Our **Water History:**
The Hillsborough River

The Hillsborough River was instrumental in "growing" Tampa. In fact, while most other areas use groundwater for their drinking water, Tampa is unique because we get our drinking water from the Hillsborough River. When phosphates were discovered nearby in the late 1880s, the resulting mining and shipping industries prompted a boom of growth and wealth that last through the 1890s, thanks to the river. Tampa's port is now one of the largest in the nation, and we still are shipping phosphate.

During our rainy season from July to September, the Hillsborough River carries around **250 million gallons** of water per day from the Green Swamp to Tampa Bay. However, during the dry times of the year, this amount of flow can slow down to just a fraction of that, about **50 million gallons** of water per day. This might sound like a lot, but on average the City uses 77 million gallons of water per day and at times, over 90 million gallons per day!

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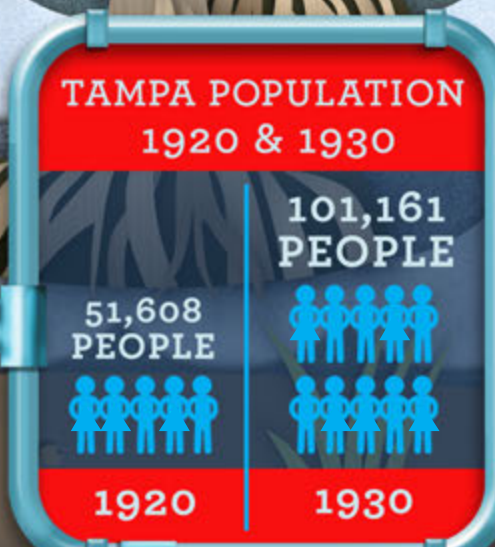
Our **Water History:**
The Hillsborough River

In the late 1800s, the land by the Hillsborough River was covered with **cypress trees**, some several thousand years old. The wood from these trees is very valuable because it isn't likely to rot or decay very easily. It is also easy to cut and carve. Because of this, many of the cypress trees were cut down and the trees that are there now are less than 100 years old.

In 1923-26, a lot of people came to Tampa. The census in 1920 shows 51,608 people and in 1930, 101,161 people! Because of this growth, the City needed to provide a dependable alternative to a scattered system of poor quality wells. In 1924, the David L. Tippen Water Treatment Facility was created and has since been named an American Water Landmark.



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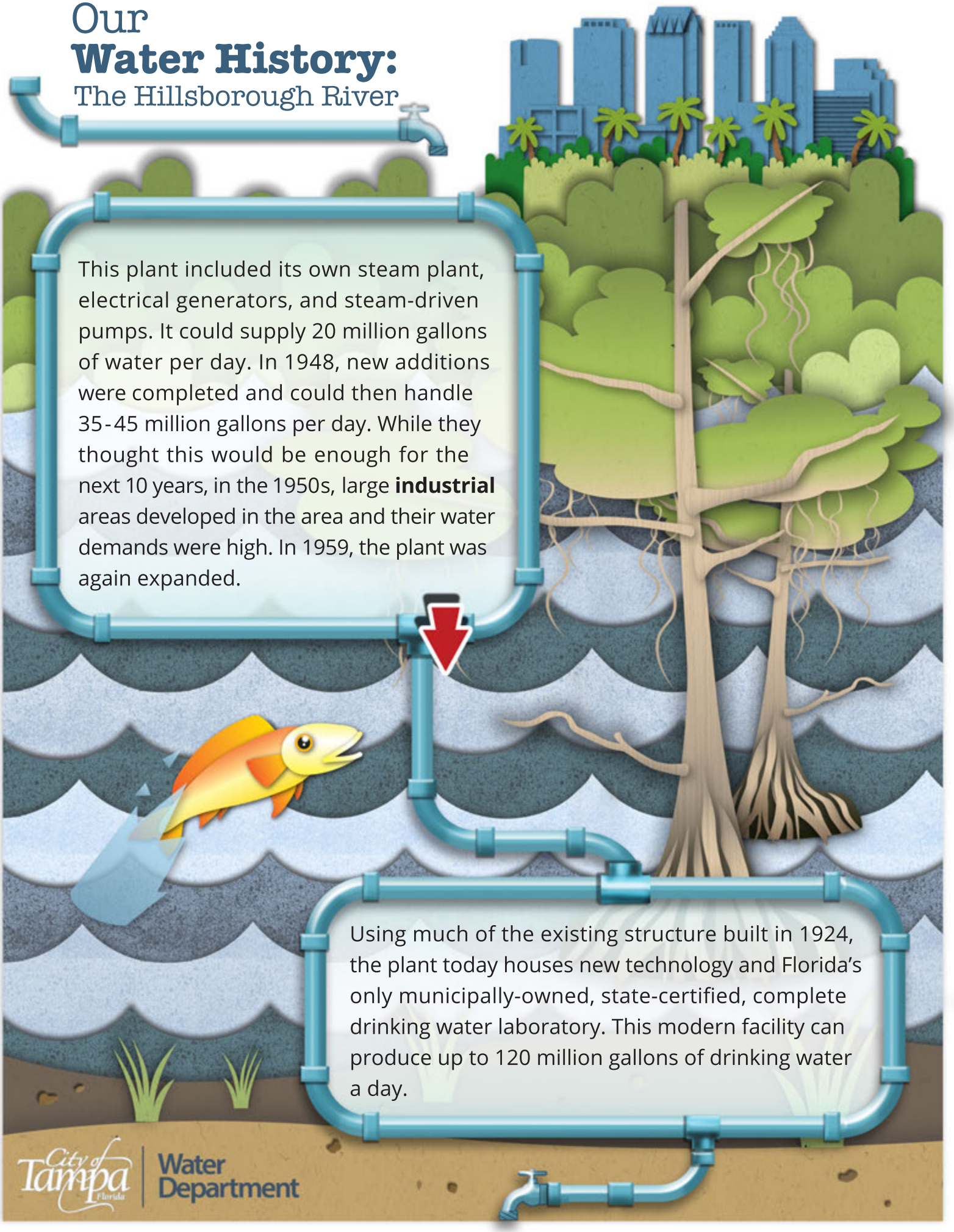
Our **Water History:**
The Hillsborough River



This plant included its own steam plant, electrical generators, and steam-driven pumps. It could supply 20 million gallons of water per day. In 1948, new additions were completed and could then handle 35-45 million gallons per day. While they thought this would be enough for the next 10 years, in the 1950s, large **industrial** areas developed in the area and their water demands were high. In 1959, the plant was again expanded.

Using much of the existing structure built in 1924, the plant today houses new technology and Florida's only municipally-owned, state-certified, complete drinking water laboratory. This modern facility can produce up to 120 million gallons of drinking water a day.

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Our **Water History:** The Hillsborough River

History of Our Water

Choose from the list to complete each statement.

phosphates	**Cypress**	**Hillsborough River**
groundwater	**rot**	**industrial**

1. Tampa is unique because we get our drinking water from the _____.

2. _____ trees are desirable because they cut easily and are not likely to _____ or decay.

3. In the late 1880s, _____ were found nearby and the mining and shipping that resulted created a boom for our area.

4. Other cities use wells or _____ as their source for drinking water.

5. In the 1950s, _____ areas developed, increasing our water demands.

Answer (backwards)

1. Hillsborough River
2. Cypress; rot
3. phosphates
4. groundwater
5. industrial

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Our **Water History:** The Hillsborough River

Unscramble each of the clue words

Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

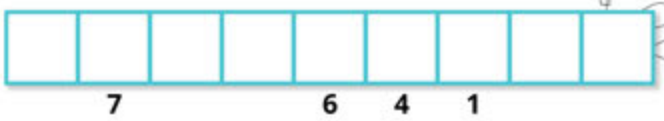
RIVRE

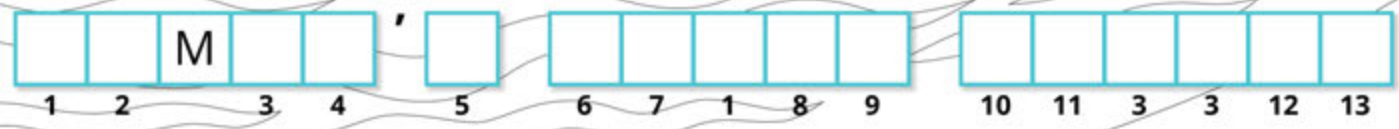
NALLGSO

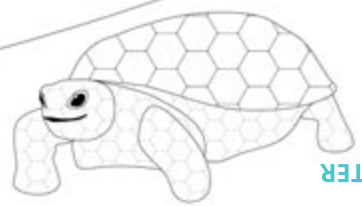
OILUOBSLGRHH

SYCRPES

WIARRTENA







Answer
(backwards)

Puzzle solution:
TAMPA'S WATER SUPPLY

From top to bottom:
RIVER
GALLONS
HILLSBOROUGH
CYPRESS
RAINWATER

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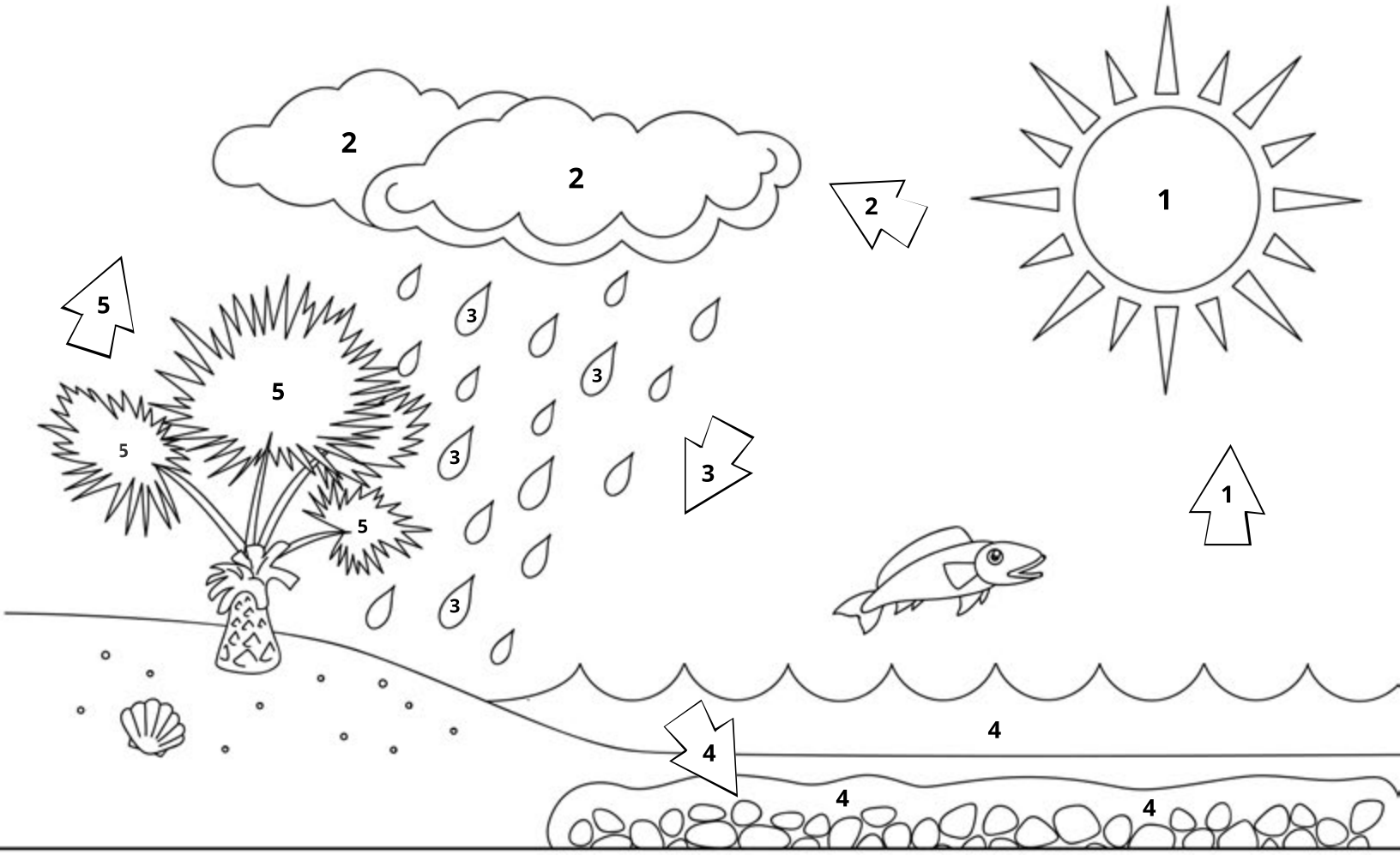
Our **Water History:** The Hillsborough River

Water Cycle Coloring Page

Color each area by number to see where water travels. Then fill in the rest of the scene!



1. **Evaporation** color yellow
2. **Condensation** color gray
3. **Precipitation** color light blue
4. **Percolation** color blue
5. **Transpiration** color green

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