

Developing Map Skills *Handout*

Students use the Watershed Atlas website, compasses and USGS maps to develop map skills.

A watershed (also called a drainage basin) is an area on the land surface from which water flows, or has the potential to flow, into a stream or lake. Watersheds are *naturally* separated from adjacent basins by topographic divides. Therefore, watersheds can cross *political* boundaries such as county lines. For instance, some of the water from Hillsborough County flows into Pinellas County. In this lesson we will be examining several lakes from the Brooker Creek Watershed in Hillsborough County since water from these lakes ultimately flows into areas of northern Pinellas County.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Create a data table for your study lakes to organize the information for use and analysis.

1. Access the Hillsborough County Watershed Atlas to obtain your data.

Go to www.Hillsborough.WaterAtlas.org > The Atlas > Watershed > and use the scroll-down menu to select Brooker Creek Watershed. When the General Info page appears, scroll down to FIND A SPECIFIC WATERBODY, click on the link for a list of all water bodies in this watershed. Select a lake.

On the lake's General Information page scroll to the bottom to find the latitude and longitude of the particular body of water and the USGS Quarter Quad map on which that particular body of water can be found.

2. Using the latitude and longitude figures printed on the edges of the map; locate the first lake on your list. Using the location of the second body of water, determine and record the bearing one would have to take from the first lake to get to the second lake, "as the crow flies." Continue collecting data until all locations have been plotted.

3. Determine the change in elevation from one body of water to another. On the lake webpage, click on the Hydrology Tab (at the top of the page) and scroll down to the Bathymetric Map > Lake Elevation. An estimation may be computed by using the USGS maps.

4. Return to the lake website pages > Hydrology tab. Scroll down and view the contour maps of the bodies of water with which you worked. Create a new data table illustrating the lakes with the greatest change in depth and rank the lakes in order of their overall average depth. Rank lakes from the most shallow to the deepest.

Name:

Date: