

Lesson 4 - Being Waterwise



Before you start this session, please:

- Print Activity sheets 4:1 and 4:2
- Make sure you have access to the internet so that you can watch video clips on YouTube;

or

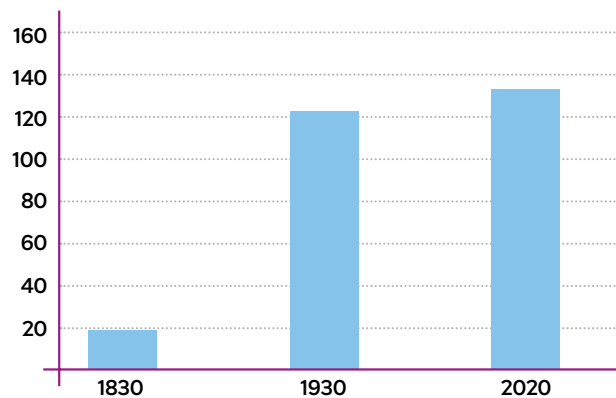
- Print Session Information sheets 4:1 and 4:2

Being Waterwise

Let's get started

In the last session we looked at how much water we each use in a day. This amount has increased over the years - in 1830 people only used about 20 litres a day, now it is over 130 litres.

It's so easy to just turn on the tap and not think about how much water we are using. Washing machines, dishwashers, indoor bathrooms, showers - lots of improvements in how we live which help us to stay clean and healthy. There's a growing need for water.



But things need to change. Watch the video on [Water Efficiency](#) in the Education Playlist. Don't worry if you can't access the video. Take a look at the Supporting Information sheet 4:1.

The number of people living on Earth (population) is growing every day. Global warming is leading to big changes in our weather patterns (climate change) so rainfall is becoming less predictable and we are experiencing more droughts and serious flooding events.

Can you find out any other reasons why we need to change our water habits? Think back to previous sessions - how much water is available?



If you managed to read your meter for the last session, read it again and work out how much water has been used by everyone in your home since you last read it. Don't forget to get a grown up to help you do this.

Being Waterwise

Let's investigate:

Use Activity sheet 4:1 to find out if you are waterwise or a water waster, then do the same for the people living with you.

So, how can we become more waterwise?

Watch the next video on [Water Efficiency](#) in the Education Playlist if you can.

Don't worry if you can't access the video - take a look at the Supporting Information sheet 4:2.

Try completing your water diary again (Activity sheet 4:2) but remember to use the waterwise tips you have been finding out about in this session.

Can you be a waterwise warrior and encourage everyone in your house to use water wisely?

At the end of the week, compare your results with the week before.

Did you use less water? If so, how much? Who was the best at being waterwise?

**Challenges:
Now have a
go at some
of these:**

1. Design a water saving device. Use junk to make a model. Then, create a sales pitch, like on Dragons Den, and present to your family.

Think about which activities use the most water. Can you design a way of cleaning a car with less than 2 litres of water? Or a device which warns you when you have used 2 litres of water, 5 litres of water? A way of measuring how much each person uses.

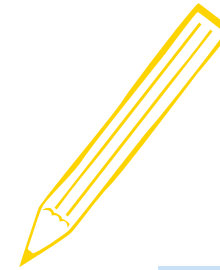
2. Download and play the 'Water Battle' app or another free water efficiency app with your family.
3. Update your data graph.

Being Waterwise

How waterwise are you at home?

Answer the questions below to find out if you are wasting water at home.

- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Do you turn the tap off while brushing your teeth? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Do you wash vegetables or dishes in a bowl rather than under the tap? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Do you run half loads in your washing machine using the half-load button? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Do you wait until you have a full load before running the dishwasher? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Would you choose to have a shower instead of a bath? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Do you save rainwater in a water butt for the garden? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Do you use a watering can to water the garden? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Do you water the garden in the cool of the evening instead of during the heat of the day? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Do you use a bucket and sponge to wash your car rather than a hosepipe? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Do you fix dripping taps as soon as you find them? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Now count up the number of 'Yes' ticks you have and see how waterwise you are!

1-4 A real water waster!

5-8 Not bad!

9-10 Congratulations - you are waterwise!

Being Waterwise

Water Use Diary

Activity	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total number of times in a week	Estimated water used	Total weekly water used
Running the tap									8 litres per minute	
Washing up in the sink									8 litres	
Washing hands									3 litres	
Taking a normal shower									8 litres per minute	
Taking a power shower									13 litres per minute	
Flushing the toilet (short)									4 litres	
Flushing the toilet (long or single flush type)									9 litres	
Dishwasher (per wash)									14 litres	
Washing machine (per load)									50 litres	
Bath (full)									80 litres	
Using a hose (washing a car, watering the garden, etc)									150 litres for 10 minutes	
Cooking a meal									5 litres	

Being Waterwise

Why is it important to be waterwise?

There are lots of reasons to be waterwise.


Here are three of them:

1




Although the planet is covered in oceans, only one per cent of water in the world is actually drinkable.

2



To make water safe to drink we use a lot of energy, so conserving water also helps save energy.

3



You can save money on household water bills by being waterwise.

Being Waterwise

Saving water at home - top tips

Which of these ideas are you already doing?

Can you try a few more?

Can you think of anymore?



By putting a free
Save-a-Flush in
your cistern



Wash dishes by hand
instead of filling the
dishwasher



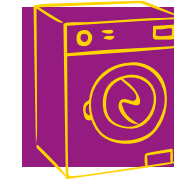
Spend two minutes
less in the shower



Try filling your bath
only two-thirds full,
instead of to the rim



Instead of running the
tap for two minutes, wash
vegetables in a bowl



Only wash full
loads of washing



Save 5 litres if
you use a plug in
the basin



Put a jug of water in the
fridge instead of running
the tap for a cool drink



Use a watering can
instead of sprinklers to
water your plants



Turn off the tap
for 2 minutes when
brushing your teeth



Use a bucket and
sponge to wash the
car instead of a hose



Install a water butt
to collect rainwater
for your garden