

Grade: 1 & 2

How Do We Use Water?

Students will be able to:

- understand how we use water everyday around the home
- learn about other types of water uses
- learn that water is essential for life

Lesson Details:

1. How do we use water?

Discuss a typical day at home with students from the time they get out of bed, until they get back in again. Pick a weekend when they are more likely to be around home all day and parents may be attending to household chores that involves using water. Some questions to ask:

1. How often in one day do you reach for the tap?
2. What type of machines at home use water?
3. How do they use water to keep their bodies clean?
4. When do they use water out in the garden?
5. How do we use water to keep our house clean?

2. How do we use water in our communities?

Let's take a look at our rural communities. Ask the students to picture themselves on a farm. The farm may have large areas of crops or may only be used for grazing livestock such as cows, sheep, goats, pigs etc.

Animals need water to survive and farmers may need the water to hose down dairy sheds to keep them clean for milk collection. Where crops are concerned, a farmer will often have large irrigators set up to ensure regular watering. Sometimes they may need to apply fertilizers or pesticides as well which can be mixed with water.

What about in our towns? There may be water fountains in our parks, or large public swimming pools. Water is required to keep our footpaths and buildings clean. A hairdresser would use lots of water everyday shampooing and colouring. What about car washes and laundromats? Ask for other ideas.

Curriculum Links

Grade 1

Science

- ACSSU211
- ACSSU018
- ACSHE021
- ACSIS024
- ACSIS025
- ACSIS029

Language & Literacy

- ACELA1451
- ACELY1656
- ACELY1788

Grade 2

Science

- ACSSU032
- ACSHE034
- ACSIS037
- ACSIS038
- ACSIS042

Language & Literacy

- ACELY1666

Organising Ideas (Cross Curr.)

- OI.7

Did you know?

In 2015, 11% of the world's population doesn't have access to clean water.

Lesson Details continued:

3. How much water do you think we use each day?

Guess how many ten litre buckets they would use each day in their home attending to normal tasks like showering, toileting, washing up, cooking etc?

On average Australian use 400 litres per day, that's 40 ten litre buckets.

A useful exercise would be to have each student bring in a ten litre bucket from home and line them up down a corridor.

Invite students from other classes to walk past and think about how much water is used.

Are we being wasteful?

In some poor countries water is not supplied into homes, rather people often have to walk long distances and carry water every day. They generally use less than 20 litres per day, that's less than two buckets!

Lesson Reflection:

1. Where is water used in students homes?
2. Get them to add up how many cups of water they drink in a day. How would they feel if they couldn't drink that water?
3. Half fill a ten litre bucket of water and have each student carry it around the school - think about how other people access water in poorer countries.

4. All living things need water.

Discuss with students where humans and animals source their water from. For example:

- birds may source water from streams, puddles, bird baths, dog bowls
- humans source water from streams, rivers, taps in our home, water fountains in parks and may even buy bottled water
- Where do cows, sheep and other farm animals source their water?
- Compare this with animals that live in the water, like fish or platypus - what are their needs for water?
- Some animals live in very dry places and can cope without water for some time - can you name them?



Did you know?

All water is recycled!
The water you are drinking today was probably the wee from a dinosaur some 70 million years ago.

More Information

Contact our Education Officers who can visit your classroom and share some engaging water activities with your students. Alternatively visit our website, complete an online request form and our Education Officers will contact you.

Email: education@taswater.com.au

Website: www.taswater.com.au

Additional Activities

We understand how we use water daily and we also know that the amount of water on earth never increases. However, the demand on water continues with population growth, climatic changes and food production. Now is a good time to get students thinking about how they can save a little bit of water each day at home. Ask them to write up a list and share.