

Years 1 to 5 science and geography

School water use audit

Australian Curriculum links: Science

Year 2 – Earth's resources are used in a variety of ways (ACSSU032)

Years 1 & 2 – People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment and living things (ACSHE022/ACSHE035)

Years 3 & 4 – Science knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions (ACSHE051/ACSHE062)

Geography

Year 1 – Activities in the local place and reasons for their location (ACHASSK033)

Year 4 – 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 identify the water use areas in the school and the water use items found in those areas. On the 'Water walk', students also identify any leaking water use items. They assess how water savings can be made in each of these areas.

Equipment

The classroom activity

- an enlarged map of the school
- an enlarged copy of 'School water use item inventory' (resource 1)

The 'Water walk' activity

For each group:

- one copy of the 'School water use item inventory' (resource 1)
- one copy of 'Water walk' rules (Resource 2)
- a clipboard and pencil

Preparation

The 'Water walk' activity will require teacher, support staff and/or parent/carer supervision.

Activity steps

In the classroom

1. Ask students to think of as many areas as possible where water is used around your school.
2. List the areas and mark them on the large map of the school. Tally this with the 'Water use item inventory' (Resource 1). If they are not going on the 'Water walk', ask students to guess how many water use items are found in those areas.

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3. Discuss how water is used in each place and where water might be wasted. Record student ideas digitally or on a board. If the students are not going on the Water walk, discuss how water savings can be made in the areas.

Water walk

4. Explain health and safety rules and the importance of washing hands thoroughly before returning to the classroom. Divide the class into groups and give each group a copy of the 'Water walk rules' (Resource 2). To speed up the audit, the Water use areas could be divided between the groups.
5. As they walk around the school grounds, each group:
 - verifies the areas where water is used and adds any additional places to the map
 - records the number of water use items in each area and number of water use items that are leaking.
6. When the groups return to the classroom, discuss the results of the audit and how water savings can be made in each of these areas.
7. Optional: conduct the **Dripping tap investigation**. If the students took the 'Water walk' ask if they observed any dripping taps during the school water audit task and mark the locations on the map of the school.

Resource 1 Water use item inventory

Write the number of each item within each area and, in brackets, indicate the number (if any) with leaks

| | | Water Use Areas (to complete number of water use items within each water use area) | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|----------------|------------------|--|----------------------|---------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Water Use Items | | Boys' Toilets | Girls' Toilets | Disabled Toilets | Staffroom, Staff toilets, Administration | Classrooms & Library | Canteen | Hall & Gym | Store room | Outdoor Area | Other Areas |
| 1 | Toilet  | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Urinal  | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Hand basin tap  | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Shower  | | | | | | | | | | |

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|----|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Bubbler  | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Sprinkler  | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Outdoor tap  | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Dishwasher  | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Hot water system  | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Water cooler  | | | | | | | | | | |

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|----|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 11 | Pool  | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Birdbath  | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Other | | | | | | | | | | |

Resource 2 Water walk rules

- Move into your groups quickly and quietly
- Speak softly
- Stay with your group
- Walk wherever you need to go
- Show respect to staff and other classes
- Wash your hands with soap after visiting the toilet areas
- Stay dry
- Do not touch the hot water taps

