

IT'S TIME TO CONSERVE

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, the students will be able to do the following:

1. Design (draw) posters on 8" x 10" paper for water conservation in the classroom.
2. Tell or write ways to conserve water around the home.
3. Give an oral or written definition of the new terms: conserve, hydrologists, and hydrology.

SUBJECTS: English, Social Studies, and Fine Arts

TIME: 30 minutes over a 2-day period

MATERIALS:

- *Activity sheets
- *Butcher paper
- *Pencils
- *Crayons
- *Scissors

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Water is absolutely essential for life. All living things require water for survival. Water is one of our most precious resources and because of its importance in our lives, we must respect it. The practice of water conservation is an important concept to teach young children. The first step in teaching young children how to conserve water is to help them become aware of where water is used and how much water is used in daily living.

This lesson will help young children become aware of our limited supply of available fresh water. Much of this supply is found beneath the Earth's surface as groundwater. This lesson helps children understand the impact we can have on the fresh water supply. If we conserve water by changing our lifestyles, we can have plenty of clean water. Although there is plenty of water on Earth, it is not always available in sufficient quantity. Sometimes the quality is not adequate either. There is increasing evidence that chemical wastes have been improperly discarded in the past and they are now showing up in our water supplies today. The impact of everyone conserving water at home could mean the difference in health and the economic effects of a shortage of clean water in the future. There are many inexpensive ways to reduce water usage in and around school and the home. We all need to practice conservation of water for a better future. See the attached sheet for "Ways to Conserve Water." (📖 P. 9)


TERMS

Conserve: To preserve and protect a natural resource from wasteful use.

Hydrologist: A person that applies scientific knowledge and mathematical principles to solve water-related problems in society such as problems of quantity, quality, and availability.

Hydrology: The science that encompasses the occurrence, distribution, movement, and properties of waters of the Earth and their relationship with the environment.

ADVANCE PREPARATION

- A. Read the list of "Ways to Conserve Water." Explain that, during times of drought, groundwater supplies dry up and these take years to replace.
( P. 9) (**Social Studies TEKS K.6B, K.17A,B, 1.6B, 1.19A,B, 2.7B, 2.8A,C,D, 2.19A,B**).
- B. Make copies of the game cards in advance and allow time for the students to cut them out.
- C. Use the butcher paper to make a poster divided into two sections, one for water wasters and one for water savers.
- D. Create two teams in your classroom.

PROCEDURE

I. Setting the stage.


- A. Discuss the importance of conserving water at school. Ask students how they could conserve water around school. Have students help make a list of ways to conserve water and write their comments on the board or chart paper. Some suggestions: check water sources for leaks or drips; catch used drinking water to water plants; and install water-saving devices for general washing duties in the classroom. (**English TEKS K.15A, K.16B, 1.18C,D,F, 1.23B, 2.14A, 2.20B**) (**TAAS Writing-Prewriting & Brainstorming**)

II. Activities

- A. Each team gets a set of the 18 game cards which can be cut from the activity sheet located in this Resource Book.
- B. Teams play "memory" by placing the game cards face down and trying to match a water wasting card with its corresponding water saving card.

- C. One student on each team glues the water saving cards on the poster under "Water Savers", and the other glues the waster cards under "Water Wasters".

III. Follow-Up

- A. Using the list of ways to conserve water as suggested by the students, have students make 8" x 10" posters to display as reminders. For example if students have suggested cleaning out a classroom pet's cage once a week with "used drinking water" for cleaning, have them or an adult write this on a poster or posters, then draw a picture or pictures. Display the poster in the location of the pet. **(Fine Arts TEKS K.2A, 1.2A, 1.3A, 2.2A) (English TEKS K.15A, K.16B, 1.18C,D,F, 1.23B, 2.14A, 2.20B).**
- B. As the year progresses, students may think of other ways to conserve water. This is a good opportunity for students to make additional posters and display them. This is an ongoing process and may be continued throughout the year.
- C. ( P. 10) Have students complete the "It's Time to Conserve" page in their story book. Have students write their suggestions in the "Practice of Water Conservation" section and then draw pictures in the "Pictures of Practice" section to help them remember each suggestion. Each student will take his/her list home and have it completed with the help of their parents. **(English TEKS K.15C, 1.18B,C,E, 2.14B,C).**
- D. When students return their completed lists, discuss what they found around the home and what they accomplished.

IV. Extensions

- A. Create a weekly classroom job of Hydrologist. Explain the important role this person would play in the classroom and have the students decide what this person might do. **(TAAS Writing-Informative)**
- B. Have the students draw additional sets of cards for the game.
- C. Have your students act as water consultants. Have them write a letter to the Drip family explaining how they can help conserve water.

RESOURCES

"The Water Sourcebook: A Series of Classroom Activities for Grades K-2 Produced for Georgia Water Wise Council," Education Research and Inservice Center, University of North Alabama.

Ways to Conserve Water

1. Check the plumbing system to see that there are no leaks.
2. Never use toilets as trash baskets. Each flush uses 5-7 gallons of water.
3. Wait until there is a full load for washing clothes or dishes in machines.
4. Hang up towels so the family doesn't have to do so many loads of laundry.
5. Urge family members to take showers instead of tub baths.
6. Limit showers to two to five minutes and keep water level at five inches of water for a tub bath.
7. Use a pan of water when peeling and cleaning vegetables and fruits rather than letting the tap water run.
8. When washing the car, turn off the water while soaping.
9. Use a broom, not a hose, to sweep the garage, sidewalks, and driveway.
10. Install any water-saving device that may be available in your area.