

EDUCATOR NOTES:

[Every drop counts, being water wise!](#)

Learning and Engagement Approach

This activity is designed to engage young learners aged from 7 – 13 years.

The activity is intended to:

- understand the importance of water
- look at ways to help save water
- undertake a water audit
- encourage children to reduce their water use.

Safety Considerations

- Check the weather before conducting any outdoors activity. If there is going to be extreme temperatures, storms or high wind, postpone the activity.
- Ensure that everyone is wearing closed shoes, hats, and sunscreen and has a water bottle handy.
- Keep any allergy plan information at hand and any associated allergy medication.
- Be aware that children can take-on guilt easily. Make sure your focus of this investigation is about empowering children, rather than making them feel bad for resource use.
- Remember to do a safety assessment if you begin collecting water for reuse. Even small vessels such as tubs and buckets can be drowning hazards for infants.

Materials and References

The materials and references used in this activity are readily available and easily accessible. We recommend accessing the references digitally, rather than printing them out.

Online calculators are a great way to assess usage, such as this one from Hunter Water, which calculates how much water you use each year.

www.hunterwater.com.au/Save-Water/Water-Usage-Calculator.aspx

Site Suggestions

This activity can be conducted in the classroom, or can be conducted as an outdoor learning activity. If you decide to conduct this as an outdoor activity, consider including a walk around your site to investigate how water is used.

Educator Tips

This learning activity is designed to give children an overview of the types of water on Earth, the available water that can be used and the volumes of water used for different purposes.

This activity is written to be easily accessible and does not require the educator to have any prior knowledge.

Aligning this Activity

- [Water for wildlife](#)
- [Making a small wicking bed](#)
- [Making a large wicking bed](#)
- Creating a frog-friendly habitat sequence: [research](#); [design](#) and [construction](#)

Extension Activities

Design a water wise garden

Water wise plants can cope with low rainfall and are a perfect addition to your garden. Think of what plants are already in your garden. What plants can you add to make a variety of places for animals to shelter? You can also use shallow containers for water, add sticks or stones on one side so smaller animals can get out if they fall in. Contact your local Landcare group for more information about the best plants suited to your local area.

Extension 1

Investigate Indigenous Australians use of scientific knowledge to manage water resources in dry conditions.

Extension 2

Find out how Australian desert animals survive dry conditions with little available water.

Extension 3

Explore the water cycle.

Extension 4

How are some plants adapted to cope with low rainfall?

Community Engagement

Use [The National Landcare Directory](#) to find a community environmental 'care' group near you. Landcare groups have experience in caring for places, we encourage you to reach out to them.

Look to the [Junior Landcare Community Page](#) for organisations to contact to help support your learning activity.

Use this [Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network map](#) to find a City Farm or Community Garden near you to get some ideas for how water is being used in your area.

Curriculum and Framework Links

SCIENCE

Year 3: [ACSHE050](#), [AC SIS053](#), [AC SIS054](#), [AC SIS057](#), [AC SIS215](#), [AC SIS060](#)

Year 4: [ACSSU075](#) [ACSSU073](#) [AC SIS064](#), [AC SIS216](#) [AC SIS071](#)

Year 5: [ACSSU043](#), [AC SHE083](#), [AC SIS231](#), [AC SIS086](#), [AC SIS090](#)

Year 6: [ACSSU094](#), [ACSSU096](#), [ACSHE098](#), [ACSHE100](#), [ACSIS221](#), [ACSIS110](#)

Year 7: [ACSSU112](#), [ACSSU116](#), [ACSHE223](#), [ACSHE120](#), [ACSHE121](#), [ACSIS125](#), [ACSIS133](#)

Year 8: [ACSHE135](#), [ACSHE136](#), [ACSIS139](#), [ACSIS145](#), [ACSIS148](#)

GEOGRAPHY

Year 7: [ACHGK037](#), [ACHGK038](#), [ACHGK039](#), [ACHGK040](#), [ACHGK042](#), [ACHGS050](#)

Year 8: [ACHGK051](#), [ACHGK052](#), [ACHGK053](#)

HUMANITIES, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Year 3: [ACHASSK072](#)

Year 5: [ACHASSK114](#), [ACHASSK118](#)

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Year 3 & 4: [ACPPS035](#), [ACPPS038](#)

Year 5 & 6: [ACPPS056](#)

Year 7 & 8: [ACPPS073](#)