Lesson Plan

Discover Our Water

Grade: Prep

How do we use water?

Students will be able to:

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

Lesson Details:

1. How do we use water at home?
Encourage students to think and share how they use water each day at home. Prompt their response by talking about daily rituals such as cooking, cleaning, hygiene, gardening and maintenance.

2. How do we use water in our communities?
Students should think about urban and country areas and also consider factories. Some examples of using water in our communities includes:
Swimming pools, fountains, public toilets, irrigated gardens, hairdressers, laundromats, car wash, dairy factories and vegetable crops.
Use the TasWater Urban Water Cycle Poster as an aid to prompt ideas.

3. All living things need water.
Take the time to consider why living things need water.

- to stay healthy (our bodies are mostly made up of water)
- to keep clean (brushing our teeth, bathing our bodies)
- to quench our thirst (animals and humans)
- plants need water to grow
- animals need water to grow
- fish need water to stay alive

Source some old health and home magazines and get students to cut out plumbing fittings, sinks etc, plumbing appliances, gardens, healthy people, food preparation etc. Have them draw a house and paste their pictures in the areas you might find them.

Curriculum Links

Science Understanding
- ACSSU002

Science as a Human Endeavour
- ACSHE013

Science Enquiry Skills
- ACSIS014
- ACSIS012
- ACSIS233

English
- ACELY1646

Did you know?

In Australia:

70% of water is used for agriculture.

22% of water is used by industry.

8% of water is used around the home for drinking, washing and cooking.

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Lesson Details continued:

4. How much water do we use each day?

Most people have no idea how much water is used in their home each day. Show students a ten litre bucket and encourage them to guess how many they would fill in a typical day.

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

Many people living in our poorest countries, where most have to walk long distances for water, would use less than 20 litres per day.

Fill two ten litre buckets and then explain to students how they would only use water for essential things like cooking and drinking. There's not enough water for showers and washing clothes etc.

Lesson Reflection:

1. Have students think about where they use water in their own home.
2. Try and add up how many drinks they have in one day that is water or contains water.
3. Walk around the school and identify where water is being used.

5. Some interesting water facts.

Water is recycled continually, the earth always has the same amount of water on it, no more, no less.

If you studied a drop of water over a 100 years, the drop will have spent 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice and about two weeks in a river or dams.

Water as vapour spends less than a week in our atmosphere. Help students to draw a timeline of the life cycle of a water drop and present this information as posters around the school.

6. Is there enough water?

As our world population grows and therefore the demand on food production, housing and energy increases, the demand on water also increases.

The Earth is not making more water and conserving water, with all the pressures of a growing world is no longer optional - it is a necessity. Share this thought with your students, help them think about ways they can save water each day. Even simple changes can be most effective.

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

Provide each of the students with a broadbean, some soil and plastic containers. They are responsible for looking after their plant and making sure it gets enough water. Use a measuring jug when watering so the students can observe how much water they use.