dams on and connected to the river**
- Grazing cattle and growing crops near the flood plain of the river**
- Constructing seawalls along the riverbank to protect homes from erosion**
- The Blake High School crew team rows their shells on the river.**
- The river is the primary source of Tampa’s drinking water.**
- Jet skiing on the river**
- Fishing in the river is a popular sport.**
- There are several regional parks constructed within the watershed.**