BELLINGHAM Water School

Welcome to the Bellingham Water School home edition!

Use these worksheets, videos, and facts to learn about Bellingham's water systems. Each one of these 5 mini-lessons take about 30-minutes to one hour and should be completed in order. For any questions about Bellingham Water School, Bellingham's three water systems (stormwater, drinking water, and wastewater), or if you want to share about your learning experience, contact us at waterschool@cob.org

Fun Fact: *The City of Bellingham's Water Treatment Plant filters on average 12 million gallons per day and supplies water for roughly 100,000 people.*

Lesson 2: *Explore Lake Whatcom*

Lake Whatcom is the City of Bellingham's drinking water source. You learned in lesson 1 that Lake Whatcom gets its water from precipitation falling within the watershed; this is called surface water. In this lesson, we will take a closer look at the Lake Whatcom Watershed and how water flows into and out of the lake. The better we understand how water flows into and out of Lake Whatcom the better we will understand how to protect the quality of water in the lake.

Fill out the worksheet on page 2 while looking at a bathymetric map of Lake Whatcom available here: https://www.cob.org/services/maps/maps/pages/lake-whatcom-bath-map.aspx

You may have already explored Lake Whatcom through recreation! Lake Whatcom is a popular place to swim and boat in the summer months.

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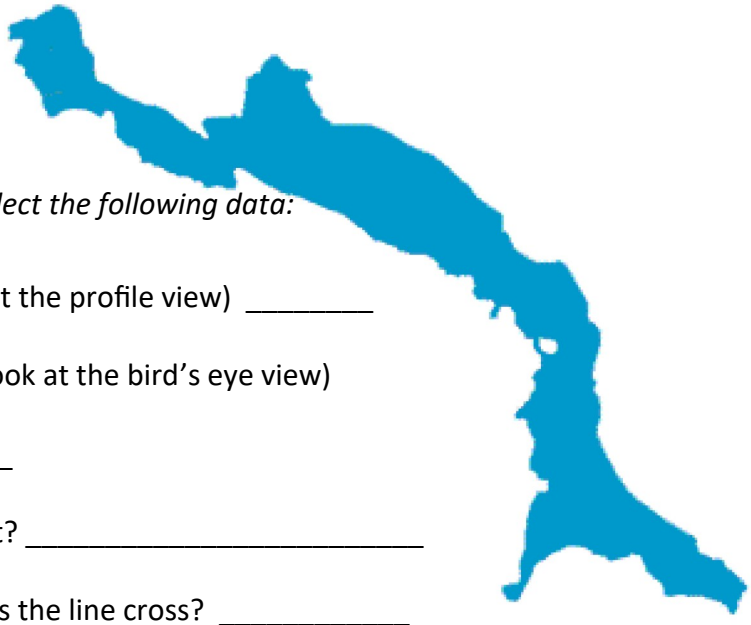

Lesson 2: *Explore Lake Whatcom*

Use the map "Lake Whatcom Bathymetric Map" to collect the following data:

1. How many basins does Lake Whatcom have? (look at the profile view) _____

2. Which colors show the deepest parts of the lake? (look at the bird's eye view)

   _____

3. How many feet deep is the lake at the deepest point? _____

4. Find the Bellingham city limits line. Which basin does the line cross? _____

5. Which creek takes water OUT of the lake? (Hint: It connects to Bellingham Bay.)

   _____

6. Name at least three creeks that put water IN to Lake Whatcom.

   1: _____

   2: _____

   3: _____

7. Stormwater, or water that flows off of hard surfaces such as roadways and roofs of buildings, can pick up pollution. The stormwater will make its way into Lake Whatcom by flowing into storm drains and then pipes that connect it to creeks and the Lake. How do you think living in this watershed might affect the health of the Lake?

   _____

   _____

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