

DROPS OF KNOWLEDGE FOR RIVERS OF CHANGE



GLOBAL TEACHING
AND LEARNING MATERIAL

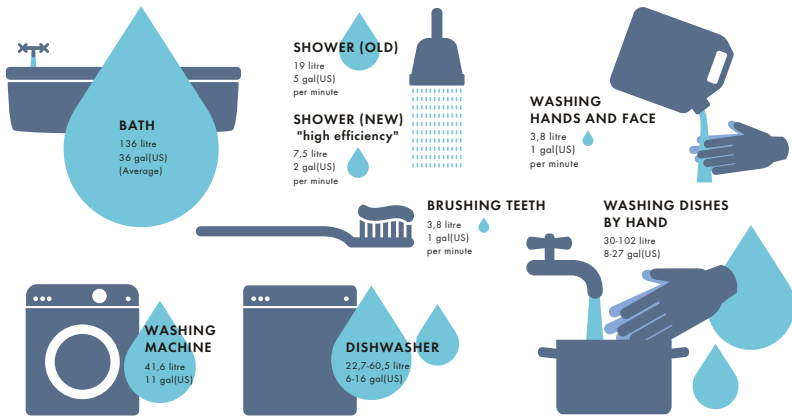
A hands-on guide to teaching
and learning about
water, sanitation, hygiene,
and the environment

SWAROVSKI
WATERSCHOOL

ACTIVITY 4.3

ACTIVITY 4.3: HOW OUR FAMILIES USE WATER

This activity is designed to foster children’s dialogue with other children and with their families and neighbors, creating better understanding of how water is used in our communities. Do we have piped water? Surface water such as a lake or river? Other sources of water? How does the community interact with water? Do people travel by boat? Are there bridges? Is there a treatment plant? These are just some of the questions that can be asked and answered.



Source: <http://water.usgs.gov/edu/activity-percapita.php>

Time: 30 minutes / **Thematic Areas:** Civics, Social Studies / **Goal for Learning:**

Students gain an understanding of the water used to produce everyday items, and learn how to apply the water footprint concept to their own lives.

Materials: Pencils / Paper

ACTIVITY STEPS:

- 1 Ask students to make a list of all the activities their family uses water for, then estimate how much water is used in each activity. Note that water can be saved during daily activities such as brushing your teeth, taking a bath or shower, and watering the garden.

ACTIVITY 4.3



- 2 Ask them to find out where the water they use comes from and, if possible, make arrangements to visit the source. (Note: If the source is an underground well or public distribution system, continue to Activity 4.4 to learn about pumping.)

OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION:

Ask students to talk about what happens to the water after it is used.

For example, when you flush the toilet, where does it go? Have you ever seen water being reused?

Ask students to share some examples of how water can be reused.

Mention the various times when they can save water, and ask if they have other ideas.