

**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:**

The activity teaches the students about how much water they use every day. This activity encourages the students to learn about some water-saving devices and ways in which everyone can reduce wasting water.

MATERIALS

- 2 boards each with drawings
- 3 bins
- Bin 1 is for Board 1
- Bin 2 is for Board 2
- Bin 3 for the presenter
- A bottle of water

Make sure you have all items before the students arrive!

BEGIN THE ACTIVITY

We are going to discuss some water saving devices inside and outside our homes.

*Do we have a lot of water in Canada? **Wait for answers.***

Does anyone know where most of the water is stored? A hint – we are surrounded by them in southern Ontario. The Great Lakes.

*Since we are surrounded by all this water, people think that we don't need to save it. What do you think? Why? **Wait for answers.***

It costs money and energy to treat the water that comes into our homes and schools. We have to respect our resources.

What are some of the ways we use water inside and outside our home? Drinking, cooking, laundry, dishes, showering, cleaning, brushing teeth, watering lawn, washing car etc.

Let's talk about some of the ways we use water.

For drinking - *How much do you drink a day? **Show the bottle of water.** Whether as water, juice, pop or milk we drink many of these each day.*

For showering – *How long do you stay in the shower? **Show the bottle of water again and explain** For every minute the shower is turned on we use 10 of these bottles. A 10 minute shower uses 100 bottles. That's a lot of water. **Show the low-flow showerhead.** Putting one of these in your home would save water.*

Toilet – *How much water do you use when you flush your toilet? **Show the bottle of water again and explain** For every flush with an old toilet you will use 20 litres of water, that is 10 of these bottles every time you flush the toilet. If you live in a new home your toilet probably doesn't use more than 3 bottles per flush. If you live in an older home ask your parents to check maybe you can use one of these. **Hold up a toilet flapper.** This flapper can save water in an older tank.*

Hold up kitchen faucet – *Can anyone tell me what this is? A kitchen sink faucet. When you turn on the kitchen faucet to rinse off dishes or wash vegetables or wash your hands, the taps runs for about 6 bottles of water every minute. **Show the bottle of water again and the aerator and explain** if you use one of these aerators on your tap you would use only 4 bottles a minute. That is a savings of 2 bottles a minute.*

Hold up a toothbrush –How long do you brush your teeth? You should brush your teeth for at least two minutes, three times a day. When you are brushing your teeth, you use toothpaste and what else? **Water.** Show the bottle of water again and explain Most bathroom taps flow at least five of these bottles every minute, if you turned off the tap when brushing your teeth you could save at least 25 bottles of watering going down the drain every day and that is just one person brushing their teeth three times a day.

What about outdoors? Do you have a garden and grass? Do your parents water it? Why? If you knew that it takes at least 150 of these bottles **Show the bottle of water** to water your lawn for a half hour what would you suggest? Less watering, don't water if it rains, plant things that don't need as much water etc. Your lawn needs only 2.5 cm of water per week. **Show a rain gauge.** With this rain gauge you won't need to guess or waste water on your grass. You can measure how much water has fallen when it rains to know how much more water you will need to add each week.

Let's divide into two groups, I will give each group a bin and you are to put the items where they belong on the boards. There is a letter attached to each item.

What word does it spell out?

Board 1 – Drink

Board 2 - Flush

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Do not to waste water! It can be used for more important things!

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS

