



A Toast to Tap Water

Activity Overview: Students will learn about the benefits of drinking tap water. Students will bid adieu with a Toast to Tap Water using their reusable water bottle (be sure to bring yours to the festival)!

Objectives:

Students will learn:

- Where their tap water comes from
- The benefits of choosing tap water

Time: This activity should take approximately 5 minutes.

Materials:

- Water refill station
- Paper Cups (for those that didn't bring a reusable bottle)
- Green Compost Bin (for paper cups)
- Dew Drop "Love my tap water" stickers

Setup:

Ensure the cup holder is full in the morning. If you are running low on paper cups during the day, have your steward contact the Water Team. Ensure that the Water Truck is clean and sanitary.

Takedown:

Clean up any cups that have fallen on the ground. Put the stickers in the bin. Ask your steward to return the bin to be stored in the trailer overnight.

Safety/Sanitization:

- Allow students to fill up their own cups/water bottles.
- Ensure their water bottles do not touch the dispenser.

Reminders (before you start your activity)

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.

Do NOT speak negatively of bottled water companies or say that bottled water is unsafe. If you are asked a specific question about bottled water, suggest that the teacher can contact the bottled water company directly.

Keep the discussion general – let the kids make their own decision about what type of water to drink, the point to convey is that municipally treated tap water is safe to drink and a cheaper alternative to bottled water.

What will you be doing? (Procedure)

Say: “Welcome to A Toast to Tap Water. This activity will teach us about the benefits of drinking tap water! In Peel, tap water is clean and safe to drink because Peel Region makes sure that water is cleaned and made available to everyone.”

Ask: “Who here drinks tap water?”

Ask: “Do you know where your water comes from?”

Answer: “In Mississauga, Brampton, and Bolton most of our drinking water comes from Lake Ontario. In Caledon it comes from wells. Regardless of the source of your water, Peel Region makes it a priority to ensure you have safe, clean drinking water every time you turn on the tap.”

Ask: “How many of you carry a re-fillable water bottle? Can you raise your bottles up for me to see?”

Say: “I see a lot of nice water bottles! What do you like about your re-fillable bottle?”

(Possible answers: some have straws, the colour, the way you can hold them, the way you can drink from them)

Ask: “Did you re-fill your bottle here at the festival today? If you did, did you know the water you are drinking is tap water? How does it taste?”

Say: “Tap water is convenient and easy to find. You can refill a reusable container anywhere you have access to a fountain or tap!”

Ask: “How much do we think tap water costs? Is tap water expensive?”

Answer: “Tap water costs less than bottled water and other bottled beverages. On average, a can of pop or bottle of water costs at least \$1.00. For the same cost, a reusable water bottle can be refilled about 770 times.”

Say: “Raise your hand if you think tap water is healthy.”

Say: “Tap water is a healthy, low-calorie beverage choice. It does not contain sugar like pop and juice, or caffeine like coffee and tea.”

Say: “Now let’s make a toast to tap water!”

(Re-fill everyone’s bottles at the station or give those without a re-fillable cup of water).

Say: “On the count of three, I want everyone to yell as loud as you can “I love my tap water!” and take a drink.”

Have the students who have used paper cups place the cups into the green compost bin. The paper cups are the ONLY item that should go into the green compost bin. Once everyone takes a drink, give each student a sticker and have them place it on their outer clothing. To help eliminate litter, please do NOT give students a sticker with the backing. This will ensure we will not find stickers and/or backings on the ground at the festival.

Background:

- Tap water is safe and clean to drink and it is important for all of us to drink lots of water to be healthy.
- In Mississauga, Brampton and Bolton most of our drinking water comes from Lake Ontario and in Caledon through a regionally-owned well.
- The many benefits of choosing tap water:
 - Convenient
 - Low Cost
 - Healthy Choice
- In Peel, tap water is clean and safe to drink because Peel Region makes sure that water is cleaned and made available to everyone.

