

## A History of Change

**Purpose:** To help students understand how the Tampa Bay watershed has changed over time.

**Objectives:**

- Students will construct a timeline for the history of Tampa Bay
- Students will describe how human activity has changed the Tampa Bay watershed.

**Correlation To Sunshine State Standards:**

**SC.G.2.4.6** Explains how human population growth can negatively impact our biosphere.

**SC.G.2.4.5** Understands that the amount of life any environment can support is limited and that human activities can change the flow of energy and reduce the fertility of the Earth.

**SC.G.2.4.6** Knows the ways in which humans today are placing their environmental support system at risk (e.g. rapid human population growth, environmental degradation, and resource depletion).

**Correlation To Curriculum:**

Chapter 4 section 4.1 and 4.2 of the IS 1 curriculum.

Chapter 6 section 2.6 and 2.7 of the IS 1 curriculum.

Chapters 34, 35, and 36 Biology Honor's curriculum.

**Background Information:**

More than 10,000 years ago, when the glaciers began to melt, a shallow river valley off Florida's west coast filled with water and Tampa Bay was born. The abundant resources of the bay supported settlements here. Some 600 years ago, at the time of European contact, the people living along the bay were called the Tocobaga. They lived in small villages. The large shell mounds that they left behind are testimony to their ability to feast off the abundance of the waters. The Bay and freshwater streams produced an ample bounty of fish, oysters, and clams.

From these prehistoric people to one of the most important ports in the world today, the Tampa Bay area ecosystem has been through many dramatic changes. It saw a great decline in the 1950's and 1960's as the population of the region grew rapidly after World War II. In the early 1970's the trend began to reverse as local environmental activists began to draw national attention to the problems and government began to respond. This exercise will help your students to explore some of these changes in the state of the bay.

### Activities:

#### Activity 1 – Tampa Bay Timeline

**Purpose** - This activity will allow your students to create a timeline for Tampa Bay from the early 1500's until the present day. The timeline will indicate the significant historical events that outline the state of the Bay during this period of time.

**Components/materials** - *Tampa Bay: Living Legacy* DVD, Tampa Tribune article "Living on the Edge," adding machine roll paper, construction paper, or poster board, rulers, color markers or crayons per group.

**Duration** - One class period

**Teacher Directions** – Have your students view chapters 1 & 2 of the video *Tampa Bay: Living Legacy*. Have them use the **Analysis Questions** to capture information from the video. Then divide your students into working groups and give each group a copy of the Tampa Tribune article "Living on the Edge." Direct each group to create a timeline that dates back at least 500 years. The timeline will depict events that will show changes from a pristine estuary system, through exploitation of natural resources and the bay's decline, to the modern day recovery of this ecosystem.

**Assessment** - Completion of timeline and analysis questions.

## **Student Directions: - Tampa Bay Timeline**

**Analysis Questions: During and after viewing the video *Tampa Bay: Living Legacy*, answer the questions below on your own paper.**

1. Who were the Native Americans that inhabited the Tampa Bay estuary and how did they use its natural resources for life on the edge?
2. What was life like during the period from 1528 until the mid 1800's in and around Tampa Bay? How was commerce beginning to change?
3. During the period from 1900 – World War II, the population began to significantly increase. What effect did this have on the health and natural resources of the bay?
4. In your opinion, what period of time and what events led to the greatest decline in the quality of Tampa Bay?
5. What events occurred that started Tampa Bay on the road to its recovery?

### **Constructing the Timeline:**

1. After your teacher has introduced the concept of a timeline, research the history of the Tampa Bay estuary from the period of 1500 – present.
2. Record in a timeline fashion the significant events that have occurred during this time period. Document this history using the paper provided. You may want to make a poster of the events, a “foldable” of the events or list the events in order on adding machine tape.
3. Complete the analysis questions using the timeline you created as a reference.
4. Share your findings with the class using the timeline your group constructed or by using a PowerPoint presentation.

**Teacher Answers:****Analysis Questions:**

1. The Tocobaga People. They harvested fish, oysters, and clams.
2. The area grew very slowly. In the mid 1800's, the bay's rich harvest subsidized European settlement. Tampa was a fishing village. Later, shipping cattle to Cuba became lucrative. Phosphate was discovered here in the 1880's and the port grew in size.
3. As the population of the area increased, the quality of the Bay began to suffer.
4. The period after WWII. The acceleration of growth after the war due to air conditioning and the excessive use of the bay's resources began affecting the ecosystem. The decline of the bay was caused by the phosphate industry, citrus canneries and poor wastewater systems.?
5. People began to speak out, Roger Stewart and the "60 Minutes" news program brought national attention to the problem, the Federal Clean Water Act was passed.