

# Explore a River and Two Lakes *Handout*

Part 2 of 4 in the "Exploring the Watershed Atlas" Series

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Go to the website: [www.Pinellas.WaterAtlas.org](http://www.Pinellas.WaterAtlas.org)

1. Go to "The Atlas" use the drop down menu for "Lake Name".
  - a. Select Lake Maggiore and fill in the table below.
  - b. Select Lake Tarpon and fill in the table below.

		<i>Lake 1</i>	<i>Lake 2</i>
	<b>Name of Water body</b>	<b>Lake Maggiore</b>	<b>Lake Tarpon</b>
General Info	Latitude: Degrees, Minutes, Seconds		
	Longitude: Degrees, Minutes, Seconds		
	Surface Area in Acres		
	Volume in Gallons, Approximate		
	Latest Water Level in Feet		
	Historic Water Level in Feet		
	Trophic State Index		
Water Quality	Limiting Nutrient		
	Total Nitrogen		
	Phosphorus		
	Chlorophyll		

2. Go to Water Quality > Trophic State Index > Learn more about Trophic State Index.  
Read the selection.
3. Go to Water Quality > Nutrient Chemistry > Learn more about Nutrient Chemistry.  
Read the selection.
4. Examine the table you completed on these two lakes. Explain the importance of the information you have gathered about Trophic State Index and Nutrient Chemistry to your water bodies.  
Compare the two lakes.

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Name:

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5. Complete the table below.

		<i>Lake 1</i>	<i>Lake 2</i>
		<i>Alligator Lake</i>	<i>Sawgrass Lake</i>
Hydrology Tab	Water Level, Latest Value (Date)		
	Water Level, Historic Average		
	Data has been recorded since the year:		

6. Examine the hydrology data from both lakes. Compare the changes in water level for the two lakes during the same period of time.

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7. For this exercise go to: [www.Hillsborough.WaterAtlas.org](http://www.Hillsborough.WaterAtlas.org). Click on “The Atlas” and use drop down menus for the following.

- a. Select Thonotosassa Lake, Click on the Ecology Tab > List of Plant Species. Complete the table.
- b. Select Hillsborough River, Click on the Ecology Tab > List of Plant Species. Complete the table.

		<i>Lake 1</i>	<i>River 1</i>
		<i>Thonotosassa Lake</i>	<i>Hillsborough River</i>
Ecology Tab	List Three Exotic Plants Found in the Latest Survey.		
	Number of Plant Species		
	Number of Exotic (Not Native) Species		
	Percent of Exotic Plant Species		

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8. Read about the exotic plants under the Links for More Information. Look at the pictures of the plants. What is an exotic plant and why are they a concern?

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9. Click on History & Recreation. At some sites there are oral histories. Both of these waterbodies have oral histories. Pick one and read it. What did you learn about the Waterbody?

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10. Open Photos for both waterbodies. How can more photos be added to this section of these sites?

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