

Education

Gulf of Mexico Watershed Mapping Activity



Background:

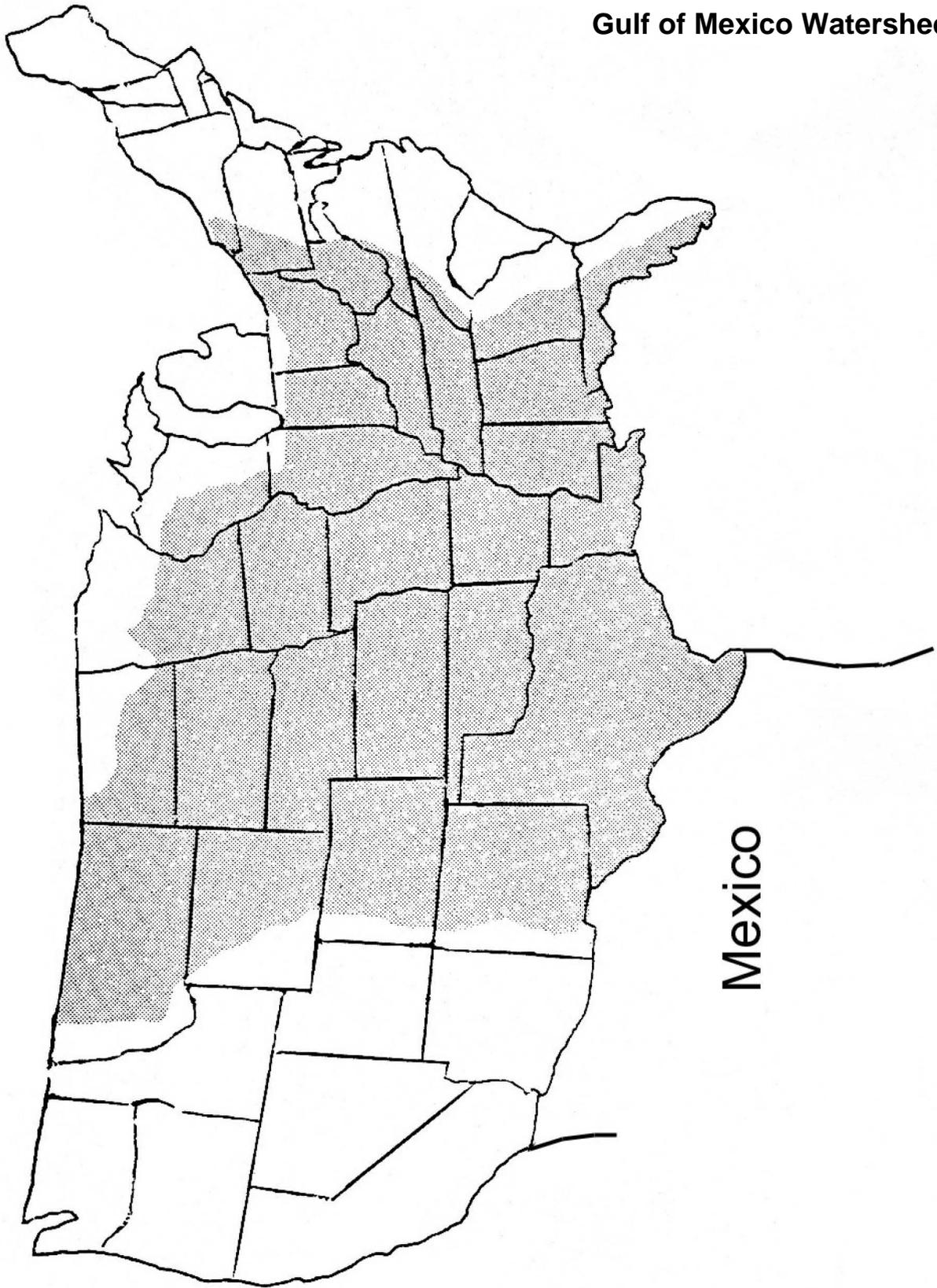
The shaded area of this map shows the part of the United States that drains into the Gulf of Mexico. Thirty-one states contribute to this watershed, as well as parts of Canada, Mexico and Cuba (not pictured).

Procedure :

Using the map on the following page...

1. Label the 31 states that contribute to the Gulf of Mexico watershed. Use the two-letter abbreviation for each state.
2. Identify the states in which only PART of the state contributes to the watershed.
 - a) Color the part of these states inside the watershed green.
 - b) How many of these states did you find?
3. Identify the states in which ALL of the state drains into the Gulf of Mexico.
 - a) Color these states red.
 - b) How many of these states did you find?
4. Place a star at the approximate location of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.
5. Place a star at the approximate location of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Gulf of Mexico Watershed



Mexico

Answer Key:

The shaded part of this map shows the part of the United States that drains into the Gulf of Mexico. Thirty-one states contribute to this watershed, as well as parts of Canada, Mexico and Cuba.

1. Label the 30 states that contribute to the Gulf of Mexico watershed. Use the two-letter abbreviation for each state. **See attached key map.**
2. The following 17 states should be colored green:

Colorado (CO)
Florida (FL)
Georgia (GA)
Illinois (IL)*
Indiana (IN)
Minnesota (MN)
Montana (MT)
New Mexico (NM)
New York (NY)

North Carolina (NC)
North Dakota (ND)
Ohio (OH)
Pennsylvania (PA)
Virginia (VA)
West Virginia (WV)**
Wisconsin (WI)
Wyoming (WY)

*Most of Illinois drains into the Gulf of Mexico, but a tiny part flows toward the Great Lakes.

**Most of West Virginia drains into the Gulf of Mexico, but a tiny part flows toward the Atlantic.

3. The following 13 states should be colored red:

Alabama (AL)
Arkansas (AR)
Iowa (IA)
Kansas (KS)
Kentucky (KY)
Louisiana (LA)
Mississippi (MS)

Missouri (MO)
Nebraska (NB)
Oklahoma (OK)
South Dakota (SD)
Tennessee (TN)
Texas (TX)

4. The star for Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary should be placed south of the Texas/Louisiana border and a bit offshore. **See attached key map.**
5. The star for Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary should be placed right at the southern tip of Florida. **See attached key map.**

Answer Key Map

