

EXPERIMENT 4: Water Usage

Challenge: Discover the uses of water in our daily lives and why water is important. Think in terms of reducing water waste!



WHAT YOU NEED:

- Daily water usage log
- Graph and chart paper
- Pencils
- Markers
- Erasers
- Rulers



STEP-BY-STEP:

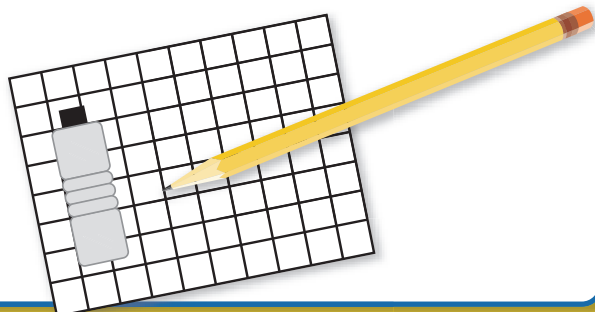
1. Read the list of ways you use water on "Your Water Log" (See below). Add other ways you use water.

2. Track your use of water using the Water Log. Estimate the volume of water used for each activity.

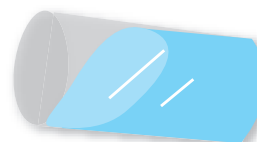
3. After 2-3 days, add up the total amount of water used for each category, by student and by class.

	TOTAL

4. Construct graphs to represent your usage data. Consider using pictures of milk cartons or soda bottles in your graphs to help visualize the volume.



5. Discuss the ways in which we use water every day, and how dependent we are on this resource.





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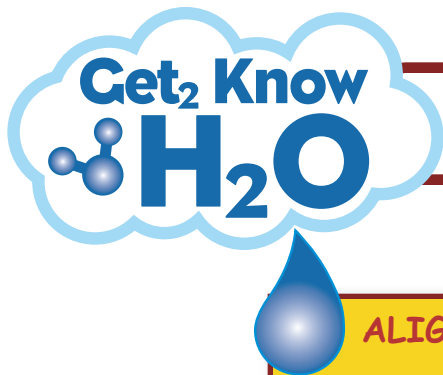


Did you know?

A person living in Sub-Saharan Africa uses 2.5 to 5.5 gallons of water a day. But, on average, each person in the US uses 80 to 100 gallons of water a day.

Source: U.S Geological Survey (USGS). www.ga.water.usgs.gov

Estimates vary, but each person uses about 80-100 gallons of water per day. Are you surprised that the largest use of household water is to flush the toilet, and after that, to take showers and baths? That is why, in these days of water conservation, we are starting to see toilets and showers that use less water than before. Many local governments now have laws that specify that water faucets, toilets and showers only allow a certain amount of water flow per minute. In fact, if you look really close at the head of a faucet, you might see something like "1.5 gpm," which means that the faucet head will allow water to flow at a maximum of 1.5 gallons per minute.



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Instructor's Guide

ALIGNMENT WITH ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS

State Goal 11:

Section A: 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e and 2f

Section B: 2a

State Goal 13:

Section B: 2f



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Students become aware of just how much water they use, and how quickly it adds up.

WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

Students may need reminding and/or incentives to fill out their Water Logs.

WHAT ELSE CAN KIDS LEARN?

Try and dry up

Ask students to identify activities in their daily lives that do NOT require the use of water in one way or another. Is there such a thing? For instance, technically all energy produced by the body to perform any function essentially requires water.

Thirst for knowledge

Have students search online for the average water usage in various countries. A person in the US uses an average of 80-100 gallons a day. Ask the students what they would you be willing to give up if they lived in a country that used only 30 gallons a day? 20 gallons a day?

LINKS

www.watercan.com

Water calculator tool:

http://www.tampagov.net/dept_water/conservation_education/Customers/Water_use_calculator.asp

YOUR FEEDBACK

Were the instructions clear?

Did the class stay interested?

Email us at feedback@Get2KnowH2O.org and let us know what you think. We would like to share your suggestions with other teachers and give you credit for your great ideas!

CREDITS

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