CONSTRUCTING A CHESAPEAKE BAY GLYPH: ASSESSING YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE

1997 Environmental Science Institute Participants
from Prince George’s County Public Schools

A glyph is a pictorial representation using symbols and colors to address questions. It is obtained by following a set of instructions.

Our suggested use of this Bay glyph is to have your students construct one before covering a unit on the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed, and then afterwards. A discussion of their differences may follow.

Do you live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed? Choose the hull of your boat.

- YES
- NO

Have you visited the Chesapeake Bay? Choose the color of your boat.

- brown boat - yes
- black boat - no

Does the Bay need improvement? Choose the mast of your boat.

- It’s fine
- Needs improvement
- Needs a lot of improvement

What is your favorite Bay food? Choose the shape of the sail.

- Shellfish (clams, oysters)
- Fish
- Don’t like seafood!
- Crabs
What tributary do you live closest to? Color the sail.

- red - Susquehanna River
- blue - Potomac River
- orange - York River
- green - Patuxent River
- purple - Rappahannock River
- yellow - James River

What things have you done to help the environment? Draw the pattern(s) on the sail.

- Δ recycle
- • pick-up litter
- ■ tree planting
- ★ storm drain labeling
- + use NO lawn chemicals
- leave blank
- have not helped

After the pre- and post-Bay unit glyphs are constructed, as a writing assignment, have students compare the two glyphs. Students can also summarize what they know or have learned about the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

Here is an example by a fourth grade student from Mattaponi Elementary School. Can you determine what the student learned?

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