

Grade: Prep

Caring for our water

Students will be able to:

- understand why it's important to protect our drinking water
- make a simple connection between the river and their tap
- learn what they can do to protect rivers.

Lesson Details:

1. Where does our drinking water come from?

Explore with students where they think the water comes from in their taps at home? Expect answers like the sky, or when it rains or some students may refer to water tanks.

Every town on a treated water supply draws their water from a river, dam, reservoir or in some cases groundwater through bores.

Show the students a picture of the local river or dam where their water supply is most likely drawn from. Have the students visited that river for swimming, fishing, kayaking or maybe to have a picnic?

Make the connection to the water cycle and that river or dam. Confirm with students that when they turn the tap on at home, the water has come a long way to get to them.

(Contact TasWater's Education Officer if you are unsure of the water source for your town).

2. Why do we need to keep our drinking water clean?

By the time water is drawn for drinking from a river or dam, it has already traveled a long way often through agricultural areas and possibly industrial areas.

Anywhere there is human activity in the landscape, water quality will be impacted. We can't drink poor quality water as it can make us very sick.

TasWater treats all drinking water to make sure it is clean and safe to drink. The smell of chlorine is not a bad thing - chlorine is used to disinfect the water and kill bacteria.

Curriculum Links

Science Enquiry Skills

- ACSIS014
- ACSIS012

Science Understanding

- ACSSU002

Literacy

- ACELY1646

Geographical Knowledge and Understanding

- ACHGK001
- ACHGK004

Geographical Inquiry & Skills

- ACHGS001
- ACHGS003

Did you know?

TasWater conducts thousands of water quality tests per annum to ensure water is safe to drink.

Lesson Details continued:

3. What makes water unsafe to drink?.

Refer to TasWater's Urban Water Cycle Poster available on our website. The children should try and identify where water can become polluted. Some ideas are:

- Litter
- Disturbed soil
- Contaminated water
- Animal faeces and urine
- Pesticide and herbicide run off
- Oils and greases

Students should be able to suggest some ways they can help keep the river clean.

Lesson Reflection:

1. Encourage the students to share what they plan to do to keep their local river clean.
2. Get the students to paint a picture of their local river and paste pictures of people, animals and trees and buildings.
3. Visit a local park near a river, observe activities and potential pollution sources.

4. Healthy waterways activity.

Provide students with an outline of a river on an A4 sheet of paper. For this activity they will need:

- Scissors
- Glue
- Pictures of farm animals, trees, grasses, fences
- People, rubbish bins
- Orange juice bottle top for the sun
- Cotton wool for clouds
- Colouring in crayons (for the river)

The aim of this activity is to create a catchment that cares for the water - in other words, all sources of pollution are contained or removed.

More Information

Contact our Education Officers who can visit your classroom and share some engaging 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

In a sandpit, have students construct a river, use plastic trees, animals and boats etc. Pour some water along the river so students can identify the relationship between the river and the land surrounding the river.