

Name _____ Date _____

Schoolyard Assessment

Go outside and observe the following conditions in your schoolyard. Then, calculate your score to see how your schoolyard did.

1. Look at your school roof. Observe (or imagine) how rainwater runs off of it. Record your observations below.

Which statement best describes how the rainwater runs off of the roof?

- a. Rain runs onto trees, bushes, or a garden. (10 pts)
- b. Rain runs onto the lawn. (5 pts)
- c. Rain runs onto an impermeable surface. (2 pts)
- d. Rain runs directly into a storm drain. (0 pts)

2. Go to the place that has the lowest elevation outside of your school. What is the ground cover like? Draw it below.

Which statement best describes what the ground cover is like?

- a. It is well vegetated, with trees, bushes, and/or many plant species. (10 pts)
- b. It is a grassy lawn. (5 pts)
- c. It is bare soil or an impermeable surface. (0 pts)

3. Find the nearest storm drain to your school (if possible). What is its condition?

(circle one choice for each pair)

a. It is painted to tell others it is a storm drain. (4 pts)

b. It is not painted. (0 pts)

a. It is clean. (4 pts)

b. It is covered with litter or debris. (0 pts)

a. It is not damaged. (4 pts)

b. It is cracked or broken. (0 pts)

4. Does your schoolyard contain any of these to control runoff?

(circle all that apply -- 6 pts for each)

a. rain barrel

b. rain garden

c. forest/wooded area

5. Which types of habitats can be found around your schoolyard?

(circle all that apply -- 5 pts for each)

a. trees and bushes

b. field or meadow

c. garden

6. Do you see trash around your schoolyard?

a. No trash (10 pts)

b. Some trash (5 pts)

c. A lot of trash (0 pts)

7. Are there recycling cans/bins in and/or outside of your school?

a. Yes (3 pts)

b. No (0 pts)

8. Does your school compost?

a. Yes (3 pts)

b. No (0 pts)

9. Does your school have an environmental club?

a. Yes (3 pts)

b. No (0 pts)

10. Are there any bird feeders or other food/water sources for animals?

a. Yes (3 pts)

b. No (0 pts)

11. Does your school celebrate Earth Day?

a. Yes (3 pts)

b. No (0 pts)

12. How would you describe your schoolyard's ground surface cover?
- completely forested (10 pts)
 - more green vegetation than blacktop/sidewalk (7 pts)
 - half green vegetation and half blacktop/sidewalk (5 pts)
 - mostly blacktop/sidewalk with little green vegetation (2 pts)

Count your points and write the total in the box to the right.

Total Points

How did your schoolyard score?

- 100-80 = A-B: Your schoolyard is a healthy part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. It is a great habitat for plants and animals and your school promotes green practices.
- 79-60 = C-D: Your school participates in some good practices, however, they could be improved.
- 59-0: F: Your schoolyard is a poor habitat for local plants and animals. Don't worry though -- many schools receive this score.

Next Steps: Think about how your schoolyard impacts the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and how you can help to make your schoolyard a greener, healthier part of the ecosystem! Develop an action plan and carry it out!