



Water's Journey Expedition

ACTIVITY 1: Reporting on Water's Journey Expedition

ACTIVITY 2: Examining Human Impact on the Aquifer and Springs

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In Florida, most of our drinking water comes from the Floridan aquifer, deep underground layers of limestone that store water. Each day, seven billion gallons of water from the aquifer are used for drinking, cooking, bathing, watering lawns and crops, industry and many other things.

Florida has the largest number of freshwater springs in the world. These beautiful natural resources represent the "end of the pipe" of the aquifer and are important indicators of the aquifer's health. The springs are unique ecosystems that have played an important role in the development of Florida and today serve as recreation areas and habitats for many of Florida's most unique plant and animal species.

However, the aquifer and the springs are threatened by a number of human activities ranging from over-consumption and waste of water, introduction of chemicals from fertilizers, pesticides and runoff, and direct impact on the springs from recreation.

To understand the health of the aquifer and its link to the spring ecosystem, a

team of journalists is documenting the story about the "journey of water" from land into the aquifer, up from the spring and downstream to the Gulf of Mexico. Their stories and other important information about the aquifer and springs are recorded at the web site www.FloridaSprings.org.

In the following activities, students will help report what the journalists discovered about the journey of water during their expedition, and they will also write about and record the major threats to the aquifer and springs and solutions to these threats.

Two worksheets are provided to support the activities.

Florida Springs: Protecting Nature's Gems is an online photo-documentary about Florida's freshwater springs. A team of journalists explored Florida's springs to document these important natural resources to inform residents about threats to the water in the aquifer and the springs. Six dispatches and reports are presented as part of the "**Springs Expedition**" at www.FloridaSprings.org.

GRADE LEVEL

6-8

Sunshine State Standards:

Activity 1:

Reporting on the Waters Journey Expedition

LANGUAGE ARTS: Writing

Standard 1:

The student uses writing processes effectively. (LA.B.1.3)

Standard 2:

The student understands the interactions of people and the physical environment. (SS.B.2.3)

SOCIAL STUDIES:

People, Places, and Environments

Standard 2:

The student understands the interactions of people and the physical environment. (SS.B.2.3)

Activity 2:

Examining Human Impact on the Aquifer and Springs

SCIENCE:

Processes that Shape the Earth

Standard 2:

The student understands the need for protection of the natural systems on Earth. (SC.D.2.3)

How Living Things Interact with Their Environment

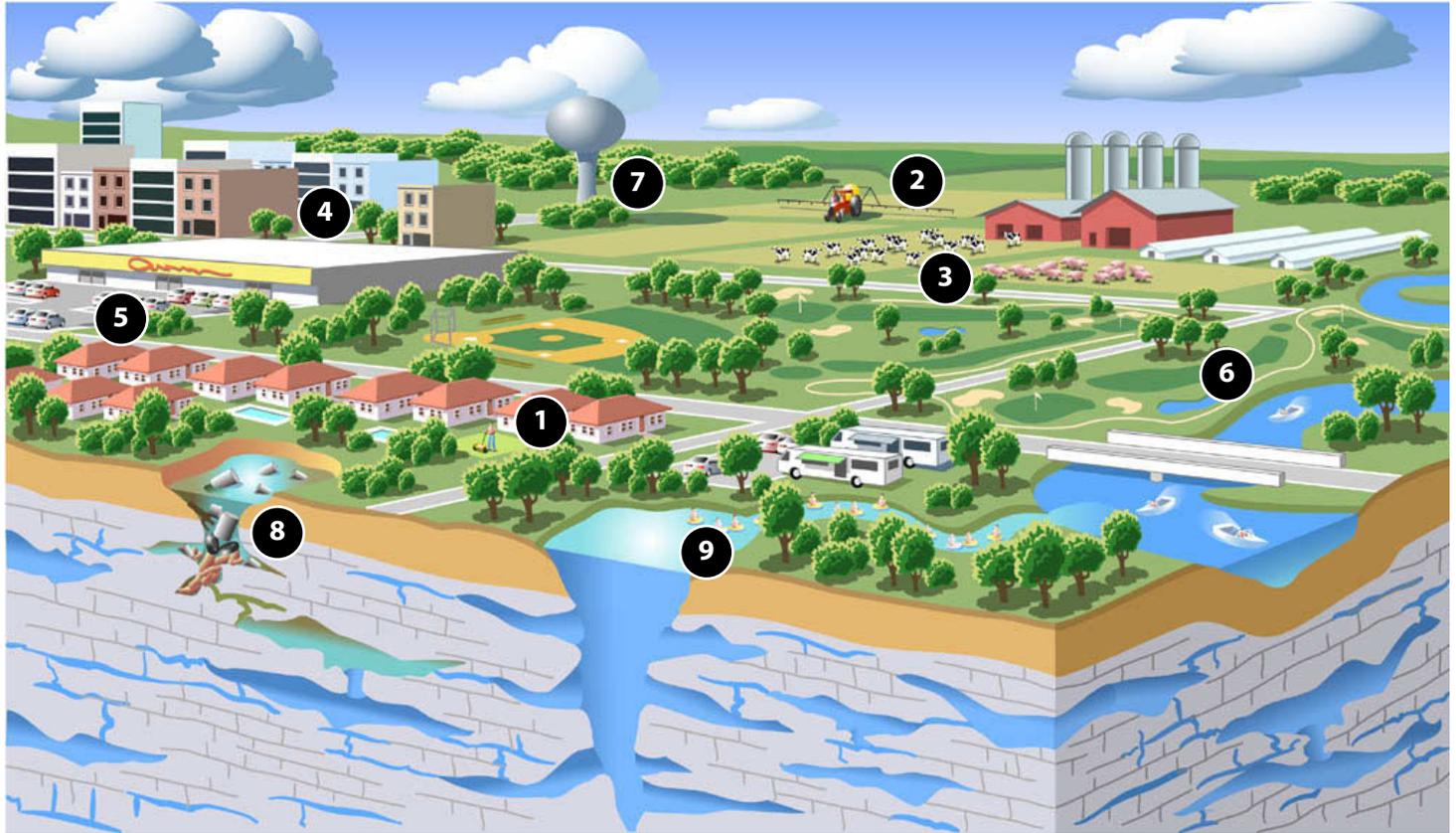
Standard 2:

The student understands the consequences of using limited natural resources. (SC.G.2.3)

ACTIVITY 2: Assessing Human Impact on the Aquifer and Springs

- List and briefly describe how each activity on land impacts the aquifer and springs.
- Consult **Anatomy of a Spring: The Journey of Water** at www.floridasprings.org for more information.
- On the back of this worksheet, provide two solutions for each threat to the spring.

NAME _____



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