**Vocabulary-Watershed Adventures**

**Boundary** - a dividing line that marks the limits of an area

**Drainage Basin** - any area of land where precipitation

collects and drains off into a common outlet, such as into

a river, estuary, or other body of water

**Watershed** - any area of land over which rain water flows into a body of water like a creek, stream, river, lake or even the ocean. A watershed is the same as a drainage basin

**Vocabulary – Caloosahatchee Watershed Map**

**Algae** - primitive plants that have one mission: grow!

**Boundary** – a dividing line that marks the limits of an area

**Dam** - a barrier constructed to hold back water and raise its level

**Decomposer** - an organism, usually a bacterium or fungus, that breaks down

cells of dead plants and animals into simpler substances

**Extend** - to make something longer or wider

**Fertilizer** - a chemical or natural substance added to soil or land to increase

plant growth

**Food chain** - as one organism eats another, a food chain is created through

which nutrients and energy can be traced by scientists

**Lock** - a device that lifts or lowers boats, barges, or other vessels from one

water level to another

**Nonpoint source pollution** – pollution that comes from a variety of sources and gets into our waterways when it rains

**Point source pollution** – pollution that comes from a specific source

**Pollution** - a substance or thing that has harmful or poisonous effects

**Vocabulary – Peace River Watershed Map**

**Ecosystem** - a network of all of the living and nonliving things in an

area

**Microbial uptake** - tiny living things (like bacteria) use these

particles for living, and therefore clean the water

**Nonrenewable resource** – a natural resource that cannot be replaced by

nature

**Nutrient** - anything that nourishes a living thing

**Particles** - pieces of solid matter

**Phosphorus** - a chemical element with the symbol P and atomic number 15.

Phosphorus is essential for living things. It is a nonrenewable resource. It is

mined in Florida as phosphate minerals

**Predator-prey** - a relationship between two animals and how interact with

each other

**Predator** - the hunter

**Prey** - the food

**Renewable resource** - a natural resource that can be renewed or replaced by nature

**Sedimentation** - larger pieces of solid matter settle to the bottom of the water

**Vocabulary – Myakka River Watershed Map**

**Endemic** – a plant or animal restricted to a certain place

**Exotic plant** - a species of plant that was brought to Florida

from someplace else

**Hydroperiod** - the period of time during which a wetland is covered by water

**Invasive exotic plant** – an exotic plant species that has taken over native

habitat. Invasive exotics are plants OR animals that negatively impact our

native species

**Native plant** - a species of plant that existed here before explorers changed the landscape

**Swamp** - a wetland filled with trees

**Wetland** – an area where water covers the soil, or is present at or near the

surface of the soil, for at least part of the year

**Wildlife corridor** - an area of habitat that provides passage for wildlife across, or under, man-made obstacles like roads and neighborhoods

**Vocabulary – Charlotte Harbor Estuary Map**

**Estuary** - where saltwater meets freshwater. Estuaries are among the most

productive ecosystems in the world

**Lagoon** - a shallow body of water separated from a larger body of water by

barrier islands

**Nursery** - a place of caretaking, where babies grow up in safety

**Restoration** - the action of returning something to a former condition, or the

way it used to be

**Seagrasses** - flowering plants rooted in the estuary. Seagrass flats in Charlotte Harbor are the nursery of the Gulf of Mexico

**Sound** - a coastal waterway that connects in two or more places to a body of

water

**Tidal creek** - the portion of a stream that is affected by ebb and flow of ocean

tides