

Drought!

Objective: Understand the importance of conserving water, determine ways to decrease water use.

Materials: Water use hand-out (see page 2), pencils.

Vocabulary: Conservation, drought, desert climate.

Grades: 3-5

Activity:

1. Discuss water with your students. Ask them about the climate we live in. Do we get a lot of rain? Explain that deserts receive very little water annually; that is what defines a desert. Also, explain the term drought.
2. Discuss water use. The average amount of water used per person in a day in the U.S. is 150 gallons. Ask, how many people are in your family? How many gallons of water does your whole family use in one day (150 X #people)? Have students do the calculation and share their results.
3. Brainstorm common ways in which we use water, make a list.
4. Brainstorm ways in which we can *conserve* water, make a list.

The following are some of the common ways in which people use water, and the amount of water that is used on average:

- Shower (25-50 gallons)
 - Toilet (4.5 gallons per flush)
 - Dishwasher (10 gallons)
 - Washing Machine (20-50 gallons/load)
 - Watering Yard (5-10 gallons/minute)
 - Washing Cars (5-10 gallons/minute)
5. Have students use the attached chart at home to keep track of their daily water use (in number of times done or number of minutes done). Then use the above numbers of gallons each activity uses to calculate how many gallons they use on a day or during a week.
 6. After results are gathered reassess changes that we can make to better conserve water!

Water Use Work Sheet

This week keep track of your water use. Every day put a tally in the box whenever you do one of the corresponding activities. For example if you use the dishwasher twice on Day 3 put three tallies in the box where the “day 3” column and the “dishwasher” row meet.

Activity	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Shower							
Toilet							
Dishwasher							
Washing Machine							
Watering Yard							
Washing Car							
Other							

At the end of the week count up all of the times you did each of the activities in the table above and put these totals into the “times per week” column. Then multiply the number of gallons used on average (A) when doing an activity, by the number of times you did the activity (B) this week. Do this math in the “total gallons” column. Finally, add these numbers to find out about how many gallons of water you used this week!

Activity	# gal. used on average (A)	Times per Week (B)	Total Gallons (A x B = total gallons)
Shower	25-50 Gallons		
Toilet	4.5 Gallons/Flush		
Dishwasher	10 Gallons		
Washing Machine	20-50 Gallons/Load		
Watering Yard	5-10 Gallons/Minute		
Washing Car	5-10 Gallons/Minute		
Other			

Grand Total: _____

