

Watersheds and what we can all do to help them

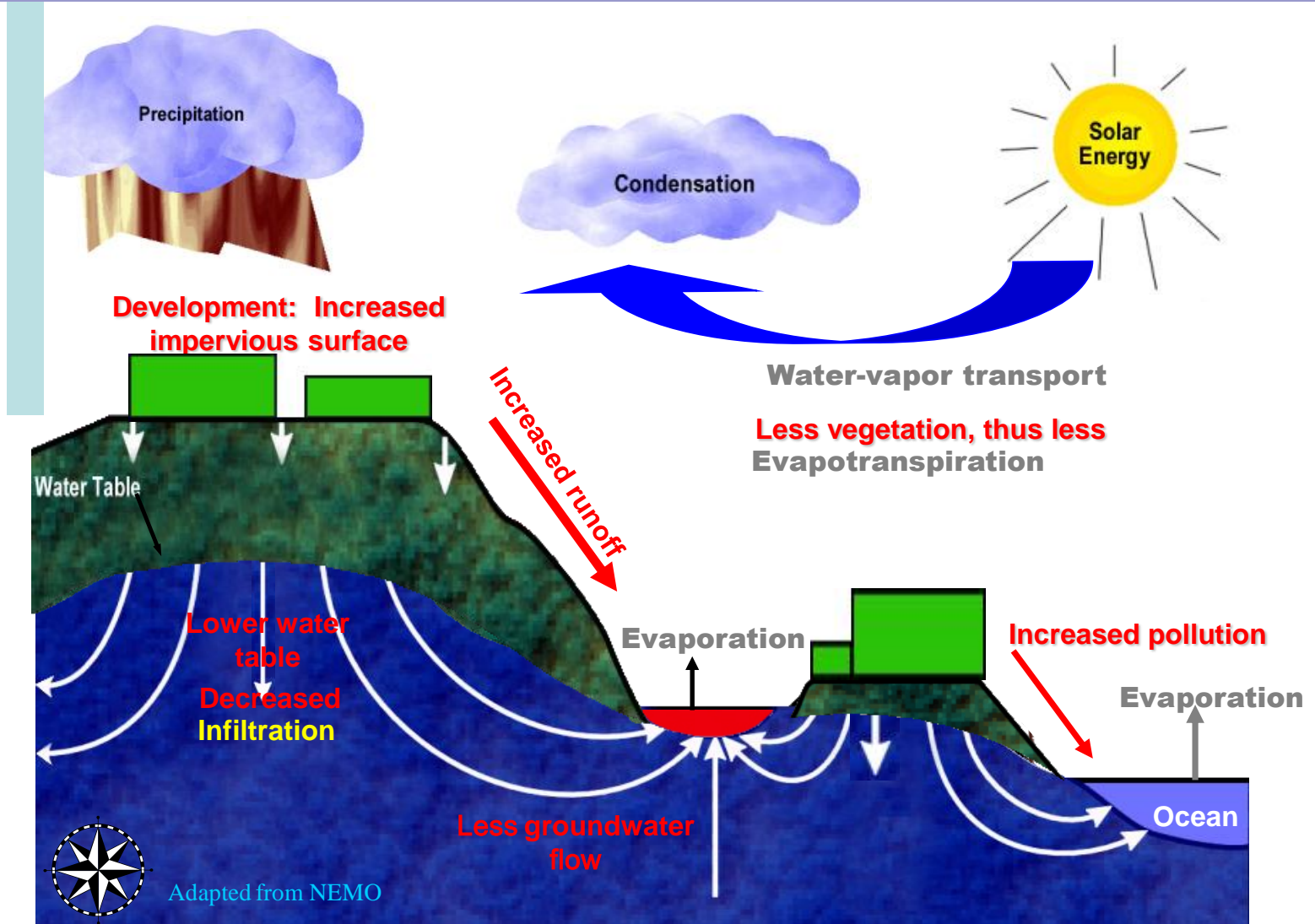


May Louise Sligh

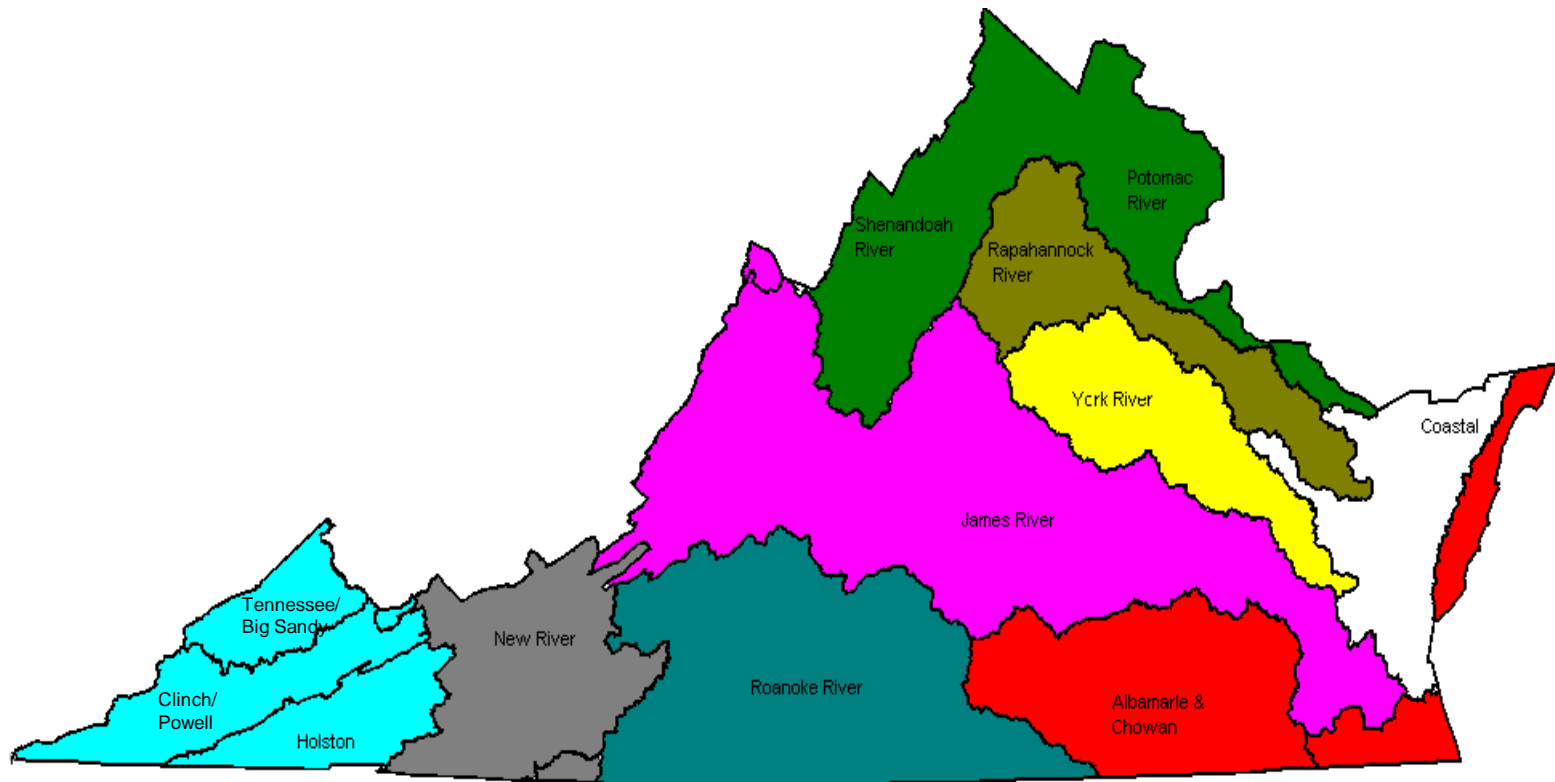
VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
August 21, 2012



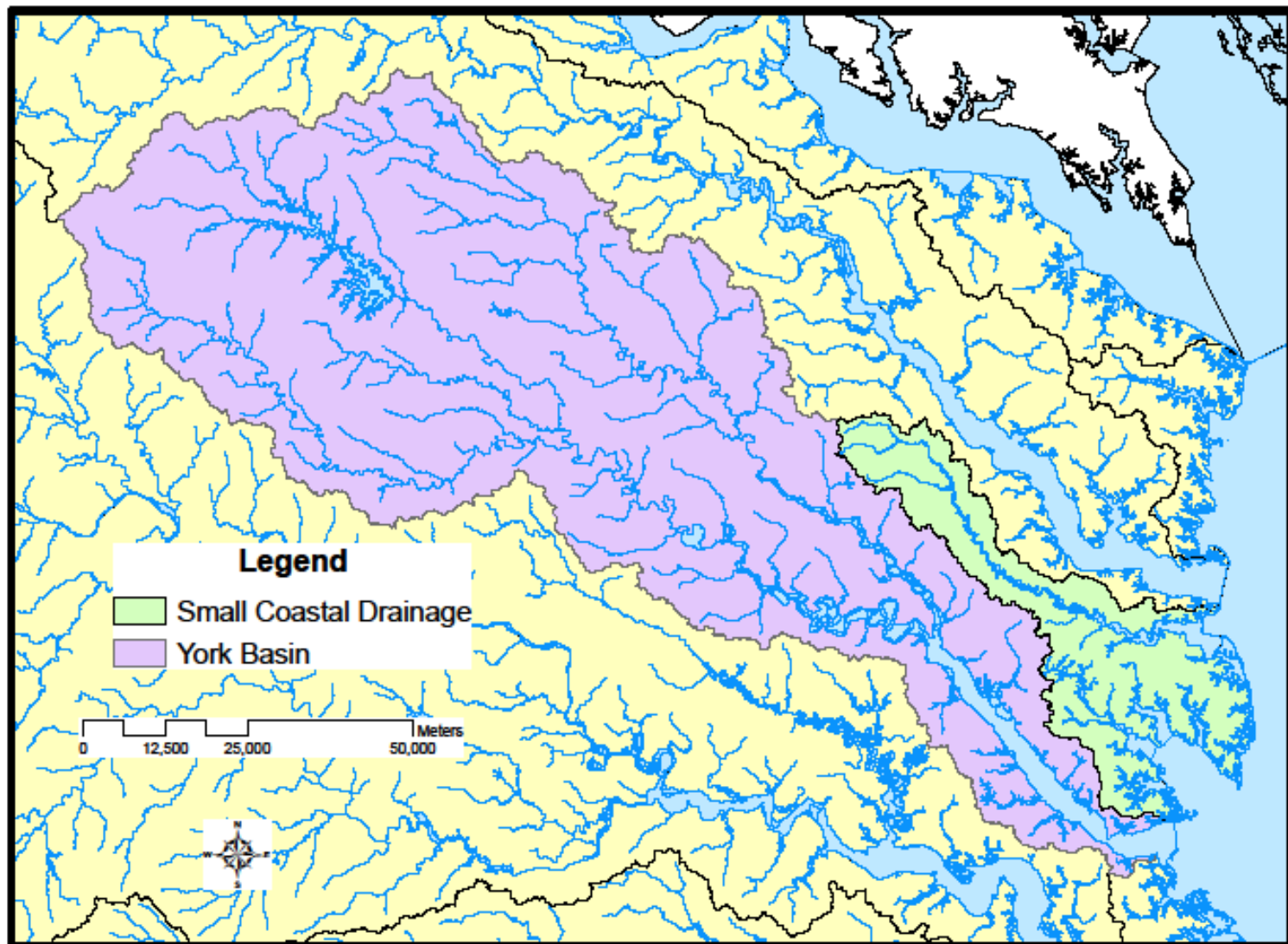
The Water Cycle



Virginia's Watersheds



York River and Small Coastal Basins



Imagine.....





What do these pictures have in common?



Storm Drains

Storm Drains deliver surface water run-off directly to a stream, rivers and lakes



Organize a storm drain stenciling project in your neighborhood or near your school or parent's work place

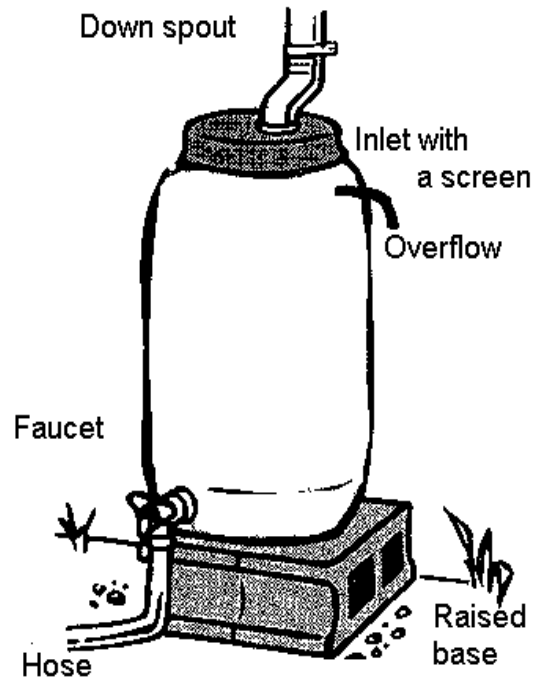
Yard Trimmings

Don't Put Leaves Or Grass Clippings Down Storm Drains

- Compost leaves, grass, and shrub clippings.
- Using composted materials returns nutrients to the soil and reduces watering demands.



Reuse Rainwater



- Reduces flooding by providing temporary storage for rainwater
- Reduce the amount of pollutants entering water bodies
- Prevents rainwater from becoming stormwater
- Conserves water and saves money

“BayScape” Your Yard



For more information contact:
The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

BayScaping
creates wildlife
habitat, conserves
water, and
prevents pollution
(and may reduce
lawn mowing!)

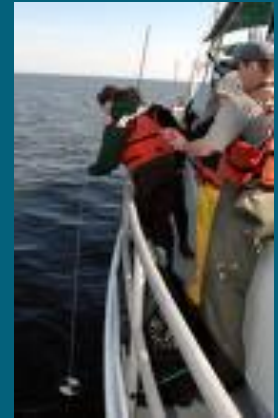
Plant a Rain Garden in your Yard

A rain garden collects water from your roof and downspouts, storing it so it can be filtered slowly into the soil. They imitate forest habitat: a spongy litter layer soaks up water and allows it to penetrate the soil layer.



What else can you do?

- Monitor a stream near your home
- Pick up after your dog
- Let farmer friends know that getting cows out of streams helps water quality
- Participate in a stream clean up or a shoreline planting
- Join or start a watershed group
- Grow some oysters



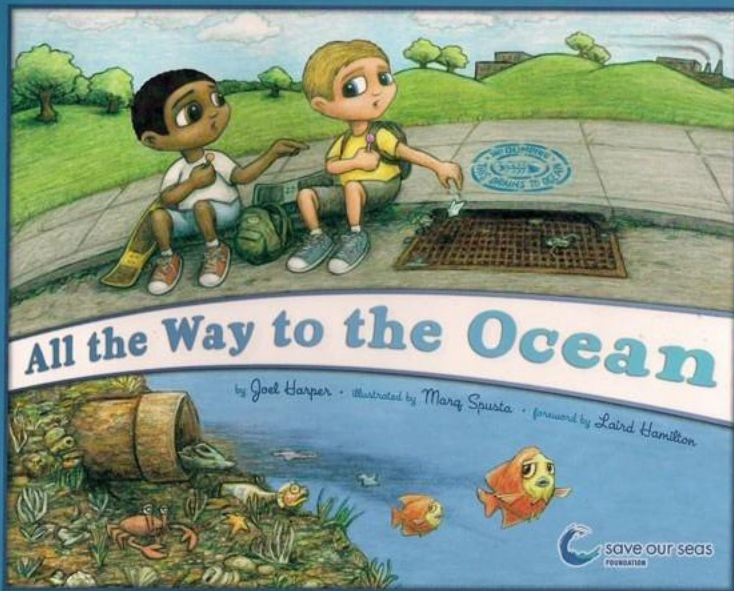


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about 2 young boys who follow
the water's path through their
town



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One last point to remember

We all have to
work together to
improve
watershed
health...and
besides, it's fun!



Get out and enjoy a local stream as soon as you can!

