**Ask Maxine**

Does everyone really live in a watershed? What if you live in the desert?

Yes! Everyone lives in a watershed. Even in deserts where it is extremely hot and dry, water is shed. Deserts typically receive ten inches or less of precipitation per year. The rain usually comes in brief downpours resulting in flooding as the water flows across the dry, caked soil. Remember, not all water in a watershed is above ground. Even in the desert, there are underground rivers and aquifers where water flows.

Death Valley is a desert located in the Badwater Basin watershed. The average high temperature in the summer is 116°F. It is home to animals like Kangaroo Rats which can live their entire lives without drinking a drop of water. But like all living organisms, they must have water to survive. The water they need to survive is metabolized by their bodies from starch and fats in the dry seeds they eat.

For additional information and smartphone app visit www.epa.gov/mywaterway
Drinking Old Shed Water

Are you thirsty? Does a glass of ice-cold, crystal-clear water sound good? Yes, it does! Do you know that a drink of water, whether from a fountain, faucet or bottle, could be thousands of years old and have travelled around the world a few times? The world’s fresh water supply is not new. Our water is being constantly recycled through the earth’s water cycle. That is why it is very important to be aware of the watershed you live in and how your lifestyle can affect it… And that glass of “old shed water” you are drinking!

Water vapor in the atmosphere condenses to form clouds and weather systems that can travel around the world.

Eventually the condensation becomes precipitation in the form of rain, snow, sleet, hail or fog.

Water re-enters the atmosphere to start the cycle all over again by evaporation and transpiration.

Transpiration is similar to evaporation. It is the loss of water vapor from parts of plants – almost like sweating.

Infiltration is the process by which water on the ground surface soaks into the soil.

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Once the precipitation lands, it can do two things: it can be shed off the land into a body of water like a stream - OR - it can soak through the soil until it reaches an underground body of water like an aquifer.

So, whether your water comes from a well or a public water supply… it has been shed and recycled!

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We ALL live in a watershed

You might not be able to see a lake, river or ocean from your home, but the land you live on does shed water.

Watershed Scramble

Unscramble each word of the four sentences and fill in the blank boxes for each sentence. Next, copy the letters in the numbered squares to other squares with the same number. Fill in the 73 letters in the last sentence to solve the puzzle.

Clues:
1. NO TERTMA WERHE UOY EAR; UYO EAR GANSNDIT NI A HESTERDAW.
2. A SEHRDETWA CNA RGAEN NI ZESI FORM A FWE TO LINMOSIL FO CARSE.
3. YROU EDRYYVEA ASTIEVICTI HEAV NA MATPIC NO OYRU WEATRSEHD.
4. HET LAHETH OF ROUY WESDEHRTA NAC EHVA A GUEH CMPIAT ON UYO.

… And The Answer Is…

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How Did That Get In My Watershed?

Since we all live in a watershed our actions, habits and decisions can have a strong affect on the animals and plants that share life in the watershed with us.

Here are some of the things you can do to protect your watershed:

Car Care.
According to the US Bureau of Transportation Statistics, there are 253,600,000 registered passenger vehicles on the road. That's a lot of oil changes, leaking anti-freeze and car washes. If your vehicle leaks fluid on the street or in your driveway, it can end up in storm drains and pollute water sources.

Watch for signs of leaks!

No Drain Dumping.
Never dump used motor oil, hazardous chemicals, pet waste, or any other materials down storm drains or on the ground. The water in storm drains flows to rivers, lakes or other bodies of water and could end up in our drinking water. Materials left on the ground can leach through the soil and end up in underground water supplies.

Pick Up After Your Pet.
Six out of every 10 homes have a four-legged pet. Do you? Care for your watershed by disposing of pet waste in the trash or toilet. Proper disposal means proper treatment. Pet waste left on the ground can wash into storm drains and ditches. From there it flows into lakes and streams where it can contaminate the water with harmful bacteria.

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Talk The Walk.
Tell your family and friends how important it is to practice good conservation habits in your watershed.

Conserve Water.
The average person uses 80 - 100 gallons of water every day!

Go Green In Your Yard.
Sweep hard surfaces like sidewalks, driveways and basketball courts with a broom, instead of spraying with a hose. You'll save water and keep harmful pollutants from "shedding" into storm drains.

Conservation Water.
The average person uses 80 - 100 gallons of water every day!

Fill in the blanks in each drop of water by answering the following clues. The numbers before each clue tell you where the word begins and ends. The answers will share first and/or last letters with the letter that goes in the square.

1-2 Our ___________ __________ can have a strong impact on our watershed.

2-3 It is best to ___________ __________ hard surfaces.

3-4 Avoid spraying hard surfaces with a hose to prevent ___________ __________ from flowing into storm drains.

4-5 ___________ __________ water. The average person uses 80 - 100 gallons per day.

5-6 Prevent ___________ __________ by planting some vegetables.

6-7 ___________ __________ dump chemicals, waste or other materials down storm drains or on the ground.

7-8 Reduce, reuse, recycle and ___________ __________ __________. Every change, big or small can improve the health of your environment.

8-9 Practice good vehicle maintenance. ___________ __________ __________ an eye out for leaking anti-freeze or motor oil.

9-10 Pick up after your ___________ __________ to avoid harmful bacteria travelling through the watershed and contaminating water supplies.

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Plant And Grow.
If there are bare spots in your yard, get busy planting. Plants prevent erosion which leads to soil being moved through the watershed into our lakes and rivers. Grow some healthy vegetables like broccoli or tomatoes.
**Name That**

**Answer That Question**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Everglades Watershed</th>
<th>Hurricane</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Basin Watershed</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Lakes Ground Water</td>
<td>Small Watershed Dams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Watersheds</td>
<td>White Pine Amphipod</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This watershed is the largest area of connected watersheds in North America. It spreads into parts of California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming. It is made up of mountains, rivers, lakes and deserts. This watershed is home to several endemic animal and plant species. Endemic species are incredible because they only live in one location on the entire planet. These are some of the endemic species found in this watershed: the White Pine amphipod, the Model Cave Harvestman and the Pygmy Rabbit. What is the name of this watershed?

**Label them on the map.**

I am home to the American crocodile.
I am over 2 million acres in size.
I am a great agricultural resource for crops such as citrus fruits, sugarcane, bell peppers, tomatoes, watermelon, squash and cucumbers. What am I?

**Label the area on the map showing the states affected by the Dust Bowl.**
Fill in all of the blanks and follow the instructions by choosing the correct answer from the “Answer That Question” box. Use the lines on the map to label areas when requested.

Seven of me were produced during the Atlantic __________ season in 2011. I can have a huge impact on _______________ as I blow in with winds in excess of 100 miles per hour and cause water to flood down, through and within the watersheds. What am I?

During the 1930’s the Midwest United States suffered one of the worst natural disasters in history—the Dust Bowl. Several states were damaged by dust storms as soil was picked up and blown into neighboring states. The topsoil that didn’t blow away was washed away by rains. Streams and rivers were clogged with sediment, and farm land and towns were flooded. One of the conservation practices that was put into place to reduce the damages caused by flooding was the construction of ___________________________. These structures temporarily trap and store runoff water after heavy rainstorms. Label the area on the map showing the states affected by the Dust Bowl.

More water systems in the United States have ________________ as a source than surface water, but more people drink from a surface water system. What is it?

I have no eyes. I am solid white. I was discovered in March of 2011. I live in underground waterways. I live in only one place on the planet. What am I?

In which watershed(s) do I live?

Trace the coastline where you think watersheds may have been impacted.