

How much water do you use? (Conservation)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

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Caring for our environment

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with your normal subject studies. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our textbook.)

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How much water do you use?



This morning I decided to find out how much water we use every day in the house. The first thing I do in the morning is to wash my hands and face and brush my teeth. Washing my hand and face used 3 litres of water. Brushing my teeth used 2 litres of water. So that made 5 litres used.

After that, I used the toilet. Flushing the toilet used 8 litres of water. That made 13 litres of water. After breakfast, it is my job to wash the dishes. The dishwasher used 20 litres of water. At lunchtime we used 4 l of water to boil the vegetables for our meal. In the afternoon, I helped my mum wash the laundry. I put all the clothes in the washing machine and turned it on. The washing machine uses 40 litres of water. So that made 73 litres of water.



In the evening, I took a bath. That used 60 litres of water. During the day I used the toilet four more times. That was four times eight equals 32l. So now I have used 165 litres of water. Before bed, I brushed my teeth again, which used another 2 litres of water.

I added up all the water I used in a day and it was 171 litres. On the Internet I found that the average person in the UK uses 153l a day. I wonder how I can get my use down to the average?



Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'flushing'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'flushing' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'flushing'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'flushing'.

e Give an example of some types of 'flushing' used in your house.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: wash	clean

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Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.
2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.
3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.
4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?

There is nothing wrong with rewriting; even the best authors rewrite their work.

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Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



After breakfast, it is my job to start the dishwasher.

In the evening, I take a bath.

Before bed, I brush my teeth again.

The first thing I do in the morning is to wash my hands and face and brush my teeth.

In the afternoon, I help my mum wash the laundry.

At lunchtime we boil the vegetables for our meal.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



1 How much water does it take to wash the dishes in a dishwasher?

2 How much water is used when you use the toilet?

3 If I brushed for 2 minutes, how much water was used each minute when I brushed my teeth?

4 How much water on average does each person use every day?

5 What uses the most water in the day?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.



1 Which uses less water – washing hands and face or going to the toilet?

2 Which uses the most water – the dishwasher or the washing machine?

3 What is one way to save water?

4 How would it help to turn the tap off while you brush your teeth?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



1 Should I think about using half as much water in my bath?

2 Do you think it might be better to wash your car with a bucket or a hosepipe?

3 What are some ways you could save water in your house?

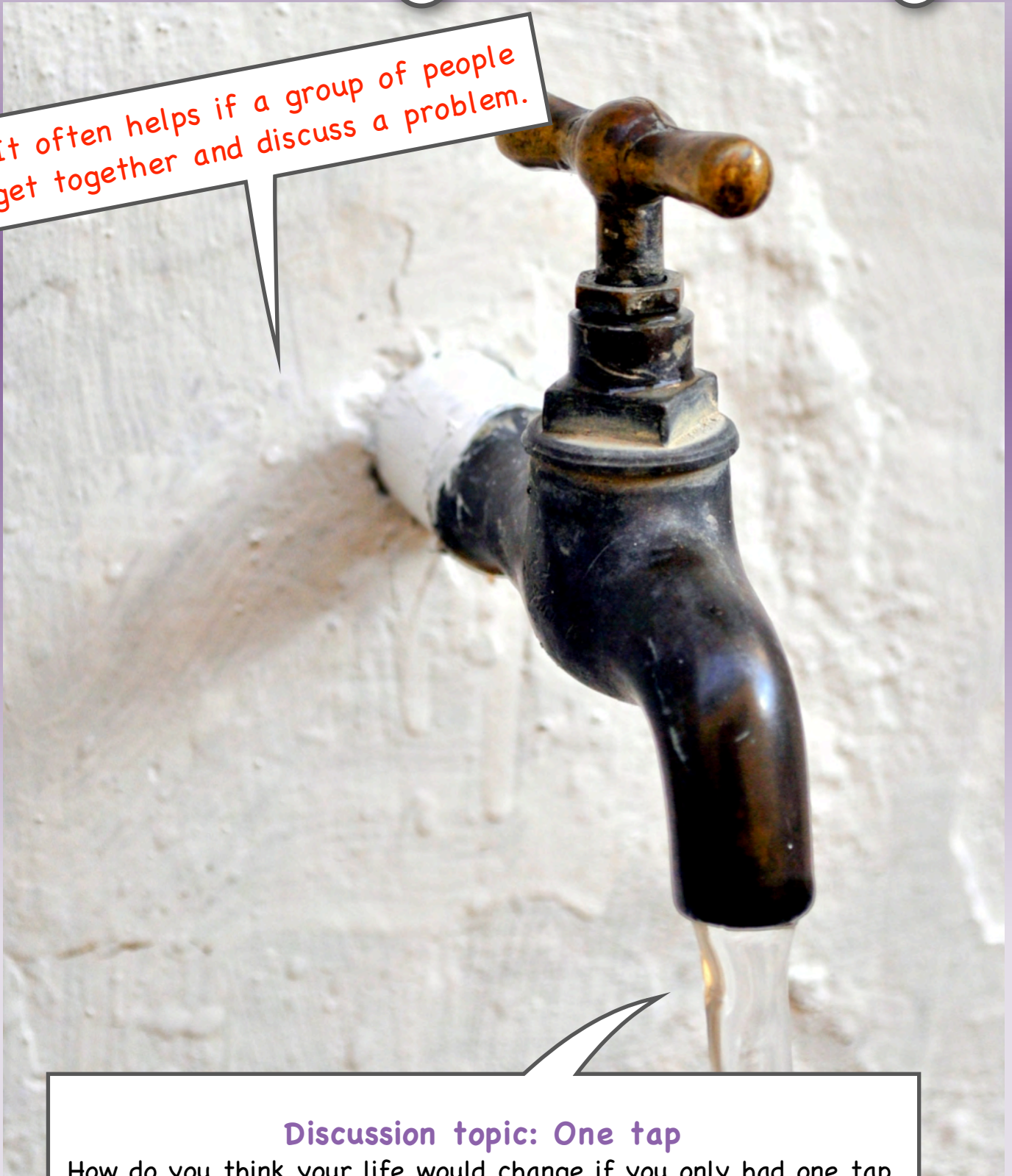
4 Do you think you use water as carefully as possible?

5 Why is it important to save water?



Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



Discussion topic: One tap

How do you think your life would change if you only had one tap in your house? How about if you had to collect water from a few streets away, or from a nearby river?



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

This lady lives in Rajasthan, a desert region of NW India.



Saving water

Imagine that you are living in a place where there is not much water. You can only use 20 litres of water each day. Think of how you would save water so that you did not use more than 20 litres a day.

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