

Year 4 geography

Community water user guest speaker

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

In this activity, students interview a community member who uses water in their workplace.

Preparation

Arrange for a guest speaker to talk to the class about how they use and conserve water in their workplace. Invite a visitor such as a plumber, farmer, gardener, hairdresser or local council representative. If possible, provide a list of questions for the guest to prepare.

Brainstorm questions that students would like to ask a guest speaker about their use and management of water e.g. how water is conserved and how it might be wasted. Allocate questions to students.

Activity steps

1. Introduce the guest speaker and ask them to tell the students about their job and how water is used within their workplace.
2. Students ask their allocated question and interview the guest speaker.
3. Allow some time to discuss what they have learnt about water so far with the guest speaker. Prompt discussion about how the students use water in their homes and school in comparison to how the guest speaker uses water.
4. After the guest speaker leaves, students write and draw information about the guest speaker's visit in their journal. Encourage them to compare and contrast their own water usage. For instance, 'I use water to... but a hairdresser uses it to...'. A simple graphic organiser could be used to assist students.
5. Discuss ways in which the guest speaker could use water more efficiently and how students could promote more water-efficient behaviours within that particular workplace. Discuss some devices or work practices that might make saving water easier.
6. Students could role play an interview. One student acts as a water expert and the others are water users. Students could ask questions such as:
 - What is the water used for?
 - Who uses water?
 - Why do we need to use water responsibly?
 - How do you use water responsibly?

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- What could happen if we don't look after our waterways?