

## **EDUCATOR NOTES:**

### Exploring the story of water

#### **Learning and Engagement Approach**

This activity is designed to engage young learners aged from 0 – 7.

The activity is intended to:

- understand the journey of water from taps to the ocean
- help young learners understand that what happens on land can impact our rivers and ocean
- learn that household materials can enter the waterways
- use a story to actively involve children in hands on learning about water pollution.

#### **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, sunscreen and have a water bottle handy.
- Keep any allergy plan information at hand and any associated allergy medication.
- Model to the children how to add materials to the container of water safely and supervise their actions.

#### **Materials and References**

- There are small quantities of many resources required for this activity. Many of these resources you already have in or around your home, centre, and from your students.
- As a pre workshop activity, ask your student to help collect the soil, sand, small rocks and twigs required for the activity.
- Make substitutions where needed i.e. chocolate drink powder could be substituted with similar products or coffee.
- If you have a small group for this activity, you can remove some of suggested items. This works best in the story when there are 2 items going in the container of water e.g. at step 1, 4, 6, or 7. If you have a larger group you can do multiple jars of the same contents.
- When using food products minimise waste by using small amounts. Remove any non-biodegradable materials and compost the remaining materials after use.
- Use a small amount of environmentally friendly detergent to help clean up remaining oil in containers. If the oil is not able to be composted or reused then dispose of the oil in a sealed container.

### ONLINE RESOURCES

Discover more about the [Natural Water Cycle](#) and learn [Why water is Important](#) to all life on earth.

Here are some fun water activities from Sydney Water you can print out:

- [How We use Water](#)
- [How Water gets to us song](#)
- [4 Minute Shower colouring in](#)
- [Save Water Colouring in](#)

### WATCH

Watch these short videos from Sydney Water to learn about the [Water Cycle](#) (3 minutes) and discover what where our [Wastewater](#) goes. (3 minutes).

### Site Suggestions

This activity is best conducted in a wet space or outside. Choose a shady place if running the activities outside. Use a waterproof tablecloth or tarpaulin will help with cleaning up afterwards.

### Educator Tips

- Using the story can help encourage further investigations. Stimulate discussion around what do you think happens next? What can we do to stop these things getting in the waterways and the ocean? Encourage documentation of questions and discoveries.
- Connect to your environmental group, local council or water body to invite a spokesperson to talk about local water issues with the children.
- Encourage low waste behaviour when conducting this activity by modelling how to use the materials wisely to the children.
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### Aligning this Activity

- [Every drop counts, being water wise!](#)
- [Water for wildlife](#)
- Waterways sequence: [behaviour change](#) and [clean-up](#)

### Extension Activities

#### **Extension 1**

Clean up our waterways: Students can use plastic strainers to remove the floating pollution and discuss ways of stopping it returning. Once the water has settled students can scoop of the cleaner water into a separate container. What objects were easier to clean? What items were more difficult?

#### **Extension 2**

Children can tell their own stories about the journey of water. What would they do differently to help keep the waterways clean? Draw, write or perform the story.

### **Community Engagement**

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

Look to the [Junior Landcare Community Page](#) for organisations to contact to help support your understanding of 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**

Foundation: [ACSSU002](#), [ACSIS011](#)

Year 1: [ACSSU211](#), [ACSIS025](#)

Year 2: [ACSSU030](#), [ACSIS038](#), [ACSHE035](#)

#### **HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Year 2: [ACHASSI042](#)

#### **DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGIES**

Year 2: [ACTDEK003](#)

#### **HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Year 2: [ACPPS018](#), [ACPPS022](#), [ACPPS023](#)

#### **ETHICAL UNDERSTANDING**

[Exploring values, rights and responsibilities](#)

#### **PERSONAL AND SOCIAL CAPABILITY**

[Social awareness](#)

#### **CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS**

[Outdoor Learning](#)

#### **CROSS CURRICULUM PRIORITY**

[Sustainability](#)

#### **THE EARLY LEARNING YEARS FRAMEWORK**

[Outcome 2](#)

#### **MY TIME, OUR PLACE: FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOL AGE CARE**

[Outcome 2 and 4](#)