Lesson Plan

Discover Our Water

Grade: 3 & 4

Using water every day

Students will be able to:

- identify the many uses we have for water in our daily lives
- use technology to deliver water conservation messages to the whole school community
- understand the value of water and things we can do to prevent waste

Lesson Details:

1. **How we use water.**
Ask students to list all of the different ways we use water every day in society. Some suggestions:

- drinking - animals and human
- washing - clothes, ourselves, dishes, cars, windows
- cooking - vegetables, eggs, ingredient in recipes
- recreation - pools, ponds, lakes, sea, fishing, swimming
- heat control - suppress fires, apply to burns
- hydration - plants, lawns, trees and bushes
- transportation - ships, cruises, boats, yachts
- industry - hydro electricity, steam, manufacturing
- agriculture - water for crops

2. **Encourage students to think of a typical day of using water.**
Get students to draw a sequence of pictures that illustrates their use of water in a typical day.

When the picture is complete - ask them how they would cope without water? The answer is it would be very difficult if not impossible.

Therefore how valuable is water? Ask students to judge how valuable water is, relate to something they place a high value on.

Curriculum Links

Grade 3

Science

- ACSSU073
- ACSIS054
- ACSIS055
- ACSIS060

Language & Literacy

- ACELA1484
- ACELY1676
- ACELY1792
- ACELY1677

Grade 4

Science

- ACSSU073
- ACSIS065
- ACSIS066
- ACSIS071

Language & Literacy

- ACELA1498
- ACELY1687
- ACELY1688
- ACELY1689

Geography

- ACHGK022
- ACHGK024

Organising Ideas (Cross Curr.)

OI.5
OI.7
OI.8

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Lesson Details continued:

3. Where is water used in your school?

Take students for a walk around the school including the school grounds. You may need the assistance of the grounds staff to point out where outside taps are and connections to irrigation pipes for school sports fields.

Consider these questions:

How many toilets and taps are in your school? Every single one will have water connected to it. Do you have a vegetable garden? How do you water that?

4. Is water being wasted in your school?

Sometimes water leaks go unnoticed because we become used to them, however the amount of water being wasted through that leak may be surprising.

Try and source a plan of the school (or create your own) and have students in pairs investigate all taps and toilets. Help them to identify leaking or constantly running taps, toilets or urinals. Do the toilets have dual flush mechanisms?

Have students run a survey among their peers. They may ask: Who runs the tap while washing their hands? How many people use the half flush feature on the toilet?

Outside, take a look at any automated sprinkers in gardens, are they constantly leaking? Is the sprinker left on ovals for long periods of time? What time of day are sprinklers turned on?

Provide students with a camera so they can take pictures of faulty appliances and use this as part of a presentation that can be given to the whole school community. Feel free to share this with your TasWater Education Officer.

Lesson Reflection:

1. Why is it important to understand where water is used in your school or your home?
2. Just how valuable is water?
3. What can your school do to reduce water wastage?
4. Can you think of any other ways water is used in society aside from those mentioned in the first point?

Did you know?

Water meters are the greatest water conservation device created! It helps TasWater to understand water consumption and also identify leaks so they can be fixed.

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

If your school has a vegetable garden, encourage the students to record how frequently they water the plants. Do some plants require more water than others? What is the quantity of water they are applying to the plants? Is it consistent? Does weather play a role in determining how much water is given?