

Water Quality Quiz

Activity Overview: In this fast-paced and interactive activity students will have to answer yes or no to questions related to water conservation by picking a side based on their water knowledge!

Objectives: Students will learn to differentiate between conservative and wasteful water practices

Materials:

- 2 pool noodles
- A series of cards with questions and answers related to water conservation

Setup: Clear a space for students to stand and hold the pool noodles up or place them on the ground. Have the question cards ready.

Takedown: At the end of the day, store the pool noodles and the cards together ready for the next day.

What will I be doing? (Procedure)

*Before you start your presentation check with the teacher or chaperone that the entire group is present and ready to start. Remember that **doing** an experiment and **discovering** the answer is more powerful than watching and listening to someone, so try to involve as many children as possible.*

Say: “Welcome to the *Water Quality Quiz*! Who thinks they are experts about water yet? In this activity, we will be testing your knowledge on saving water. Think carefully about how you can save water in the activities you do at home.”

Say: “You will have to answer a series of questions. Each question is a true or false question. Your job is to decide what you think the answer is. If you think the sentence is true, stand on the right side of the pool noodles. If you think the sentence is false, stand on the left side of the pool noodles. I will ask the question and you will stand in the place you think is correct. We will see how many got it right and then I will explain the answer. Is everyone ready?”

(Note: If you want to switch this activity up a bit, consider having the students complete different actions if the answer is true or false or have them move their bodies in different ways (hop, skip, run, slow walk, etc.)

Questions, answers, and explanations that are found on the cards:

1. **It is not important to save water because there is so much of it on Earth. True (right side) or false (left side)? – False** – Although there is a lot of water on Earth, most of it is salt water so we cannot drink it. As little as 1% of the water on Earth can be used by people, so it is important to save water.
2. **When I’m brushing my teeth I should turn the faucet off. True (right side) or false (left side)? – True** – About 20 – 25 litres of water are wasted if you leave the tap running. Turning it off saves water and money.

3. **When soaping up my hands, I can leave the water on because it is only a short period of time. True (right side) or false (left side)? – False** – Leaving the faucet on when washing your hands uses about 8 litres of water.
4. **The soapy water from washing your car that goes down the storm sewer goes directly into Lake Ontario. True (right side) or false (left side)? – True** – The water that goes in the storm sewers outdoors is not cleaned before it goes into the lake, so it can hurt the plants and animals that live in this environment.
5. **Water that runs down the drain while we wait for the shower or bath water to warm up can be collected in a bucket and used to water plants and clean things. True (right side) or false (left side)? – True** – if that water goes straight down the drain it is wasted. It is much better to reuse it. Does anyone have any other ideas for how we can use that water?
6. **Taking a quick shower instead of a bath is one way I can use less water. – True** – It takes more than 100 litres of water to fill a bathtub, while a 5 minute shower uses 30-40 litres of water.
7. **It is best to water your lawn in the afternoon. True (right side) or false (left side)? – False** – It is hottest outside during the afternoon. Watering your lawn when it is hot outside causes the water to evaporate before the plants can drink it.
8. **It is good to have aerators on home water faucets. True (right side) or false (left side) – True** – when mixed with water, tiny air bubbles from the aerator prevent the water from splashing too much. Because the water flow is less, often half the regular flow, an aerator helps to conserve water.
9. **A tap that drips a little bit should be fixed. True (right side) or false (left side)? – True** – If the tap drips 60 times in one minute it would waste 12 litres each day or 4,630 litres per year. That's the same as 2315 large (2L) pop bottles!
10. **Washing your bike with a bucket and sponge is better than using a running hose. True (right side) or false (left side)? – True** – Washing your bike with a bucket and sponge will not only leave you with a clean bike, but it will also save water. Hoses waste more than 15 litres of water every minute!
11. **We should only use the dishwasher when it is full. True (right side) or false (left side)? – True** – A dishwasher uses approximately 25 to 30 litres of water each time. If the dishwasher is not full, it is better to wash your dishes in the sink.
12. **There are health benefits to saving water. True (right side) or false (left side) – True** – By conserving water, the amount of energy that is needed to treat wastewater goes down. This means less air pollution is released from places that treat water.
13. **Using a cover over an outdoor swimming pool that is not being used can help save water. True (right side) or false (left side) – True** – Using a cover reduces how much water is evaporated from the sun shining.
14. **We should water our lawns for an hour every day in the summer in order for them to stay green. True (right side) or false (left side) – False** - Your lawn only needs to be watered for 15-20 minutes twice a week in order to stay green. Overwatering your lawn can actually hurt the plants and other organisms that live in the soil, and it also wastes money.
15. **It is environmentally friendly to drink bottled water if we recycle. True (right side) or false (left side)? – False** – When we have empty bottles, it is a good idea to recycle them. However, the cost of recycling is

very high and it wastes a lot of energy. Reusable water bottles should be used instead because they can be refilled with tap water, which is clean and safe to drink.

Specifically remind students:

- There are many ways to save water on a day-to-day basis. Saving water is good for the environment and for our own health!
- Use water wisely by thinking of how you can save water in the activities you do at home.

