

**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:**

At this activity, students are able to observe the effects of a dripping tap. This display demonstrates the quantity of water produced by a dripping tap over a period of time.

MATERIALS

Display
Fact sheets
5 gallon jug with markings
Window markers

Make sure you have all items before the students arrive!

BEGIN THE ACTIVITY

Place the display in an appropriate location. Ensure the marked jug is placed underneath the sink.

Fill the back of the display (the toilet tank) with water. Ensure anything that could prevent water flow is removed from the tank. On the bottom of the tank turn the nozzle to the on position. Please note: The taps on the front of the display do not control the flow of water.

Use the window markers to indicate on the mirror when the tap began to drip.

Place the fact cards on either side of the display.

This activity is a display only and does not require volunteer supervision.

Factsheet

1 Gallon Mark = 3.79 L

- ~1 gallon = "Minimum water requirements for fluid replacement have been estimated at about three litres per day under average temperate climate conditions" (P.H. Gleick, 1996)
- 1 gallon = of oil is all it takes to contaminate 750,000 gallons of water (150,000 bottles)
- 1 gallon = of water process a quarter pound of a hamburger
- 1 gallon of water required to produce a one litre water bottle

2 Gallon Mark = 7.57 L

- 2 gallons = amount of water needed to brush one's teeth
- 2.5 gallons = amount of water a low flow shower head uses *per minute* (compared to 7 gallons using an older shower head)
- 2.2 gallons = amount of water used while hand washing
- 2.2 gallons = (approximately 10 L) amount of water needed to produce 1 litre of gasoline

3 Gallon Mark = 11.36 L

- 3 gallons = amount of water used to grow a tomato
- 3.5 gallons = amount of water used in one toilet flush (min. for toilets before 1996)
- 3-10 gallons = amount of water used for lawn watering *per minute*
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4 Gallon Mark = 15.14 L

- 4 gallons = amount of water a dairy cow has to drink to produce 1 gallon of milk
- 4.5 gallons = amount of water used in a minute of a shower

5 Gallon Mark = 18.93 L

- < 5 gallons = amount of water a person who lacks adequate access to water uses per day
- To meet sanitation, food preparation and bathing needs requires a minimum of 50 litres per day. (Note 60-80 litre per day is preferred)
- 5 gallons = bare minimum to ensure our basic needs
- 5 gallons = costs only about a penny in North America
- average American uses about 30 times more water (30 more bottles)



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Not to take water for granted and not to waste water! It can be used for more important things!

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