



**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:**

This activity helps the students understand how their decisions can impact the earth. Students will answer questions on their water conservation activities. Depending on whether the answer is water efficient or not they will cover up a map of the world with footprints.

**MATERIALS**

- 2 Maps of the world
- Large laminated footprints
- Container of questions
- Sticky Tack

**Make sure you have all items before the students arrive!**



**BEGIN THE ACTIVITY**

*Who can name some water efficient ideas? Wait for answers.*

**They should be able to name quite a few.**

*Do you think what we do here can affect somewhere else? Wait for answers.*

*Okay we are going to make two teams and take turns answering questions. I am going to ask the same question to each team if you answer yes then stick a foot print on the map.*

**Ask the next person in line and so on.**

**When the game is finished, get everyone's attention.**

*Okay everyone take a look at the two maps.*

*Which map has more footprints on it?*

*The footprints on the map represent your Ecological Footprint. What does your Ecological Footprint mean? Can you give me a definition? Wait for answers*

*Your ecological footprint is the amount of Earth's space you would need to maintain your lifestyle. This includes the food you eat, your house, transportation, the amount waste you produce, your types of entertainment and so much more.*

*What is better a big ecological foot print or a small ecological footprint? Put your hand up if you say big? Small? If you put your hand up for small you are absolutely correct. You want to have the smallest impact on the Earth as possible.*

*Now here's a thinking question. As Canadians do you think we have a big or small Ecological Footprint? Put your thumbs up if you think big and thumbs down for small. If your thumbs are up give yourself a pat on the back. Unfortunately, Canadians have a very large ecological footprint. Did you know that is everyone one the planet lived like a Canadian did we would need over 4 earths to support everyone. We use way more than our share of the Earth's space. So, what are some things we can do to help reduce our Ecological Footprint?*

**Wait for answers**

*Some suggestions:*

- *put on a sweater if you get cold instead of turning up the heat*
- *Play outside! A lot less energy is used playing outside versus playing video/ computer games*
- *liter less lunches*

*What can we do specifically to reduce the amount of water we use?*

***Get every student to name a different way to save water!***

***What can we do?***

- 1. Remember that our actions have consequences.*
- 2. Even the little things we do to can make a difference.*

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**WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?**

*We can make a difference! Our actions are important to the environment.*

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**Questions for BIG FOOT**  
**If the answer is yes then put on footprint on the map**

1. Do you forget to shut off the tap when brushing your teeth?
2. Does anyone in your house wash the car in the driveway?
3. Do you put the newspapers in the garbage?
4. Do you have more than one car in your family?
6. Does anyone in your family take a bath?
7. Does your home have an automatic sprinkler system?
8. Do you have any dripping taps in your house?
9. Do you take a bus to school?
10. Do you buy bottled water from the store?
11. Did you bring a lunch today that is not litter less?
12. Do you forget to help to recycle at school?
13. Do you have a computer at home?
14. Would you be afraid to talk to your parents about water conservation?
15. Would you be embarrassed if your friends found out you helped at a recycling depot?
16. Have you walked by a piece of paper on the floor and not picked it up and put it in the recycle bin?
17. Have you seen someone dump oil or gasoline down the driveway?
18. Do you believe one person can't make a difference?
19. Do you watch more than one hour of television a day?
20. Do you leave the lights on in your house?

