

Unit 7 Saving Water

1. Whole class instruction

Objective: To introduce students to the conservation of water. To explore how much water we use everyday and some ways we can save water.



1.1. Go to Text book pages 30-1

“How many buckets of water do you think you use each day?”

- ▶ Students may be surprised to learn that each person uses around 150 litres of water every day (about 15 buckets) around the house.
- ▶ Ask students what are some things they use water for.
- ▶ Discuss with the students that it also takes water to grow food. It takes as much as 950 litres of water to make a single glass of apple juice (because of how much a tree uses while it is growing). So each person actually uses much more than 150 litres of water a day. That is our ‘water footprint’.

1.2. Go to Water Pipes Explorer Photo Book

“Even though it may seem like we live in a wet place, is it important to save water?”

- ▶ Ask students if they think it is important to save water.
- ▶ Have students look through the photos in the Water Pipes book.
- ▶ Discuss some ways that farms and water companies can save water.

Creative Topics
book: Water pipes

The first few pictures show villagers using water from a well and from a pond. Ask students how they would feel if they had to carry all their water from a well or a single tap. Pages 10-23 show different types of water pipes. Point out to students that there are thousands of miles of pipes under the streets and that even if just a few of these have leaks, that is still a lot of water wasted. Pages 26-31 show some ways of saving water.

2a. Group exploration

2.1. How much water do you use?

- ▶ Students can make a list of all the water they use during the day. They can begin by listing all the ways they use water, including the things they eat and buy.



The amount of water used to produce things like food, clothes and manufactured goods is called 'virtual water'. This is important because many goods are made or food grown in places where there are shortages of water.

2b. Literacy activity

Go to Workbook 3 How much water do you use?

- ▶ You may want students to do this activity before they do the group exploration. This will help put into perspective how much water is used in everyday activities around the house.

3. Plenary session

- ▶ Review the many different ways in which water is used every day – around the house, to drink, to grow food, to make the products we use, to produce energy we use for lighting, heating, and cooking. Review ways we can save water. One important way is by not buying things we don't really need. Recycling or reusing things also helps save water, because it reduces the water used to make new things. There are also water-efficient ways to grow food.

Comprehension workbook 3 How much water do you use?

4. Further work/homework

- ▶ Students could revisit the list of the amount of water they use in a day and try to think of water saving measures they could use that would reduce the water they use in a day. Students can investigate different irrigation methods, and how much water they use. Irrigation methods include drip, flood, furrow, gravity, rotation, sprinkler, surface and border. Students may also like to research ways to save water in a single appliance at home. For example, water saving methods for the toilet or the washing machine.

Students may also be interested to learn that it takes water to make energy. Coal, nuclear and natural gas plants use a lot of water. It takes as much as 40 litres of water to make the electricity used by each home in one hour. However, the good news is that much of this water is recycled because it is cooling water.