



Wildlife in Peril

Conserving Water at Home



Our planet is covered mostly with water, but only about 3% of that water is freshwater. The rest of the water makes up our oceans and is too salty for humans and animals to drink. During very dry conditions, like when California is in a drought, it is important to not waste freshwater. This activity will help us track how much water we use as part of everyday activities. After discovering how much water we all use, we can also find ways that we can conserve even more water!

Track your water usage!

- Using the following tracking sheet, write down a tally mark each time you do one of the listed actions. Do this every day for 7 days!
- At the end of the week, total up the amount of tallies for each action. You can ask a friend for help to do the next calculations.
- Use the column titled “Average Number of Gallons” to see how many gallons of water were used for each action. Multiply this by the total number of times you did the action.
- This will then give you the total number of gallons used for each row/action.
- Total up all the gallons used in the last column to get the week’s total amount of water used.
- Compare with your classmates' data to get a range of estimated water usage amount.
- Remember that these are estimates, and certain factors such as leaks, high or low flow faucets, or length of time can all affect the amount of water used.

Total Water Usage in a Week = _____ Gallons

How would you conserve?

- After completing one week of tracking water usage, what would you do to make that number less during a second week of tracking?
- Challenge yourself! Set a goal to reduce your water usage during your second week!



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Going Green! Keep track of how often you use water doing simple activities! After 7 days, total up the number of times you did each action into the green column, and multiply it by the average number of gallons of water that action uses (blue column). Add those numbers together to get your total water usage for a week!

Action	Average # of Gallons Used	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total # of Times	Total # of Gallons Used
Brushing Your Teeth (with running water)	2 gallons									
Brushing Your Teeth (turning off the faucet)	1/4 gallons									
Washing Hands	1 gallon									
Taking a Shower (one tally for every 10 minutes)	25 gallons									
Taking a bath	40 gallons									
Washing Dishes	10 gallons									
Flushing Toilet	5 gallons									
Drinking Water	1/16 gallon per cup									
Total Water Use in One Week = _____ Gallons										

