

Lesson # 4: **Our Water Resources & Conservation**

Through the activities below, students will learn how much water on the Earth is available for humanity's needs, how much water is used during common daily practices, and ways to conserve water.

Activity #1: "How Wet Is Our Planet?"

See attached, or download the activity lesson plan at <http://www.groundwater.org/kc/activity6.html>.

The students will become aware of the fact that there is the same amount of water on Earth today as there was when the Earth was formed, (and it is continuously moving through the water cycle); how much water is in oceans, ice caps and glaciers; and how much water is available for human use.

Also, go to "Where is our Water located?" at: <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/earthwherewater.html>

Student Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between freshwater and saltwater?
2. What percentage of the Earth's water is saltwater? What percentage of the Earth's water is freshwater?
3. What are some sources of freshwater? Which of these are most commonly used as drinking water sources?
4. Where is the majority of freshwater stored that is unavailable for our immediate use?
5. Why is water conservation (in particular, freshwater supplies) important?

Activity #2: “The Case of the Mysterious Renters”

See attached, or download the activity lesson plan at http://www.epa.gov/ne/students/pdfs/ww_rent.pdf.

This activity will help the students become aware of the ways in which they commonly use water during their daily activities, and to determine effective ways in which they and their families might conserve water.

Student Discussion Questions:

1. What are some common ways that water is used in the home?
2. On average, how much water do families use each day?
3. What is the importance of conserving water?
4. What are some ways in which water can be conserved at home?

Activity #3: Matching Game—How Much Water?

See attached worksheet, or download the activity at http://www.epa.gov/oqwdw/kids/pdfs/activity_grades_4-8_funfactsmatchinggame.pdf

This activity will introduce opportunities available to the students to conserve water during their daily activities and to become good stewards of the environment.

Key terms:

Water cycle – The process, movement and changes of water from a liquid to a vapor or gas and back again. Water is constantly being “recycled” through processes of the water cycle.

Salt water – Water that contains salt, and is found on Earth in oceans, seas, and some lakes.

Fresh water – Water that contains low amounts of salt, and is found on Earth in the polar ice caps and glaciers, lakes, streams, ponds, and groundwater.

Conservation – Reducing use of water to ensure availability for future generations.

Stewardship – Assuming personal responsibility for taking care of something, such as the environment.