

Year 1

Lesson 4

Being a Watersaver at home

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Learning objectives

Students will be able to:

- Recognise the many ways water is used in the home
- Identify how to reduce water use.

Learning outcomes

Subject	Strand & content descriptors
Science	Science as a human endeavour <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment and living things. (ACSHE022) Science inquiry skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respond to and pose questions, and make predictions about familiar objects and events. (AC SIS024)• Represent and communicate observations and ideas in a variety of ways such as oral and written language, drawing and role play. (AC SIS029)
Geography	Geographical knowledge & understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment: People affect the environments in which they live. Geographical skills & inquiry <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning, collecting and evaluating: Participate in a guided inquiry using a range of information sources.• Planning, collecting and evaluating: Collect information about the local area.
Mathematics	Statistics & probability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Represent data with objects and drawings where one object or drawing represents one data value. Describe the displays. (AC MSP263)

Important questions

- Where in the house do we use water?
- Why is it important to save water?
- What are some simple ways to save water?

Background information

Drought and water restrictions throughout Australia have focused on the need to conserve water.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (Year Book Australia 2008), reports more households have installed water conservation devices, including dual-flush toilets and reduced-flow shower heads.

46 percent of households reported using one or more water conservation practice. The most popular included using full loads when washing dishes and clothes, and taking shorter showers.



Attitudes and behaviour will need to change permanently if we are to live sustainably. While water appears to be limitless, the amount on the planet remains constant. Collecting and supplying water incurs environmental and social costs. For example, establishing new dams disrupts natural environments and may impact on communities.

While government action at all levels can help reduce water use, actions by individuals in the home, at work and at school are also important to conserve this valuable resource.

Lesson plan – how many buckets?

Brainstorm the ways water is used in the house or garden – e.g. washing the dog, cleaning dishes, and drinking. Collect and display these words according to categories such as: cleaning; cooking; playing.

Students use 'think, pair, share' to consider ways to save water and share them with the class, briefly describing or displaying water saving actions. Remind them that simple actions can save lots of water. Examples of water saving strategies may include:

- Turning off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Taking shorter showers – no more than four minutes.
- Half fill your glass of water – so you don't throw away what you don't drink.
- Don't water the garden after rain.

Using Activity sheet 7 'How much water do you use' ask students to record how much water was used in their house over a set period. Ask students to predict what activities will use the most water in their house. It may be easier to convert litres into buckets; the following provides a conversion for the items on Activity sheet 7

- Shower = 1 bucket per minute.
- Bath = 12 buckets.
- ½ Flush = ½ bucket.
- Full flush = 1 bucket.
- Dishes by hand = 1 bucket.
- Washing machine = 10 buckets.
- Cleaning teeth = 1 cup (or 1½ buckets if the tap is left running).
- Water garden = 1 bucket per minute.

This information, along with the water saving ideas suggested earlier could be displayed in the classroom, perhaps on a display shaped like a large bucket.

Resource requirements

- Activity sheet 7 'How much water do you use'
- Student self evaluation sheet 1



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Additional activities

Ask students to collect water saving ideas from friends and family. Collate and present them in a book, create posters illustrating water saving ideas. Encourage students to take home or place in the school.