

# Watersheds Around the World Scavenger Hunt

A watershed is the area of land where water can be captured, stored, and eventually released farther downhill to rivers, lakes, and the ocean. All living things are linked by their common watershed and depend on a clean, functional watershed to survive. The Zoo represents different habitats and has wildlife from different watersheds around the world. On our scavenger hunt, let's look for a variety of animals and plants, what the Zoo is doing to help watersheds, and ways you can help. Don't have time to complete the scavenger hunt today? That's ok. A lot of this information can be found on the San Diego Zoo website – [www.sandiegozoo.org](http://www.sandiegozoo.org). There is a lot to find, so work together in teams and have fun!

## Discovery Outpost

1. Can you find the Wig L. Worm Composting Garden in the Children's Zoo? There are lots of organisms that help us compost. Can you explain at least one way that composting benefits the environment?

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2. This desert animal can be found in the Children's Zoo next to some prickly porcupines. It can conserve water by storing up to 40 percent of its body weight in water inside the bladder, to be absorbed as necessary! It is a \_\_\_\_\_.



3. You will find some "Spineless Marvels" just around the corner. These creatures do a lot of work in their watershed. Find a decomposer, gardener, pollinator, OR predator. SKETCH your creature and describe how it helps keep watersheds healthy.

My creature keeps watersheds healthy by: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Leaving the Children's Zoo? Don't forget to slither on over to the Reptile House...

4. Islands have watersheds too! **These Big Tortoises have Big Threats.** People introduced three types of animals to the islands. These non-native animals are harmful to the tortoises. What are these non-native animals?



\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

5. You don't need to travel far to find biodiversity (variety of life in a habitat). San Diego County has more biodiversity than any other county in North America! Take a look at some **Native Species** on the Reptile Walk to see why protecting our wetlands is so important. As an *indicator species*, amphibians are some of the first animals affected by an unhealthy watershed. How many species of amphibians are there in the world? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many are threatened? \_\_\_\_\_

## Australian Outback and Urban Jungle

1. Living in a desert watershed, San Diegans are serious about water conservation. So is a certain sleepy marsupial in this exhibit – what is it? \_\_\_\_\_



There is a large water tank at the Queenslander House. How much rainwater do we collect each year from the roof of the building? \_\_\_\_\_

If we got just one inch of rain, how much water could we collect from one square foot of roof?

\_\_\_\_\_

How could you collect water at home? \_\_\_\_\_

*As you leave the Australian Outback and head to Elephant Odyssey, be sure to check out the Culinary Trail on your way!*

2. The organic garden or culinary trail is filled with a variety of plants. Find **three** plants you recognize or have eaten before. Sketch them and fill in the name of the plant on the line below.

Plant: \_\_\_\_\_ Plant: \_\_\_\_\_ Plant: \_\_\_\_\_

3. How can organic farming and gardening help your watershed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Elephant Odyssey

1. These endangered California condors need some help getting back out into their watershed. They are **SURVIVING IN A MODERN WORLD**. What two things are they being trained NOT to do before being reintroduced?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



2. How can you prevent “microtrash” from getting into a watershed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Elephants need to migrate in order to find food and water. They need rain and a healthy, clean watershed to survive. Researchers want to track and follow wild elephants to see where they go throughout their watersheds.



What are these large rings? \_\_\_\_\_

How do they help us track elephants? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Our **POLLINATORS ARE IN PERIL!** Pollinators like bees, butterflies, bats, and hummingbirds are in trouble, which means we are in trouble. Pollinators help fruits, nuts, and many vegetables develop into the yummy food you eat, but their populations are decreasing. Visit our Pollinator Garden near the Fossil Portal. What are the FIVE things affecting pollinators and their watershed?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

5. What are two plants you could have at your garden at home to help our pollinators?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

## Northern Frontier

1. Polar bears live in a watershed that is full of water, ice, and snow. They travel on ice to hunt seals, but vanishing ice makes it difficult. Find your HELICOPTER that will take you on your adventure to the Arctic! Find your starting point on the ground and play the FOLLOW THE ICE game.



Did you reach your seal? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you have to swim to reach your goal? \_\_\_\_\_

How could a lack of ice be a problem for a polar bear in its watershed? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Continue down the path to the giant **CARBON GRAPH**. Burning fossil fuels such as coal and oil, gives us energy. However, it also releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. High levels of greenhouse gases can cause our climate to change, but there are ways you can help! Draw a line to match the **PICTURE** to the **ACTION STEP** below. Check your answers on the Carbon Graph.



PLANTING A TREE IN YOUR YARD HELPS KEEP YOUR HOME COOL IN SUMMER AND ABSORBS CO<sub>2</sub> FROM THE AIR.

UNPLUG PHONE CHARGERS, COMPUTERS, AND OTHER ELECTRONICS WHEN NOT IN USE.

LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE (LED) BULBS USE LESS ENERGY THAN REGULAR LIGHT BULBS.

## Lost Forest

1. Some watersheds in Borneo and Sumatra are in trouble because people are cutting down forests for palm oil cultivation. This is also the home to some “red apes” which rely on those trees. Visit our red apes to learn “What’s the deal with palm oil?” How can you or your parents help?



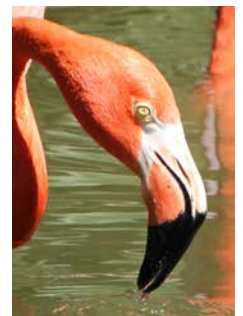

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2. Hippos live in slow moving rivers in Africa. This water may not look clean enough to drink, but the hippos have help cleaning up the mess! What is the animal living with the hippos that helps clean its watershed? \_\_\_\_\_ How does it help clean up? \_\_\_\_\_

3. These pink birds live in a watershed that is mostly water! Watch the flamingos for 30 seconds. How do they eat their food? \_\_\_\_\_



Wetlands and estuaries filter water in a similar way to how flamingos eat. How could filtering pollutants affect flamingos? \_\_\_\_\_

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How could filtering pollutants affect wetlands or estuaries? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Visit the Gorilla Tropics and head to the main glass viewing area. Why is it important to **Recycle 'Ore' Else?**

\_\_\_\_\_

We can help endangered gorillas! Since 2004, we have recycled almost 9,000 \_\_\_\_\_. This reduces the demand for \_\_\_\_\_, which is mined in gorilla habitat.

5. Find these "small" hippos that prefer to live in a forested watershed in West Africa. There is a hidden display found near this animal's home that tells you a few ways to be a hero for watersheds.

How many plastic bottles do we use each year in California? \_\_\_\_\_



What's one thing you can do to be a Watershed Hero? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Any Area

1. Find three different kinds of animal poop. Take a picture or *doodle* what it looks like!

Poop of \_\_\_\_\_ Poop of \_\_\_\_\_ Poop of \_\_\_\_\_

What should pet owners do with their pets' poop to keep watersheds clean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ What does the Zoo do with their doo? We compost!

2. Go into any gift shop in the Zoo. Can you find reusable bags? \_\_\_\_\_ How does limiting plastic bags help our watersheds? \_\_\_\_\_

What other items can you find that help watersheds? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Find a recycle bin and a trash bin next to an animal enclosure. How does picking up trash help the watershed? \_\_\_\_\_

What types of things can be recycled in that blue recycle bin? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How does recycling specifically help the animal you are next to? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_