

Years 4 to 7 science

Creating a flow chart

In this activity, students work in groups to create a flow chart. Flow charts are a visual text tool for representing and analysing processes or systems. They are used extensively in science and engineering fields.

Flow charts sequentially show the steps or decisions that are needed to perform a process involved in a complex system or activity. In a water context, they can be used to represent the:

- stages of the water cycle
- steps involved in treating water or wastewater (e.g. the steps shown in adventures 1 and 2 in ['Whizzy's new adventures: Journey through the pipes'](#))
- steps needed to organise a Waterwise celebration event

Equipment

For each group

- scraps of paper
- large sheet of paper
- glue

Activity steps

1. Brainstorm the steps needed to organise a Waterwise celebration.
2. Write each step on a separate piece of scrap paper.
3. Move the pieces of paper around to work out the sequence in which the steps would need to be taken.
4. When your group is satisfied with the sequence of steps, glue the pieces of paper onto a large sheet of paper.
5. Add the arrows to show the order in which the steps will need to be completed.

Optional: Older students can create a more professional flow chart by researching and incorporating the standard symbols used by engineers, computer programmers etc.