



How

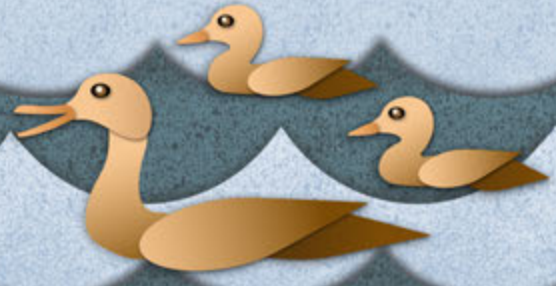
Tampa's Water is Used




The first record of water use in Tampa dates back to 1887, which is the year the city was founded. In those days, you had to get water from a well; it did not come through the plumbing to your kitchen or bathroom sink. It was a chore and a responsibility to go out to the well every day to have enough water for all your needs, like cooking and cleaning. The City of Tampa had 45 wells at this time, but these wells had lots of problems and eventually the city had to come up with a better idea to provide water to all the residents.



HILLSBOROUGH RIVER

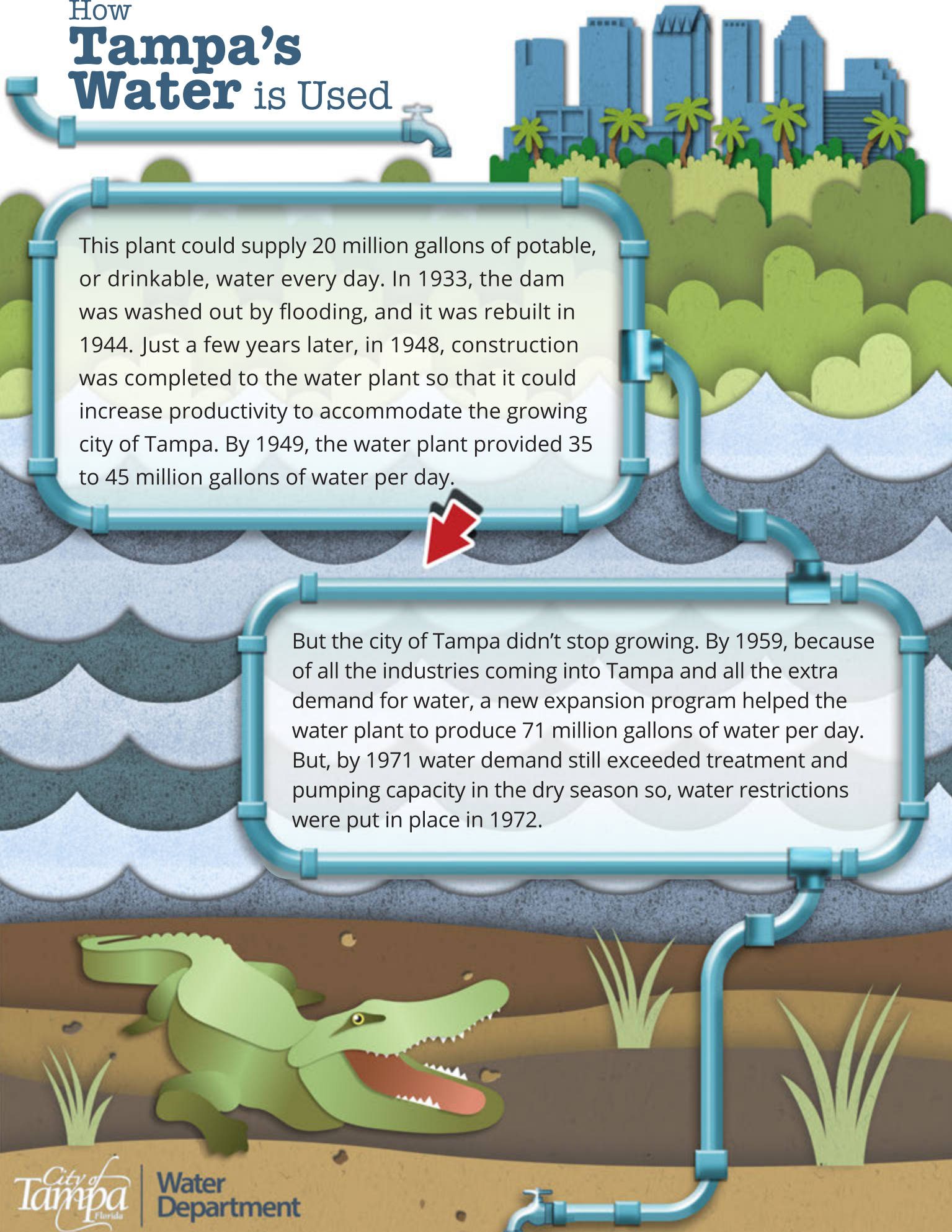


Because of the need to find a reliable water source, in 1922 the City of Tampa chose the **Hillsborough River** as an acceptable long-term water supply and that is when we began to rely on the river for our water. Around that time, the city began to build a new water treatment plant on the river, just upstream, from the **Tampa Electric Dam**. The dam was important to the water supply and to the community. The dam collects the river water at a certain point and helps get water into the treatment plant and then to your house.



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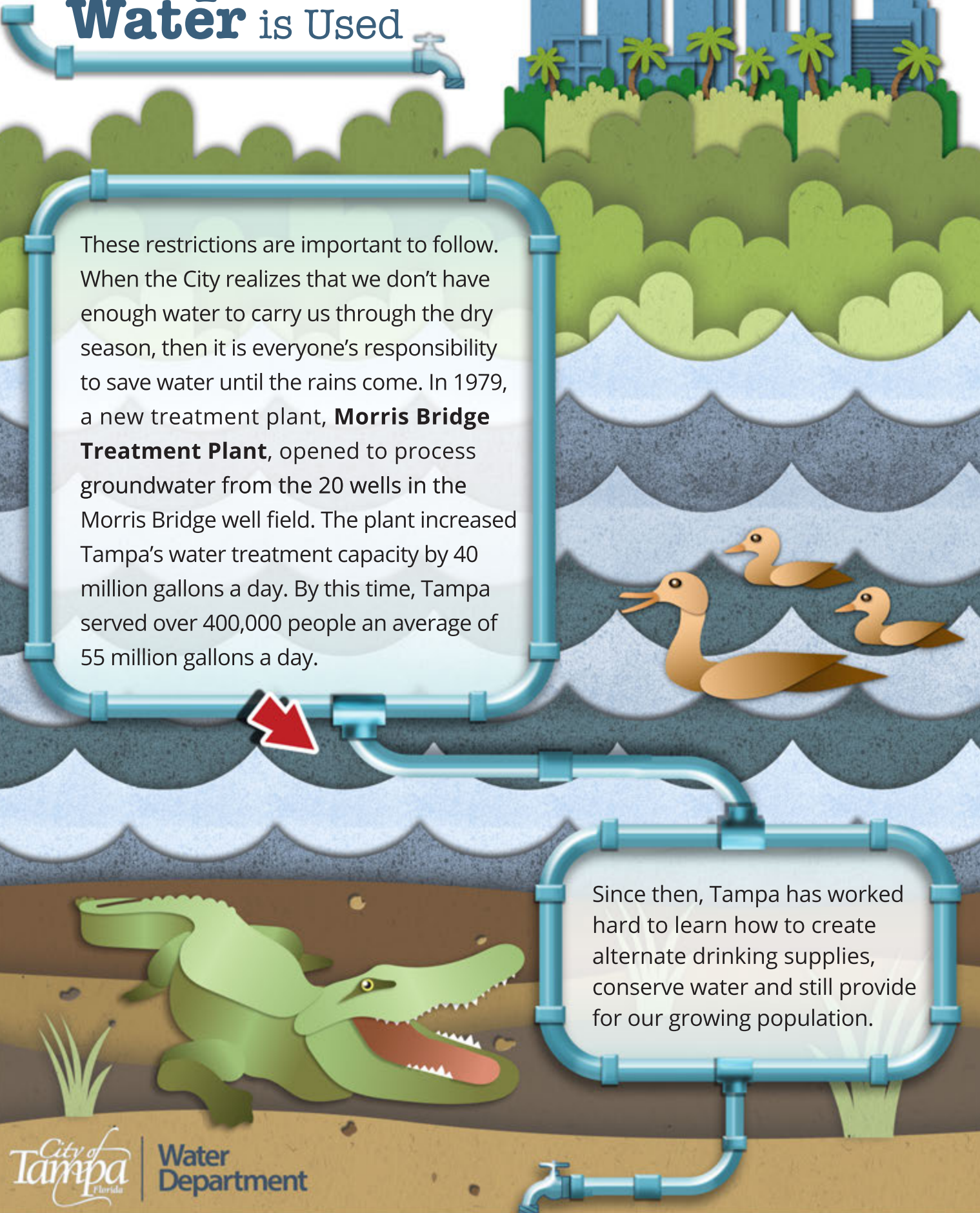


This plant could supply 20 million gallons of potable, or drinkable, water every day. In 1933, the dam was washed out by flooding, and it was rebuilt in 1944. Just a few years later, in 1948, construction was completed to the water plant so that it could increase productivity to accommodate the growing city of Tampa. By 1949, the water plant provided 35 to 45 million gallons of water per day.

But the city of Tampa didn't stop growing. By 1959, because of all the industries coming into Tampa and all the extra demand for water, a new expansion program helped the water plant to produce 71 million gallons of water per day. But, by 1971 water demand still exceeded treatment and pumping capacity in the dry season so, water restrictions were put in place in 1972.

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These restrictions are important to follow. When the City realizes that we don't have enough water to carry us through the dry season, then it is everyone's responsibility to save water until the rains come. In 1979, a new treatment plant, **Morris Bridge Treatment Plant**, opened to process groundwater from the 20 wells in the Morris Bridge well field. The plant increased Tampa's water treatment capacity by 40 million gallons a day. By this time, Tampa served over 400,000 people an average of 55 million gallons a day.

Since then, Tampa has worked hard to learn how to create alternate drinking supplies, conserve water and still provide for our growing population.

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History of Our Water

Choose from the list to complete each statement.

potable

Treatment Plant

wells

gallons

dam

River

1. Back in the 1880s, Tampa's drinking water came from _____ in the ground.
2. A _____ helps trap water from the Hillsborough River and use it as our water source.
3. A Water _____ treats the water from the river and makes it safe to drink.
4. The people of Tampa use more than 77 million _____ of water a day.
5. Drinking water is also called _____ water.
6. Tampa gets its drinking water from the Hillsborough _____.

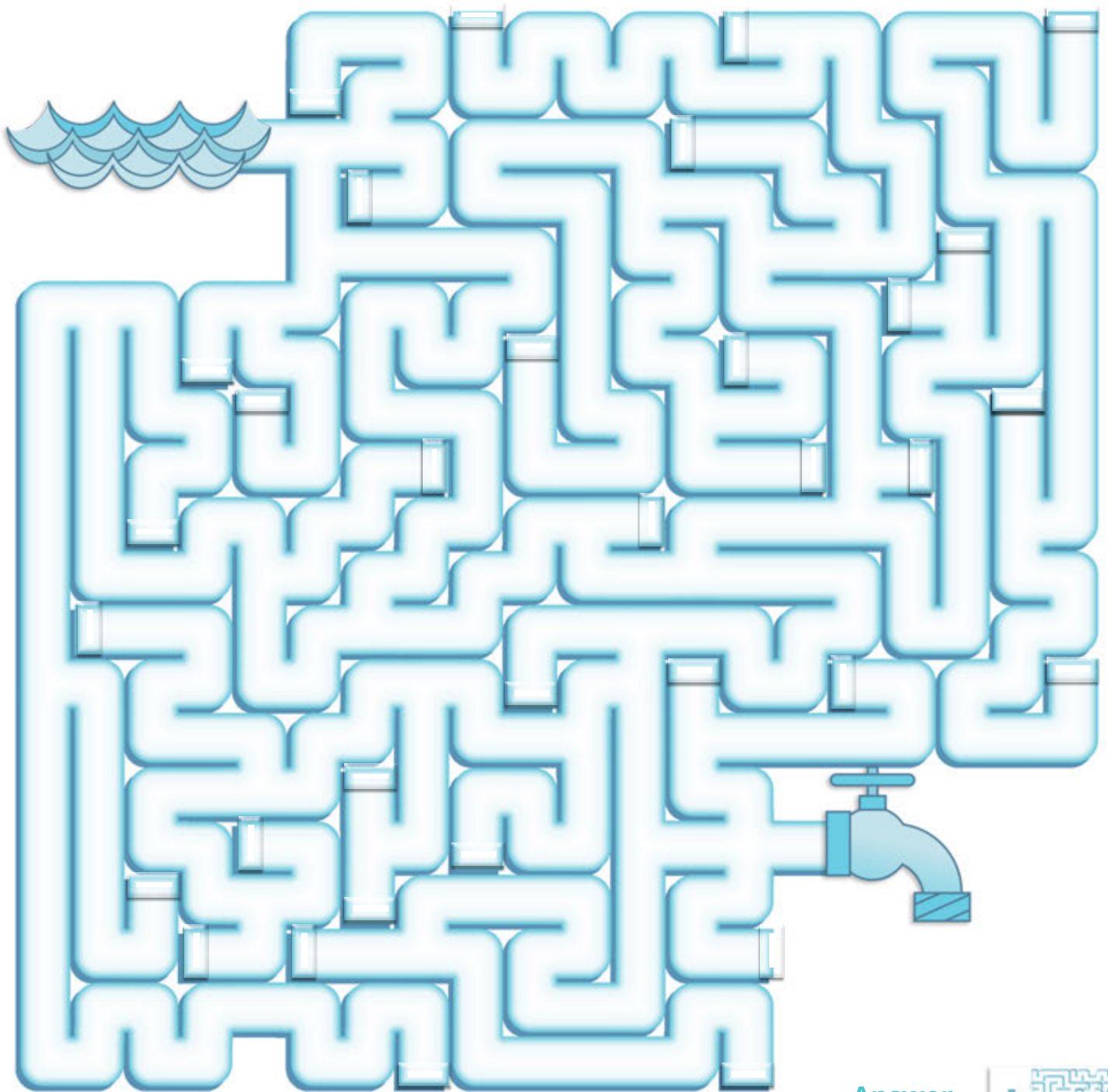
Answer
(backwards)

1. wells
2. dam
3. Treatment Plant
4. gallons
5. potable
6. River

How **Tampa's Water** is Used



Help the water find its way through the treatment pipes!



Answer
(backwards)

