

Grade: 5 & 6

Counting every drop of water

Students will be able to:

- understand why it is important to know how much water we use
- learn how home water consumption is measured
- identify how to save water around the home

Lesson Details:

1. What are the demands on water?

Water is a precious resource and what makes it so valuable is that without it, life cannot exist. It is also precious because it is a finite resource - that is, the amount of water on Earth doesn't change. It is the same as it has been for millions of years.

What has changed is the demand for water has increased and continues to do so as populations grow around the world. Another challenge is the availability of water - climatic change has resulted in many countries suffering long droughts.

Explore with students the impact of a growing population on our water resources. Some ideas to discuss are:

- increased population results in an increase of food production
- increased food production relies on available water supplies
- increased food production means an increase in processing and manufacturing - where water is required.
- water is required for human health and hygiene
- water is necessary for effective sanitation systems

If the use of water is increasing, yet the quantities remain the same, what is the solution? How can everyone each day make a contribution to being smarter about the way water is used? Prompt ideas from students.

2. Do you take water for granted?

If water is so valuable, what are we doing to ensure we don't waste it? Do you think Tasmanian's value water? Or does our cool climate make us complacent? Try brainstorming this with your students.

Curriculum Links

Grade 5

Science

- ACSHE081
- ACSHE083
- ACSHE217
- ACSIS231
- ACSIS086
- ACSIS090
- ACSIS218

Literacy

- ACELY1699

Statistics

- ACMSP120

Grade 6

Science

- ACSHE098
- ACSHE100
- ACSHE220
- ACSIS232
- ACSIS103
- ACSIS107
- ACSIS221

Language/Literacy

- ACELA1524
- ACELY709

Statistics

- ACMSP147

Organising Ideas (Cross Curr.)

- OI.7

Lesson Details continued:

3. Are we using too much water at home?

Fortunately, we have ways of understanding how much water a typical home uses on a daily basis. Homes that are connected to a TasWater water service, will have a water meter. The meter measures how much water is being used by the property. TasWater reads the meters quarterly and calculates how much to charge for water use.

Water consumption is affected by things like washing machines and dishwashers. Are they water efficient appliances? Research water efficiency labelling and have students check out the appliances in their home.

How many people live in your home? How many showers occur? Do you water the garden frequently?

The best way to understand water consumption habits is to complete a water audit. Grab a copy of a water audit form from our website and have your students complete it.

4. So how can we save water around the home?

Once students have completed their water audit, invite TasWater to come along, review the audit and discuss some habits the family may adjust to conserve water. Some suggestions include:

- Shower timers
- Not running water while brushing teeth
- Replacing the toilet with a dual flush
- Not doing half loads in dishwashers and washing machines
- Planting endemic species and mulching gardens
- Washing the car on the lawn, not the driveway

Lesson Reflection:

1. Are you wasting water in your home?
2. What is the water efficient appliance program called and how does it work?
3. Take a look at your TasWater bill and compare water usage by looking at the graph in the top right hand corner. What does it tell you?
4. Why do you think its important to act locally for global benefit?



Did you know?

Prior to 2009 only a few towns in Tasmania had water meters. Now the majority of properties are metered and we have a better understanding of water use.

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

Explore what Singapore has done to provide secure water resources to its people. Singapore is a wealthy country with an ever increasing population. It has a limited natural water supply. Do you think that Australia may need to take similar action to Singapore to secure our water supplies? What do students think of Singapore's approach?