

# What do Florida and Georgia residents *know about water?*

Florida and Georgia residents could benefit from increased knowledge of regional water resources, processes, challenges, and policies.

## Where does our water come from?

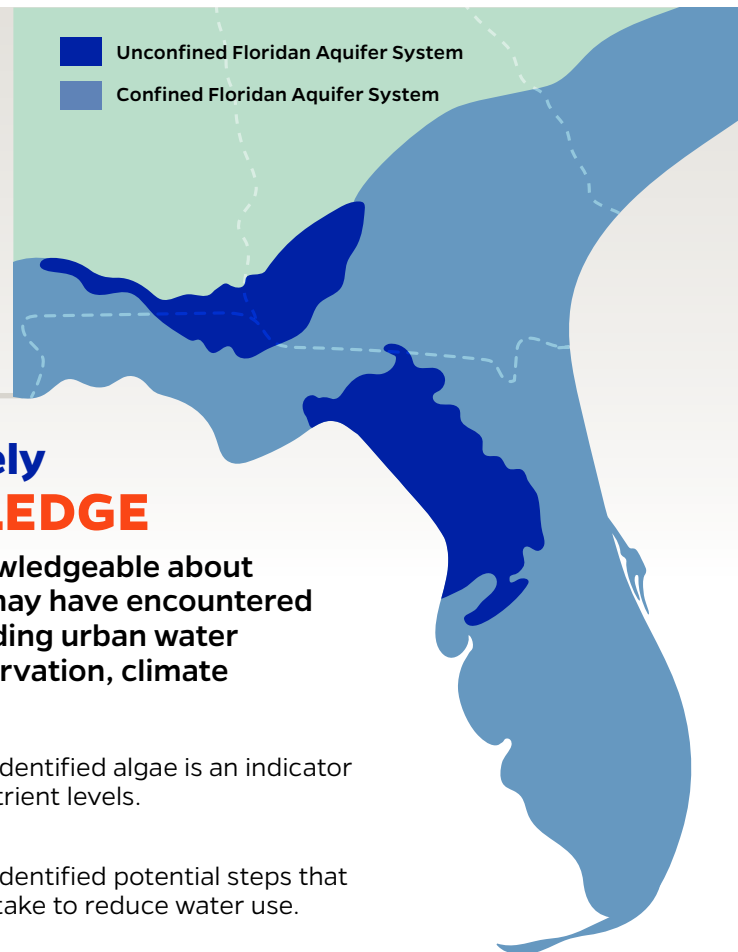
The public's ability to identify regional drinking water sources is a fundamental indicator of their ability to participate in conversations about water and make informed management decisions.

**57%**

Correctly indicated underground water is the primary drinking water source for north/central Florida and south Georgia.

**54%**

Correctly selected the definition of an aquifer.



## Areas of relatively **LOW KNOWLEDGE**

Topics on which residents possess lower knowledge include natural water processes, aquifer recharge, nutrient pollution, and current water policy, all of which could be highly relevant to future water policy proposals in the region.

**50%**

Correctly identified fertilizer is a source of nutrient pollution.

**48%**

Correctly identified a spring as an area where groundwater flows to the surface.

**44%**

Correctly identified rainwater seeping through the soil is the primary way the amount of water in the aquifer increases.

**20%**

Correctly indicated that septic tanks are a source of nutrient pollution.

## Areas of relatively **HIGH KNOWLEDGE**

Residents are most knowledgeable about water topics that they may have encountered in their daily lives, including urban water challenges, water conservation, climate change, and algae.

**71%**

Correctly identified algae is an indicator of high nutrient levels.

**62%**

Correctly identified potential steps that cities can take to reduce water use.

*Results include the effects of guessing.*

Source: Hundemer et al. (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2021.127230>.

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