

# Connecting the Drops



Exploring Long Island Sound's Watersheds

# **Hi, my name is Florence.**

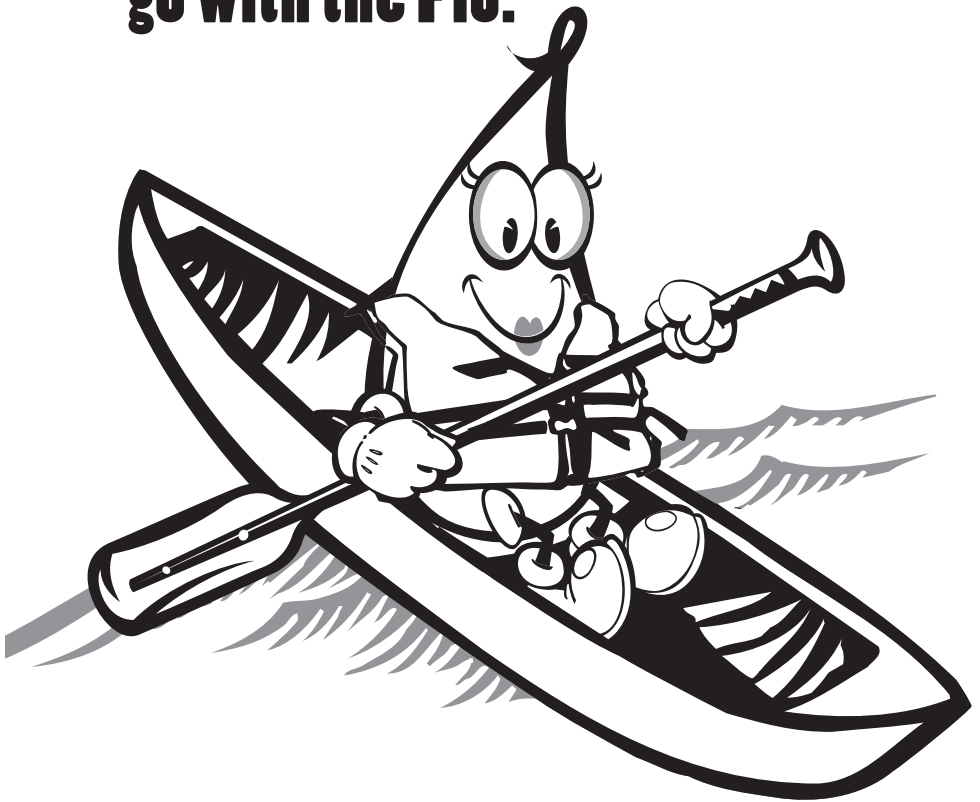
**My friends call me Flo.**

**I am a water drop.**

**I travel all around the world.**

**Today I am going on a journey in the  
Long Island Sound watershed.**

**You can come with me, or as they say,  
“go with the Flo.”**



# What is a Watershed?

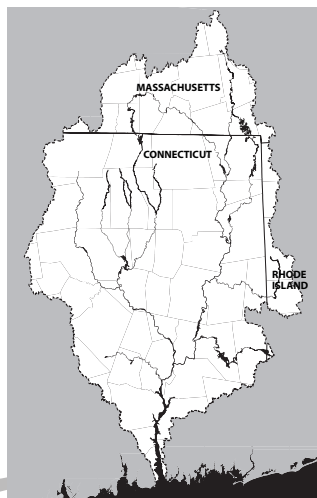
**A watershed is a region of land draining into a river, river system, or other body of water.**

**It is kind of like a funnel.**

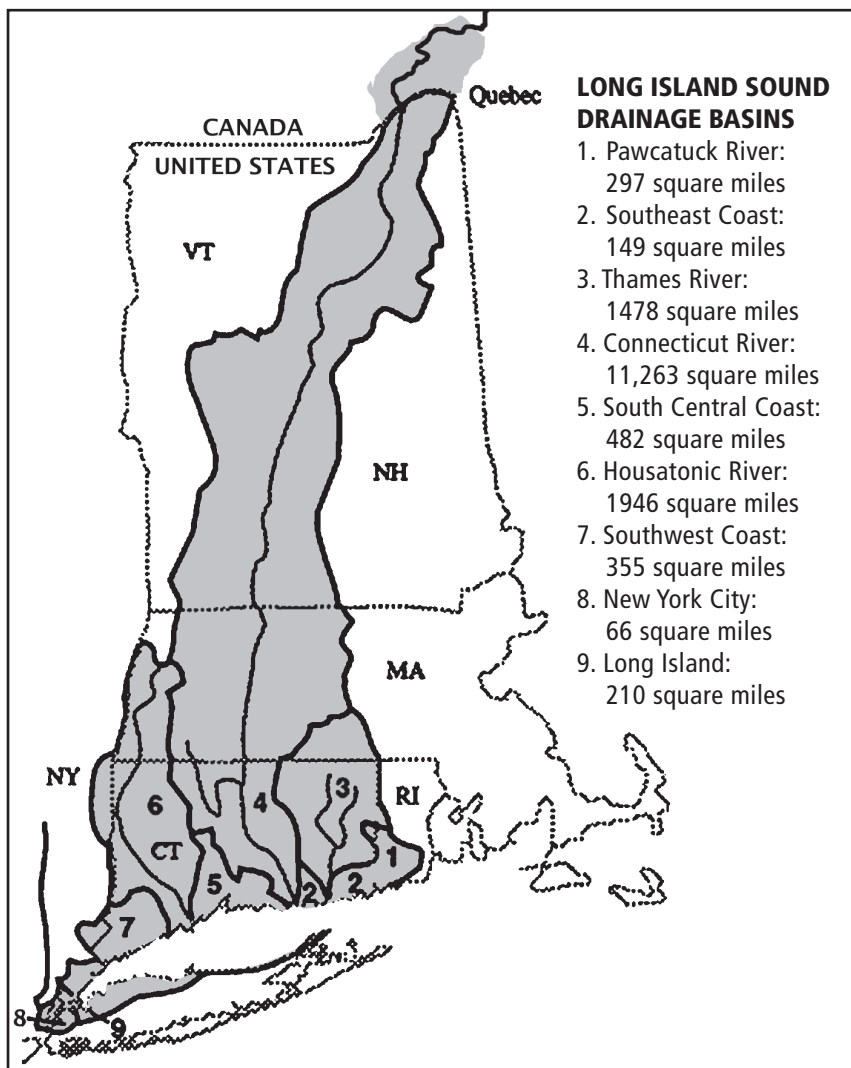
**A watershed can be small, like the land that drains into your neighborhood brook...**




**... or it can be large, like all the land that drains into the Thames River. Watersheds are not always only in one state.**



# This is a map of the Long Island Sound Watershed



Map source: Long Island Sound Study



**When a water drop lands on any of the grey areas, it could end up in a river that drains into Long Island Sound, where it mixes with the salty water from the Atlantic Ocean.**

**A place where salty ocean water is mixed with fresh water from the land is called an estuary. Long Island Sound is an estuary.**

**Ninety percent of the freshwater that enters Long Island Sound comes from three major rivers in Connecticut. What three major rivers drain into Long Island Sound?**

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** \_\_\_\_\_

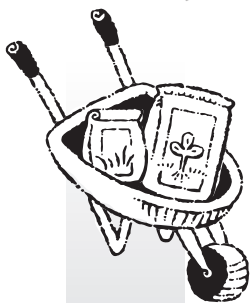
**3.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Can rain that falls in Canada end up in Long Island Sound? Yes or No**





**Water is a solvent, meaning many things can dissolve in it. This is how water can become polluted. When I flow across the land, I can carry many things with me. Some of those things may be harmful to fish or make water unsafe to drink or swim in. Other things may float on me.**



**When too many nutrients  
from fertilizer or animal  
waste get in the water,  
I look green because that  
helps algae to grow in me.**

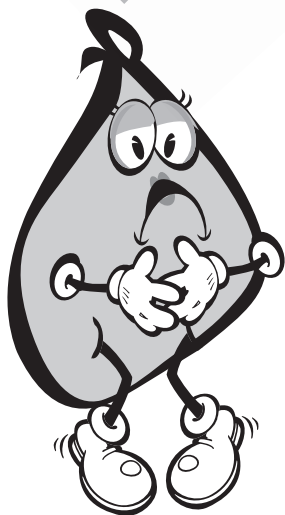


**When too much dirt from  
construction sites or bare  
lawn areas gets in the  
water, I look brown.**

**Too much dirt is not good!**



**When gasoline or oil gets  
spilled into the water,  
I look like a rainbow.**



**Even when I fall from the  
sky, air pollution particles  
collect in me. Whenever it  
rains, all these things  
can get in the river when  
polluted stormwater runs  
off the land.**

**Will you help Flo  
stop stormwater  
pollution from ruining  
our water resources?**

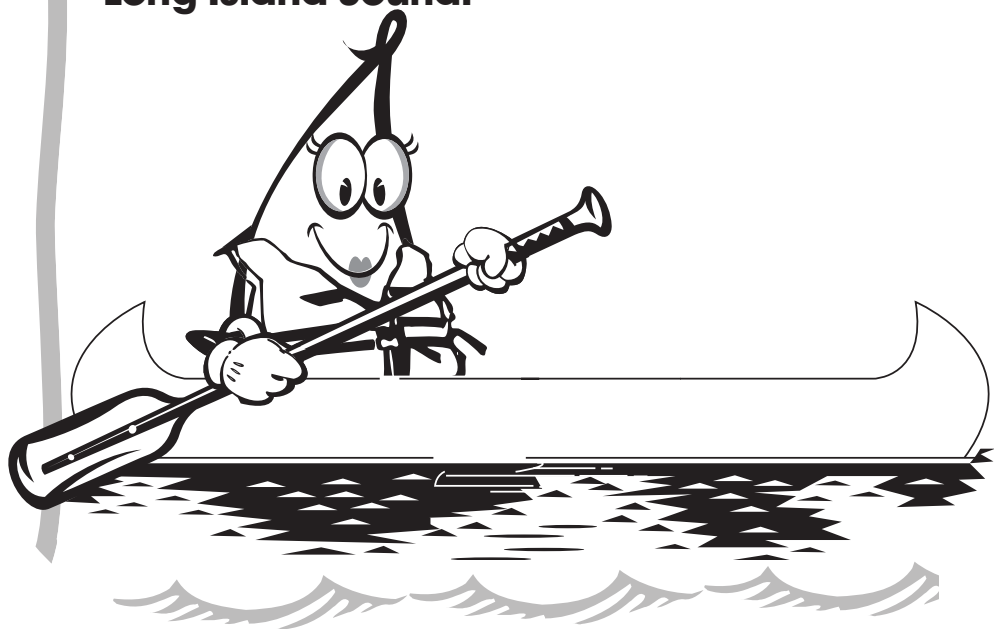


**Fill out your personal pledge sheet.** 

**Then you can draw yourself  
in the front of the canoe, so you can**

**“Go with the Flo”**

**to stop stormwater pollution  
from hurting our rivers and  
Long Island Sound.**







# **My personal pledge sheet.**

- ☐ **I will not litter and I will help clean up litter left by others.**
  - ☐ **I will clean up after my pet.**
  - ☐ **I will ask my parents to test their soil before adding fertilizer to the yard.**
  - ☐ **I will ride my bike or walk to nearby places when possible.**
  - ☐ **I will turn off lights and appliances when I leave the room.**
  - ☐ **I will help my parents with the recycling.**
  - ☐ **I will learn more about how my behavior impacts water quality.**
  - ☐ **I will help teach others how to keep our water resources clean.**
- 



**Condensation**

# **A Poem about the Water Cycle**

**By Jean Pillo**

**Evaporation, transpiration**

**Condensation, rain;**

**Precipitation, Infiltration**

**Or runoff to rivers; drain.**

**Much is stored in oceans,**

**Or locked in ice and snow.**

**Continuous this cycle,**

**Each drop goes with the flow.**

**The universal solvent**

**Pure water is seldom found.**

**If you don't want to swim in trash,**

**Don't put it on the ground!**

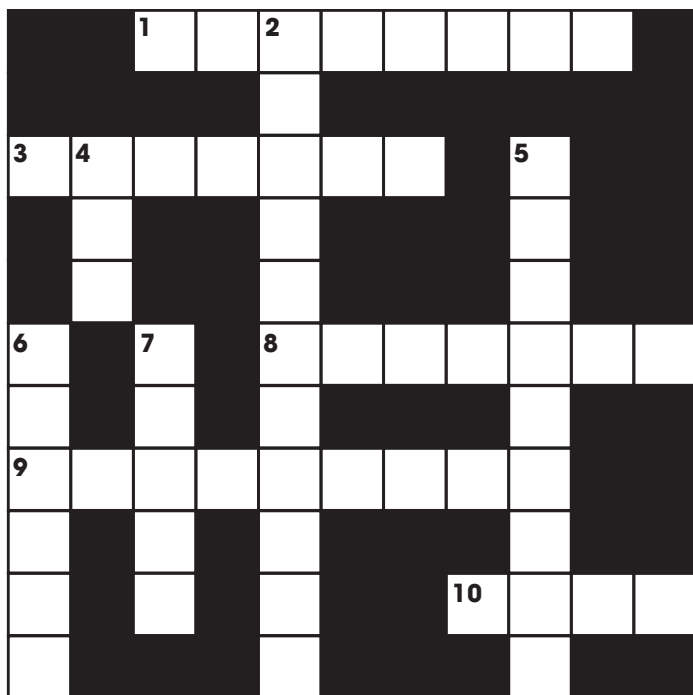
**EVAPORATION**

**TRANSPIRATION**

**PRECIPITATION**

**Runoff**

# Use this booklet to find the answers to this Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

1. A non-point source of water pollution
3. A place where salt water and fresh water meet
8. Something that dissolves things in it
9. Helps too much algae grow in the water
10. What you should do to your soil before adding fertilizer

## DOWN

2. Drainage area equals 1478 square miles
4. Source of energy that drives the water cycle
5. An area of land that drains to one place
6. Carries pollution from your yard to the river
7. Universal solvent

# Nonpoint Water Pollution Sources

This word search puzzle includes words that describe things that can contribute to water pollution when washed into our rivers with stormwater runoff.

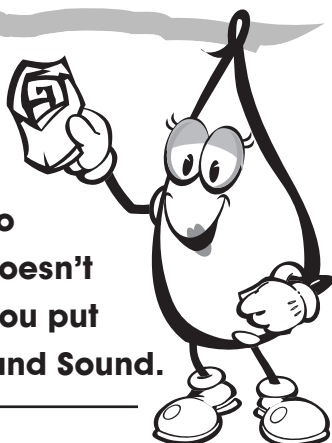
S	L	A	C	I	M	E	H	C	F
K	I	G	E	T	A	B	S	K	E
N	T	S	A	R	L	O	I	N	R
A	T	C	E	S	I	T	U	T	T
T	E	O	O	L	O	T	A	T	I
C	R	S	I	S	R	L	O	R	L
I	A	I	L	I	U	E	I	E	I
T	S	R	E	M	S	S	E	N	Z
P	T	N	S	E	O	G	S	B	E
E	T	S	A	W	T	E	P	T	R
S	E	V	A	E	L	O	S	O	F

bottles	fertilizer	litter	pet waste
cars	gasoline	nutrients	septic tanks
chemicals	leaves	oil	soil

# Water Word Scramble

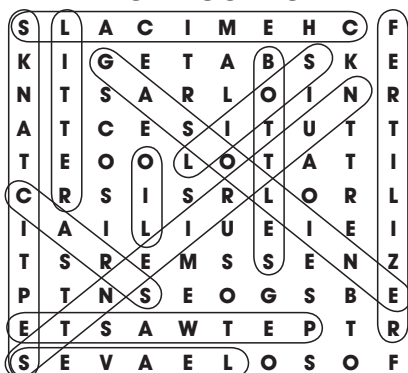
1. Less than 1% of the water supply on earth can be used as \_\_\_\_\_ water. **knidgrin**
2. Each day the sun \_\_\_\_\_ a trillion tons of water. **aproveesta**
3. A person can live about a \_\_\_\_\_ without food, but only about a week without water. **thomn**
4. Humans cannot drink \_\_\_\_\_ water. **last**
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ uses 2 to 7 gallons of water each time it is used. **elitto**
6. In a five-minute \_\_\_\_\_ we use 25 to 50 gallons of water. **weshro**
7. \_\_\_\_\_ largely influence the factors that determine water quality. **shamun**
8. Each \_\_\_\_\_ in the US uses about 100 gallons of water each day. **sonrep**
9. The average \_\_\_\_\_ in the US uses over 100,000 gallons of water (indoors and outside) during a year. **omeh**
10. More than 30% of water used at an average US home is used \_\_\_\_\_ for watering lawns, gardens and landscape plants. **deutois**

I hope you will be a friend of Long Island Sound by helping to keep stuff off the ground that doesn't belong in the water. Anything you put on the ground goes to Long Island Sound.



## Puzzle Pages Solutions

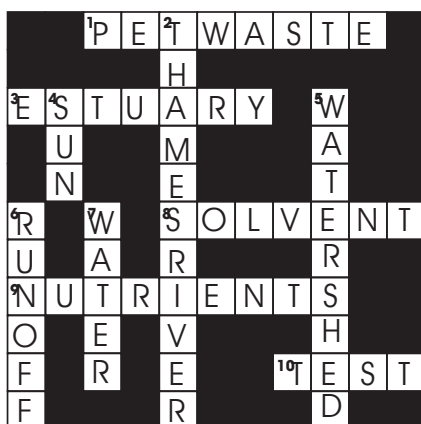
### Word Search



### Word Scramble

1. drinking
2. evaporates
3. month
4. salt
5. toilet
6. shower
7. humans
8. person
9. home
10. outside

### Crossword Puzzle





## **SOURCE TO SEA CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

Dorros, Arthur. *Follow the Water from Brook to Ocean*. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 1991.

Harper, Joel. *All the Way to the Ocean*. Claremont, CA: Freedom Three Publishing, 2006.

Holling, Holling C. *Paddle-to-the-Sea*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1941.

McKinney, Barbara Shaw. *A Drop Around the World*. Nevada City, CA: DAWN Publication, 1998.

## **WEB-BASED CHILDREN'S WATER EDUCATION RESOURCES**

A Paddlers Guide to New England Rivers

<http://www.massaudubon.org/paddlers/index.php>

This interactive website is intended to give the visitor a sample of what can be encountered on a typical paddle along a river or stream in this region.

Take an underwater tour of Long Island Sound

[http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/lis\\_uwtour/index.asp](http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/lis_uwtour/index.asp)

The Long Island Sound estuary is made up of many different habitats, each with their own community type and special species.

Take a Tour of Long Island Sound

<http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net/tour/tour1.htm>

This slide show tour of Long Island Sound reviews current problems with this special resource.

EPA Polluted Runoff Kids Page

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/kids/index.html>

At this Environmental Protection Agency website, students can learn all about nonpoint source pollution, one of the leading causes of water contamination, through a variety of games and activities.

# Source to Sea, Connecting the Drops

Clean water is  
everybody's  
business.



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Funded by the Long Island Sound License Plate Program  
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection



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