

Using our water efficiently

Australian Curriculum links¹: Sustainability cross-curriculum priority

Science

Foundation – Living things have basic needs, including food and water (ACSSU002)

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)

Years 5 & 6 – Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions (ACSHE083/ACSHE100)

Year 7 – Some of Earth's resources are renewable, including water that cycles through the environment, but others are non-renewable (ACSSU116)

Geography

Foundation – The places people live in and belong to, their familiar features and why they are important to people (ACHASSK015)

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)

Year 7 – The nature of water scarcity and ways of overcoming it, including studies drawn from Australia and West Asia and/or North Africa (ACHGK040)

The following activities support the teaching of the Australian Curriculum Sustainability cross-curriculum priority area and other subject areas. They highlight the importance of conserving our precious water supplies and explain how students, their families and the community can take action to use water more efficiently.

Why is water precious?

No water today – with a puppet

Year 1 Geography; Year 2 Science

With the help of a puppet, the **No water today activity** allows students to consider what would happen if there was no water: in a playground, in the environment, in a lake or in a swimming pool. They explore how our actions can waste or save water.

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Clean water is best

Preparatory to Year 1 Geography

In **Clean water is best activity**, students discuss why access to clean drinking water is important and explore ways to save water at school and at home.

Buckets resource race

All ages

In the **Buckets resource race_outdoor** relay game, students experience what it feels like to compete for precious water resources. They explore how to sustainably manage our water supplies.

To flush or not to flush relay

Years 1 to 7

In the **To flush or not to flush relay**, students work in teams to decide the correct items to flush down the toilet.

Water use activity

Years 1 to 4

In the **Water use activity**, students listen to a story about how two people use water every day. They add water to two jugs (one for each character) which correspond to an amount read in the story.

How do we save water at home?

Bucket loads of savings poster

All year levels

The engaging **Bucket loads of savings_poster** shows a range of Waterwise behaviours that can be used in the home. The **Guidelines for use** for this poster include a comprehensive set of year level and curriculum-linked resources as well as a suite of general classroom activities.

Waterwise storybooks

Preparatory to Year 7 Science; Geography

Students have fun identifying the Waterwise behaviours in the Family journey in Whizzy's incredible journeys pick-a-path book or in Adventure 2 of Whizzy's new adventures: journey through the pipes.

Be waterwise: make a difference today video

All ages

The **Be waterwise: make a difference today** video [1:56] offers simple suggestions to reduce water wastage at home.

Home water audit

Years 5 to 8 Geography; Science

The Home water use audit enables students to conduct a home water use audit to find out how much water their family uses and how they can use water more efficiently in their home.

Reading your water meter to detect leaks

Years 5 to 8

The Reading your water meter to detect leaks activity highlights of the importance of managing leaks and explains how to detect leaks in the home using the **Detecting leaks and reading your water meter** factsheet.

Home waterwise quiz

Years 5 to 8 Sustainability

The **Home waterwise quiz** allows students and their families to assess how they can be more efficient in their use of water at home.

How do we save water at school?

School water use

Preparatory to Year 3 Science

The **Lower primary school water audit** is an extended lesson sequence with visual and hands-on experiences suitable for younger children. The relevant Australian Curriculum links for this resource are:

Foundation: Science ACSSU002, ACSHE013; Geography ACHASSK015

Year 1: Science ACSHE022; Geography ACHASSK031

Year 2: Science ACSSU032, ACSHE035

Year 3: Science ACSHE051

Year 2 Design and Technologies

In the Waterwise communicators activity, students tour different locations around the school where water is used, take photographs of students demonstrating ways to save water at that location and create a class checklist of ways to save water in the school.

Year 4 Mathematics

In the Water use survey students gather data about their different uses of water during the school day using water tickets. The water tickets are used to create a column graph showing the frequency of each water use for the class. Students explore how they can use water more efficiently at school and at home.

Years 1 to 5 Science; Geography

In the School water use audit for Years 1 to 5 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 discuss how water savings can be made in each of these areas.

Years 6 to 8 Geography; Science

In the School water audit for Years 6 to 8, students conduct the audit, devise an evidence-based action plan to reduce water wastage in the school and write a report to the school environment committee.



Dripping tap investigation

Years 1 to 8 Science

In the Dripping tap investigation, students measure how much water is wasted from a leaking tap.

Designing a Waterwise poster

Creating a Waterwise poster is a good way to promote awareness about key local water issues such as using water efficiently or flushing the right things down the toilet. The following poster lesson sequences were designed for different year levels and cover a number of different approaches. You can 'mix and match' elements from different year levels to suit your student needs.

Year 2 Science; Design and Technologies

Designing a Waterwise poster for Year 2

Year 4 Geography; Design and Technologies

Designing a Waterwise poster for Year 4

Designing a Waterwise poster for Year 7