

EXPERIMENT 4: Water Usage

Challenge: Discover the uses of water in our daily lives and why water is important. Think in terms of reducing water waste!



WHAT YOU NEED:

- Daily water usage log
- Graph and chart paper
- Pencils
- Markers
- Erasers
- Rulers

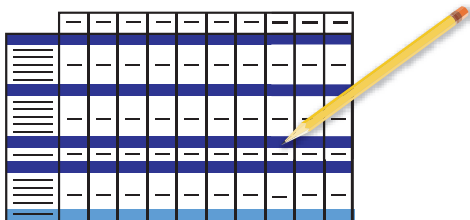


STEP-BY-STEP:

1. Read the list of ways you use water on "Your Water Log" (See below). Add other ways you use water.

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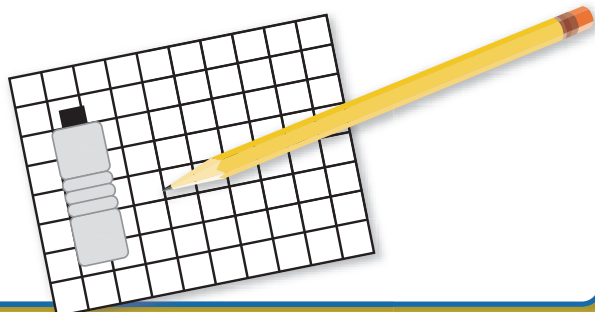
2. Track your use of water using the Water Log. Estimate the volume of water used for each activity.



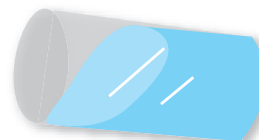
3. After 2-3 days, add up the total amount of water used for each category, by student and by class.

	TOTAL

4. Construct graphs to represent your usage data. Consider using pictures of milk cartons or soda bottles in your graphs to help visualize the volume.



5. Discuss the ways in which we use water every day, and how dependent we are on this resource.





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- 6.** Use the graphs to discuss which activities use the most/least amounts of water, and which activities seem to be the most wasteful uses of water.

QUESTIONS:



- How much water did you use for everyday functions?
- How much does that add up to for you, your family, your neighborhood, your city, your state, your country, your world? My goodness that's a lot of water!
- What if you were able to save one gallon of water each day? What if everyone in your family did the same? How much water could we save if the whole world cut back one gallon a day? (Hint: 295.7 million in US; 6.4 billion global)

YOUR WATER LOG

You would probably be amazed at the amount of water you actually use. Keep track of your water use over the course of a week. It could help you find a few ways you can save water. Water use away from home can account for about twenty percent of your weekly use—so keep track of those uses as well.

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	AVERAGE	ACTUAL	TOTAL
Bathroom										
Toilet flushes								x 5 gallons		
Showers								x 25 gallons		
Baths								x 35 gallons		
Brush teeth								x 2 gallons		
Shave								x 4 gallons		
Kitchen										
Cooking								x 5 gallons		
Dishes by hand								x 6 gallons		
Dishwasher								x 10 gallons		
Garbage disposal								x 5 gallons		
Utility Room										
Wash clothes								x 60 gallons		
Outdoors										
Wash car								x 100 gallons		
Water lawn								x 9 gallons per min		
Other										
TOTAL DAILY										

Get₂ Know
H₂O



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Did you know?

A person living in Sub-Saharan Africa uses 2.5 to 5.5 gallons of water a day. But, on average, each person in the US uses 80 to 100 gallons of water a day.

Source: U.S Geological Survey (USGS). www.ga.water.usgs.gov

Estimates vary, but each person uses about 80-100 gallons of water per day. Are you surprised that the largest use of household water is to flush the toilet, and after that, to take showers and baths? That is why, in these days of water conservation, we are starting to see toilets and showers that use less water than before. Many local governments now have laws that specify that water faucets, toilets and showers only allow a certain amount of water flow per minute. In fact, if you look really close at the head of a faucet, you might see something like "1.5 gpm," which means that the faucet head will allow water to flow at a maximum of 1.5 gallons per minute.