

# Year 4 geography

## Water footprint

### Australian Curriculum links:

#### Year 4 Geography

The use and management of natural resources and waste, and the different views on how to do this sustainably (ACHASSK090)

#### Sustainability cross-curriculum priority

Students use an online water footprint calculator to examine their daily water use.

### Equipment

For the class

- [Personal water footprint calculator](#)
- [Personal calculator extended](#)

### Preparation

At home, students research their consumption or use of:

• cereal products	• vegetables	• indoor and outdoor domestic water use	• fruit
• meat	• dairy	• eggs	


### Activity steps

1. Ask students to list or name some times during the day when they use water.
2. Ask them to list some products they use that contain water.
3. Individually, or as a class, fill in the quick 'personal water footprint calculator'.
4. Discuss what this water footprint is made up of (domestic water use such as the shower, bath, toilet, dishwasher, washing machine, watering the garden, drinking).
5. Discuss with students why the survey asked if they eat meat (meat has a high water footprint). Why did the survey ask about income? (A higher income generally means you can afford to buy more products and services which have a water footprint).
6. If students have researched their consumption of the products listed (preparation), guide them through the 'personal calculator extended'. You could calculate a class average of consumption if you complete it as a class.
7. Discuss the idea of virtual or embodied water. This water is contained in the production of all the products we use, eat and drink. It is also contained in the product's packaging and

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transport (by ship or truck) that brings our products to us. It takes into account the transport (car, bus, train) it takes for us to travel to buy the product.

8. In small groups, students discuss which items create a high water footprint (e.g. meat) or low water footprint (e.g. short showers). They write a list of things they can do to use less water.