



Water, Water Everywhere

OBJECTIVE:

Teach children how we protect water, a precious resource, by developing methods of conserving water.

KEY VOCABULARY:

Water conservation is the use of water-saving methods to reduce the amount of water needed for homes, lawns, farming, and industry, and thus increasing water supplies for optimum long-term economic and social benefits.

MATERIALS:

- 2 large clear bowls
- Water
- Gallon jug
- Sponges cut into strips
- Two color markers (washable)
- Water Conservation poster (attached)
- Conservation Matters sheet (1 per student)

PROCEDURE:

1. As a class, discuss ways in which water is used in our everyday lives and keep a list.
2. Give each student one piece of sponge. Fill one bowl, labeled “all the water on the Earth,” with water. Mark the water line on the outside of the bowl. Use marker or crayon that can be wiped away later.
3. Have each student place his/her piece of sponge into the bowl after telling the class how he or she uses water. Emphasize that the sponges absorbing the water from the bowl represent how we use water.
4. Remove the water-filled sponges and place them into the empty bowl. Do NOT squeeze the sponges. Mark where the water line is now.
5. Discuss what happens to the amount of water in the bowl. Ask students what they notice about the changed water level. What will happen if we keep using water instead of conserving water? (Answer: The level of the water has lowered. Therefore, all the water on Earth will be used up if we do not start saving water.)
6. Discuss methods of water conservation. Squeeze the sponges, returning the water to the first bowl, every time the class comes up with another way to conserve water. List the ideas on chart paper, blackboard, or whiteboard. Use the Water Conservation poster (attached) as a starting point if necessary.
7. Ask students what they notice about the water level now. They should conclude that the water level has returned to the original line. Discuss what will happen if we use water without conserving. What might happen to our water supplies, businesses, and our daily routines?
8. End activity by giving the students the Conservation Matters sheet and asking them to share the information with their families.

Water Conservation

HOW YOU CAN SAVE WATER AT HOME



Wash full loads



**Use water wisely
Install low-flow fixtures**



**Do not let the water
run when brushing
your teeth**



**Only run your dishwasher
when it is full**



Water is a vital, precious resource



**Fix leaky faucets to
prevent wasting water**



**Do not use toilets to
dispose of garbage**



**Take short showers
instead of baths**