



GET INVOLVED



15 MINUTES



IN THE CUPBOARD

WASTING WATER



▶▶ GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

Water is an incredibly valuable resource that is essential for humans to live. Yet we waste large amounts of it every day. What can we all do to save more water? Link to the [UN's World Water Day \(22nd March\)](#).

Wasting Water Quiz: Take part in a quiz which explores how much water we use and waste each day. For each question there will be four options (red, blue, green or yellow). Each child will need a blue, yellow, green and blue object (toy, sock, book, Lego etc) to hold up to show which they think is the correct answer.

My Water Usage: After the quiz, ask the group if they were surprised by any of those facts. Have a discussion to see how much water the group have used so far today. Ask the group to raise their hand if (list different uses of water such as brushing teeth, flushing toilets, having a shower etc).

My Water Pledge: Think of ways in which you can save water around the home. This might be by turning the tap off when brushing teeth, quicker showers, using rain water to water plants and so on. Encourage the group to create a poster of their pledge, which they can display in their home as a reminder. The poster could be a takeaway challenge to do during the week.

☑☑ WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Wasting Water Quiz Sheet
- Blue, Yellow, Green & Blue Objects
- Paper & Pens

! KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

No further instructions.

WASTING WATER QUIZ

1) The Earth is made up of around 70% water. How much of that water is drinkable and available to humans?

Red - Less than 1%

Yellow - Less than 10%

Blue - Less than 20%

Green - Less than 30%

Answer: Red - Less than 1%. 3% of the Earth's water is fresh, but a lot of it is locked away in glaciers, polar ice caps, atmosphere, and soil; highly polluted; or lies too far under the earth's surface to be extracted at an affordable cost. That's why we have to be really carefully with the water that we do have.

2) How many basketballs full of water does an average human use each day?

Red - 5

Yellow - 10

Blue - 15

Green - 20

Answer: Green - 20. That's a whopping 150 litres every day. If there are four people in your house, then you'll be using 600 litres or the equivalent of 300 big bottles of pop each and every day. That's a lot of water!

3) How much of the water that enters our homes is used for drinking?

Red - 3%

Yellow - 13%

Blue - 23%

Green - 33%

Answer: Red - 3%. That means 97% of the water we use (147L a day) is used on other things such as showers, washing up, flushing toilets, washing machines and much more.

4) How much of the water we use every day ends up getting flushed down the loo?

Red - 10%

Yellow - 25%

Blue - 33%

Green - 50%

Answer: Blue - 33%. About 1/3rd of the water we use every day gets flushed down the toilet. Remember that water is the same top quality water that we drink. Flushing the toilet is obviously important, but how often do you flush just a tissue down the toilet after blowing your nose? Cutting out 1 flush per day saves enough water to wash 32 loads of laundry each year.

5) Which of these uses the most water?

Red - Flushing the Loo

Yellow - Taking a Bath

Blue - 4 Minute Shower

Green - Using a Dishwasher

Answer: Yellow - Bath. An average bath uses about 80 litres. That's the same weight as 30 house bricks! Taking a 4 minute shower (recommended) uses about half that amount of water and can be a lot less if you have a water saving shower head.

6) Turning off the tap when brushing your teeth can save how much water?

Red - 4L

Yellow - 8L

Blue - 12L

Green - 16L

Answer: Blue - 12L. We are always encouraged to not leave the tap running when we are brushing our teeth, but how many of us actually do it? If we always do, we can save 12L every time we brush. That's 24L in a day and 168L in a week.

7) How much water is wasted each day from leaving a tap dripping?

Red - 1L

Yellow - 6L

Blue - 11L

Green - 15L

Answer: Green - 15L. Accidentally leaving the tap dripping can soon add up to a lot of water. 1 drip every couple of seconds, across a day can equal over 15L of water. That's more than the amount of water you should aim to drink in a week (2L a day).