

WaterDrops

Conservation Issue


Teacher's Guide

Welcome to the Conservation Issue of WaterDrops! As part of the Splash! Water Resources Education program, the Southwest Florida Water Management District offers this water resources newsletter for elementary students. The newsletter is correlated to grades 3-5 of the Sunshine State Standards and provides an interesting way for students to increase their awareness and respect for our precious water resources. To help you prepare your students for testing, we have included WaterDrops Challenge, which contains items similar to those that may appear on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

This issue of WaterDrops focuses on water conservation. It includes fiction, nonfiction, writing, drawing and problem-solving activities, games, and a Web site to explore. We have also included a water conservation pledge for students to sign, which encourages them to make a commitment to saving water. Let WaterDrops make a splash in your classroom today!

Many other free materials are available from the Southwest Florida Water Management District. We also offer water resources workshops for teachers in your county. Please contact us if you have any questions or suggestions about our water resources education programs.

Sincerely,



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Hello Readers!

Water plays an important role in our lives. Using water wisely is especially important to ensure that we have enough clean and safe water in the future. Water conservation is about saving water. Ask students to describe in their own words what water conservation means to them. Then ask students to list several ways that they could use less water on a regular basis. Stress how important it is that we all try to practice water-saving habits and to encourage their family, friends and neighbors to do so as well.

Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.2.2.1

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Water Drips & Drops

It's fun to learn facts about water. Discuss the story problem about taking shorter showers and solve it together. Students should discover that a 5-minute shower will use approximately 25 gallons of water, which is half the amount used during a 10-minute shower. For additional practice in problem solving, change the length of the shower time to be 1 minute, 3 minutes, and 15 minutes. Compute the amount of water used based on the different lengths of shower times and make a chart that includes all of the information. Discuss the chart together and emphasize that taking shorter showers can save a lot of water. Students may even be encouraged to take shorter showers!

Sunshine State Standards: MA.A.3.2.2, MA.A.3.2.3, MA.B.1.2.2

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Feature Story

Read the story together. Discuss the importance of water conservation at school. As a whole-group activity, ask students to describe what could make up a model water conservation program. Then ask students to complete the writing activity.

Sunshine State Standards: LA.A.2.2.5, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.6, SC.D.2.2.1

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Take It Home

Prepare your students for the activities that they will do at home. For the first activity, develop and display a chart similar to the one that students will use and explain the steps they need to take in order to complete it. For the second activity, read aloud the directions for making a door knob sign. You may want to create a sample to show. Ask students to think of different messages that could be printed on their signs. Organize a contest for the most creative sign.

Sunshine State Standards: LA.A.2.2.5, LA.B.2.2.3, VA.A.1.2.1, VA.B.1.2.1, LA.D.2.2.3

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Ask Water Cycle Wanda

Ask students if they have ever seen signs posted about using reclaimed water. Make sure that they understand the concept of reclaimed water and discuss different places where reclaimed water may be commonly

WATERDROPS Challenge

Directions:

Let's see how much you have learned about water conservation. Do your best and meet the challenge!

Choose the best answer.

Try to encourage your friends and family to conserve water. What does the word “**conserve**” mean?

- a. buy
- b. use
- c. save
- d. waste

Reclaimed water is not to be used inside our homes, but it can be used safely in many other ways. Reclaimed water is useful in all of the following ways EXCEPT one. Which one does not belong on the list?

- a. irrigating parks
- b. washing dishes
- c. watering golf courses
- d. irrigating highway medians

Xeriscape has become a very popular way of gardening. How is a Xeriscape area different from a traditional garden?

- a. A Xeriscape area will not need as much water.
- b. A Xeriscape area will need to be irrigated more often.
- c. A designer of a Xeriscape area likes to waste water.
- d. Xeriscape guidelines encourage people to water areas daily.

There are many ways your family can conserve water at home. Which tip does NOT belong in the list?

- a. Don't overwater your lawn.
- b. Run only full loads in an automatic dishwasher.
- c. Use a hose instead of a broom to clean your driveway or sidewalk.
- d. Don't let the water run while washing your face or brushing your teeth.

