

**AUSTRALIAN
WATER**
—
ASSOCIATION

THE WATER EDUCATION TOOLKIT

A Resource for Water
Ambassadors and Educators



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Introduction

Australia is a dry continent with a highly variable climate. While it generally receives significant rainfall and is well-endowed with groundwater resources, these water sources occur in northern and central Australia rather than in southern areas where it is most needed for agriculture and urban supplies. Understanding the complex story of water in Australia is critical for students making future informed decisions about managing our water resources sustainably.

The Australian Curriculum V9 (Foundation-Year 10) provides a valuable opportunity for water educators to share ideas and activities. The subject areas of Science and Geography are particularly relevant for water education topics. The Cross Curriculum Priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, and Sustainability have been integrated.

The purpose of this toolkit is to collate 'tried and tested' activities in a Water Ambassadors Education Toolkit to assist water educators and Water Ambassadors - particularly novice water educators—to develop student and teacher understanding about their local water story. With the help of experienced members from the AWA Water Education Network, the toolkit provides engaging, hands-on and experiential learning activities that can be used in face-to-face contexts with students and the public.

The most enduring water education activities have been modified many times and the toolkit provides ideas for adapting activities including activities for site tours and classroom incursions. Many of the activities are drawn from excellent existing resources such as 'Water – learn it. live it.', the websites of water organisations and environmental education sites in each state. The toolkit is a small selection of the hundreds of water education activities available for educators.

The Australian Curriculum links are highlighted for each activity. A large number of activities are linked to Stage 4 Science (understanding and skills) and Stages 4 and 7 Geography (knowledge and skills) where natural resources or water are explicitly taught. Some activities have been linked to Civics and Citizenship K-10. Activities can be used or adapted to suit all years by educators.

Note: The Australian Curriculum V9 content descriptions show the year level in which a particular concept is assessed. For instance, students need to demonstrate the quality of their understanding about the water cycle in Year 4 Science and Year 7 Geography. However, it is important that students are exposed to these foundational water concepts informally as early as possible so that by the year the concept is assessed students have a mature understanding of the concept. Simple explanations and explorations of the water cycle should be introduced from the Foundation year or earlier.



Topics

The activities are organised in the following overlapping water topic areas:

PART A: Water in the World (organised under the following sub-headings)

- Natural water cycle
- Catchments and waterway health
- Water sources
- Water treatment – drinking water and wastewater (combined categories)
- Water use and management (combined categories)
- Water use
- Using water wisely

PART B: Climate change

PART C: Careers

Activities

Activities are categorised as:

- Lesson
- Game / Interactive Digital / Spatial technology
- Hands-on activity / Creative Activity
- Demonstration
- On-site tour activity / virtual tour
- Incursion
- Excursion
- Take-home activity



PART A

WATER IN THE WORLD

PART A. WATER IN THE WORLD

1. NATURAL WATER CYCLE

1.1 [Earth globe toss game](#)¹

Hands-on activity / Discussion

This is an activity to begin a study Earth's water resources. Students play a game of 'Toss the globe' in which they throw and catch an inflatable globe to estimate 'How much of Earth's surface is water'. If students have no knowledge about the proportion of water in the oceans this provides a great starting activity. If students know the general distribution of water on Earth this activity can be used to test data and discuss the pros and cons of random sampling.

Suggested discussion topics to follow include

- What types of surface water are there on Earth?
- Where else is water other than on the surface?

Follow up activities could include asking students

- to predict the amount of water that might represent fresh drinking water, icecaps and glaciers, saltwater, and groundwater and research the correct data.
- to represent the amount of water on Earth by shading in a circle to show the percent of water in the oceans.

Support materials include:

- Video and Poster: How much water is on Earth?
- Video: Show Me the Water

Variations

The metro-Melbourne water corporations [Water- learn it. live it](#) resource (Pages 42-46) has activities requiring students to predict the distribution of the world's water, create a pie graph (circle graph) and research questions about Earth's rivers and oceans.

[Water- learn it. live it](#) *Volume One: Water in the Natural Environment* is broken into four sections: Properties of Water, Natural Water Cycle, Bodies of Water and Weather. Each provides a collection of activities for students from K to 10. The water activities are based around Science, Geography, Mathematics, English, Art and Music. Most activities can be undertaken in any state in Australia.

¹ NASA California Institute of technology
<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/teach/activity/ocean-world-earth-globe-toss-game/>

Year levels: Years 4 - 7 but suitable for all year levels

Key curriculum links: Year 4 Science (AC9S4UO2) Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K01)

Geographical concepts: place, space, environment; **Scientific ideas:** scientific inquiry, systems

1.2 Make a water cycle model^{2 3 4}

Hands-on activity / Demonstration

In this activity, students replicate what happens in nature by creating simple models and identifying the processes of the water cycle. The models can be made using a [bottle](#) (terrarium), a [plastic bag](#) or a [bowl covered with cling wrap](#). Each model imitates the processes of evaporation, condensation and precipitation. To assist their understanding provide students with a copy of a water cycle diagram or poster such as [The Water Cycle poster](#)⁵.

Year level/s: Years 4 to 7

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4UO2) (AC9S4104) (ACS4105); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K01) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03)

Geographical concepts: place, space, scale, environment, interconnection, change

Scientific ideas: systems, scientific inquiry

1.3 Water cycle processes⁶

Practical activities / incursions

Students perform experiments and activities using easy to access materials to understand the water cycle processes of [evaporation](#), [transpiration](#), [condensation](#) and [precipitation](#). They

- compare what happens when fresh and saltwater evaporate and examine the role that exposure to sunlight plays in evaporation by placing water in different locations.
- catch water transpired by plants and compare transpiration from different plants. This activity is set up one day and left overnight. Students place plastic bags over a bunch of the leaves on selected plants and seal the end of the bag. The next day, they collect the bags to observe the contents. Follow up activities could include measuring the contents, making notes and/or graphing their results. These steps will develop student's literacy and numeracy skills.
- construct a simple rain gauge to measure precipitation. The final activity makes a good introduction to the concept of a water catchment in which the funnel used represents a catchment.

² Sydney Water: Make a Water Cycle Model

<https://www.sydneywater.com.au/content/dam/sydneywater/documents/education/make-a-water-cycle-model.pdf>

³ Mobile Ed Productions: Education through entertainment. How to make a water cycle in a bag

<https://www.mobileedproductions.com/blog/how-to-make-a-water-cycle-in-a-bag>

⁴ Science Sparks Make a Mini Water Cycle Model <https://www.science-sparks.com/make-a-mini-water-cycle/>

⁵ Waterwise Queensland Water Cycle poster

https://www.resources.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1407628/water-cycle-poster.pdf

⁶ Shoalhaven City Council: Shoalhaven Water: Water Education <https://tapstar.shoalwater.nsw.gov.au>

Year level/s: *Year level/s: Years 4-7*

Key curriculum link/s: *Year 4 Science (AC9S4UO2) (AC9S4104) (ACS4105); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K01) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03)*

Geographical concepts: **change, interconnection, environment**

Science ideas: **scientific inquiry, systems**

1.4 [The water cycle silent card shuffle](#)⁷

Game

In small groups, students use a set of cards with labelled images of the following: mountains, condensation (clouds), rivers and lakes, sun, ocean, evaporation (gas), infiltration (groundwater), transpiration from plants and run-off (surface water). Without talking, students sort the cards into the order they think is the water cycle. They can only use actions to communicate, and all members of the team should contribute. Allow time for students to discuss amongst their group and share with the class.

A full lesson plan and background information accompanies this activity at [The Water Cycle](#) from the Queensland North East Water website.

Year level/s: Years 4 to 7 but suitable for most year levels

Key curriculum link/s: *Year 4 Science (AC9S4UO2) AC9S4106); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K01) (AC9HG7S06)*

Geographical concepts: **change, interconnection, environment; Science ideas: systems**

1.5 [Being the water cycle](#)⁸

Lesson / Creative activity

In this drama lesson ([Water – learn it. live it](#) Page 32), students act out, mime, dance or create a short film about the water cycle. You could provide them with some cards with pictures and words of the following water cycle stages: precipitation, infiltration, transpiration, evaporation, condensation. Or these images could be displayed on the whiteboard or classroom wall.

Variations

Use a storyboard template to plan a short film and use movie making software to collate the final product. ([Water – learn it. live it](#) Page 84)

Year level/s: Years 4 and Year 7 but suitable for most year levels

⁷ North East Water: The Water Cycle

https://www.newater.com.au/Portals/0/NE-Water/Sections/What-we-do/Education/Teacher-resources/water-cycle/Water_Cycle_Activity_Teacher_Information.pdf

⁸ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water – learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 1 Water in the natural environment* p. 32 <https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02) (AC9S4106); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K01) (AC9HG7S06)

Geographical concepts: change, interconnection, environment; **Science ideas:** scientific inquiry, systems

1.6 Wet and dry Australia⁹

Lesson

Australia is made up of six main climate zones: Equatorial, Tropical, Subtropical, Desert, Grassland and Temperate. Each zone varies in its rainfall and temperature. As a group, discuss the climate zone you live in using the map on the [Australian Bureau of Meteorology](#) website (for older students) or Page 61 of [learn it, live it](#) for younger students. By understanding climate, we can choose an appropriate holiday destination, plant the right crops and ensure our homes are designed for long-term comfort and durability. Brainstorm ways that climate (such as hot and humid or freezing cold) might change the way a person lives. Think about clothing, housing, activities and hobbies, food and travel. Create a collage or map to indicate the different climate zones in Australia.

Variations

Younger students collect images and group them into wet and dry then make a collage on A3 paper. Older students can create maps to show the climate zones around Australia. ([learn it, live it](#) (Page 70). Ask students to identify the climate zone in which they live.

Older students could use a think, pair, share activity to explain in 1 minute the reason Australia has so many climate zones. Use the Australian Bureau of Meteorology's media report [Why do we have different climates across Australia?](#) Focus on making connections between different climate zones, water cycle processes and interconnections between these.

Year level/s: Years 4 to 7 but suitable for all year levels

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K05) (AC9HS4S03); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04)

Geographical concepts: environment, place, space, interconnection

1.7 Day zero¹⁰

Lesson

Day Zero teaches students to respond to questions in a geographically distinctive way particularly to; collect, evaluate, analyse and interpret information; and suggest responses to what they have learnt.

⁹ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water - learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 1 Water in the natural environment* p. 70-73 <https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

¹⁰ South East Queensland: Water H2O Kids Lesson Toolboxes Day Zero <https://www.seqwater.com.au/h2o-kids-toolboxes>

In April 2018, Cape Town in South Africa nearly ran out of water. Students will consider if a similar scenario could happen in South East Queensland. An initial presentation illustrates how water is managed and supplied by Seqwater and our 30-year plan for water security.

Variation

Compliment the activity using this Australian example '[Lessons from the Australian city that nearly ran out of water](#)'¹¹

Year level/s: Year 7 but suitable for Years 5 - 10

Key curriculum link/s: Year 5 Geography (AC9HS5K05) (AC9HS5S03) (AC9HS5S05); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7K04) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04) (AC9HG7S05); Year 10 Geography (AC9HG10K01) (AC9HG10K04) (AC9HG10S03)

Geographical concepts: place, change, environment, sustainability

2. CATCHMENTS AND WATERWAY HEALTH

2.1 [Story of a river](#)^{12 13}

Hands-on activity

This activity highlights the impact land uses and human activities in a catchment impact in some way on the quality of waterways in that catchment. The activity can be used to teach students about their local catchment, to highlight water quality and treatment such as what needs to be removed when treating water for drinking. Labels and the story are online and can be printed. You will need a large clear plastic container filled with clean water (five litre capacity) and 12 small plastic containers.

Read the story and pause at the points that something is added to the 'river' (the large container of water). For example, when the river flows through a national park and then through a forest, students add the contents of the containers labelled 'forest'. This contains tea and mulch. When the story is finished and all of the contaminants have been added, the river (and everything else along with it) flows out to sea.

There are many versions of this activity. The original 'Story of a river' was adapted from 'Who polluted the Potomac?' developed by the US-based Alice Ferguson Foundation.

Variations

Discuss the impacts each contaminant might have on the river, the ocean and our drinking water supply. Students can research their catchment and write their local story of a river.

¹¹ ABC News In Depth: Lessons from an Australian city that ran out of water.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fU5pQiUud-0>

¹² Queensland Government: Water - Learn it for life! (2014) *Year 4 Science: Are we living sustainably?* Resource 11 p. 44 https://www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1407634/year4-water-living-sustainably.pdf

¹³ Water Corporation Lesson Plans: We are all Connected Year 4 Page 3
<https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Education/Water-supply-and-water-conservation/Lesson-plans>

Junior Landcare’s ‘*Catchment Management: Story of a River*’¹⁴ is the first part of a sequence of 5 learning activities focused on Catchment Management. The order of these learning activities are: [the story of a river](#), [water sustainability](#), [what’s in a drop?](#), [the drain is just for rain](#) and [where the river meets the sea](#). Additional activities include using the Australian Topographic Drainage Divisions and River Regions map to determine the catchment students live in, forming groups to make a catchment model and comparing water flows between models. ‘*Danny the Drip*’¹⁵ is a similar activity for suited to younger students.

Year level/s: Suitable for all year levels

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02) (AC9S4S04); Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K05) (AC9HS4K06) (AC9HS4S05) (AC9HS4S06); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04); Year 10 Geography (AC9HG10K01) (AC9HG10K04) (AC9HG10S03) (AC9HG10S04)

Geographical concepts: place, change, interconnection, environment, sustainability

Civics and citizen concepts: active citizenship; Science ideas: scientific inquiry, sustainability

2.2 [Create a catchment](#)¹⁶

Hands-on activity

Following Story of a River, or as a separate indoor activity, use natural resources such as grasses and twigs and craft supplies to [Make your own catchment](#). In this version form two groups with one group creating a natural catchment model and the other an urban catchment (the river has been dammed) model. Water cycle posters could be used as a guide.

Students could annotate their models with sticky notes that include the most important features then present their models to the class before discussing difference in water flows between the two catchment models.

Variations

A similar activity [Build a model water catchment](#)¹⁷ has large and smaller model options supported by a range of observation and discussion activities. There are links to other activities such as [Mapping my local water catchment](#) using a topographic map.

Students can make a [Crumpled Paper Catchment Model](#),¹⁸ a simple and fun activity to show features of a catchment and how water moves in a catchment Crumple the paper then place in

¹⁴ Junior Landcare: Catchment Management Story of a river.

https://juniorlandcare.org.au/learning_activity/catchment-management-the-story-of-a-river/?age=

¹⁵ City of Ryde: The Last Drop. Teacher Activity Book Danny the Drip Page 9

<https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/environment-and-waste/reen/reen-last-drop-activity-book.pdf>

¹⁶ Story of a River Extension Activity: Make your own catchment. Junior Landcare

https://juniorlandcare.org.au/learning_activity/catchment-management-the-story-of-a-river/?age=

¹⁷ Science Learning Hub: Build a model water catchment <https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2887-build-a-model-water-catchment>

¹⁸ NSW SEA: Factors that shape places. People and floods in the Hawkesbury- Nepean Catchment. Stage 3 Learning Sequence 1: Natural Environment of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River and its Catchment Pages 5, 10. <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/for-schools/primary/water-in-the-valley/>

a large shallow plastic container. Use textas or watercolour paints to colour the crumpled paper, then a spray bottle or jug used to pour the “rain” into the catchment. Protect the table from spills using a sheet of plastic or do the activity outside. See SES NSW Water in the Valley, Factors that shape places, Learning sequence 1 Pages 5 & 10.

The SES NSW resource [Water in the Valley](#)¹⁹ is a comprehensive water resource for primary schools to support the NSW Geography syllabus, with integrated approaches to literacy, numeracy and science for Stages 1, 2 and 3. In the secondary resource [Water in the World](#)²⁰ students examine water as a resource in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley, the factors influencing its flows and availability across the catchment and floodplain, the nature of water scarcity and abundance and ways of overcoming it, specific to the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley. Many of the activities can be used by schools across Australia studying water and catchments.

Year level/s: Years 4, 6 and 7 but suitable for most year levels

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02) (AC9S4104); Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K05) (AC9HS4K06) (AC9HS4S03); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04); Year 10 Geography (AC9HG10K01) (AC9HG10K04) (AC9HG10S03) (AC9HG10S04)

Geographical concepts: place, change, interconnection, environment, sustainability

Science ideas: systems, sustainability

2.3 [Healthy catchment game](#)²¹

Game

This team game is designed to reinforce the concept of a healthy catchment. Students think about the types of items that should and should not be found within their local waterways. In teams, students take pictures of items that you might find in a catchment from the ‘nest’ hoop and place it in one of two hoops – a smiley face or a frownie face. The smiley face means a happy catchment and a frownie face means the item should not be in there. For example, a picture of a fish goes from the ‘nest’ hoop into the smiley face hoop, but a picture of a plastic bag goes from the ‘nest’ hoop into the frownie face hoop.

Variations

This game can be used as an introduction or reflection tool and can be modified depending on the students’ year level and level of knowledge. It can be a race or simply a discussion starter. For younger students, it could be turned into a fishing game by putting paper clips on each item and fishing for them with a magnetic fishing rod.

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02) (AC9S4104); Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K05) (AC9HS4K06) (AC9HS4S03)

¹⁹ NSW SEA: Factors that shape places. People and floods in the Hawkesbury- Nepean Catchment. Stage 3 Learning Sequence 1: Natural Environment of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River and its Catchment Pages 5, 10. <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/for-schools/primary/water-in-the-valley/>

²⁰ SES NSW: For schools <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/for-schools/>

²¹ Waterwise Queensland: Water: Learn it for life (2014) Year 4 Science, Are we living sustainably? p. 48 https://www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1407634/year4-water-living-sustainably.pdf

Geographical concepts: place, change, interconnection, environment, sustainability
Science ideas: systems, sustainability

2.4 Water quality monitoring / waterbug sampling ²²

Excursion / Hands on activity

Students investigate the health of a waterway. This can be through observation (qualitative assessment), by testing a range of water quality parameters such as temperature, salinity, pH, Phosphate, Dissolved Oxygen and turbidity or by sampling the macroinvertebrates/ waterbugs (quantitative assessment).

There are a number of Waterwatch²³ and Streamwatch²⁴ resources available online to support this activity. They can be published by local councils, water utilities, regional natural resource management agencies or state government departments. Seek out resources in your region as often organisations have water testing kits for borrowing. It is important not to return chemically tested water to local waterways when testing is completed.

The Waterway health check²⁵ is an introductory qualitative assessment tool for all years. This is an ideal activity for teachers and students unable to access equipment for water testing.

A macroinvertebrate / waterbug dip netting exercise shows students what lives in a particular river or waterway. There are various guidebooks to identify different waterbugs and show their level of pollution tolerance. Equipment can include dip nets, ice cube trays, buckets, pipettes, petri dishes and magnifying lenses. Find a suitable stretch of river and either let students dip in their own nets or collect one large sample with a net and bucket. Students examine the tiny waterbugs in the sample through magnifying lenses or separate larger bugs into segments in the ice cube trays. Students return the water and waterbugs to the river or waterway when they're finished.

Waterwatch NSW ²⁶ resources for waterway monitoring include

- [Testing procedures and record sheets](#)
- [Waterwatch Manuals for primary and high school \(Teacher guides\)](#)
- [Water Bug ID charts and posters](#)

²² Waterwatch New South Wales: Resources [Waterwatch NSW](#)

²³ Waterwatch Australia <https://www.waterwatch.org.au>

²⁴ Streamwatch <https://www.streamwatch.org.au>

²⁵ Waterwise Queensland: Water: Learn it for Life: Year 7 Geography Mapping our Waterway Page 23 https://www.resources.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1407637/year7-mapping-waterway.pdf

²⁶ Waterwatch New South Wales: Resources <https://www.nswwaterwatch.org.au/resources>

[Melbourne Water](#)²⁷ offers comprehensive resources for primary school water quality education

- [The life of waterbugs](#) (Years 3-4)
- [Turbidity and erosion](#) (Years 3-4)
- [Stormwater in the urban environment](#) (Years 3-4)
- [Increased nutrients in the waterway](#) (Years 5-6)

The [River Detectives Waterbug Detectives Guide](#) is also ideal for primary school students

Variations

If there is a stream nearby or the school has a wetland, collect a sample in a bucket and do this activity in the classroom, returning the sample to the source area when completed.

Year level/s: Suitable for all year levels

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02) (AC9S4I03); Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K05) (AC9HS4K06) (AC9HS4S02) (AC9HS4S03) (AC9HG7S04); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG702) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04); Year 10 Geography (AC9HG10K01) (AC9HG10K04) (AC9HG10S02) (AC9HG10S03) (AC9HG10S04)

Geographical concepts: place, change, interconnection, environment, sustainability

Science ideas: systems, sustainability

2.5 [Catchment detox game](#) ²⁸

Students play the online game to see if they can successfully manage a river catchment and create a sustainable, thriving economy. They decide what activities to undertake in the catchment such as planting crops. The aim is to prevent or avoid environmental problems. Catchment Detox shows how difficult it is to manage a river catchment.

Year level/s: years 7 - 10 but could suit some primary students.

Key curriculum link/s: Year 7 Geography (AC9HG702) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04); Year 10 Geography (AC9HG10K01) (AC9HG10K04) (AC9HG10S02) (AC9HG10S03) (AC9HG10S04)

Geographical concepts: place, change, interconnection, environment, sustainability

Civics and citizen concepts: active citizenship; Science ideas: systems, sustainability

2.6 [Pollution audit: At school / At home](#)²⁹

Lesson / Take home activity

Students investigate the various sources of stormwater pollution: in the home, school and the local community. The [Home Environment checklist](#) (Page 2) can be used to identify ways in which our homes could be contributing to stormwater pollution. This activity is an ideal homework assignment. On completion of the surveys students can compare water use, energy

²⁷ Melbourne Water <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/learning-resources-and-tours>

²⁸ ABC Science: Catchment detox game <https://www.abc.net.au/science/catchmentdetox/files/home.htm>

²⁹ Sustainable Schools NSW: School stormwater pollution checklist <https://sustainableschoolsnsw.org.au/curriculum/teaching-resources/water/>

use and car use across the class and list activities that could be taken at home to reduce environmental impact.

In the [School Stormwater Pollution Checklist](#) (Page 4) students survey school operations to identify potential sources of stormwater pollution. Students are divided into research teams with each team allocated a portion of school activities to survey. The checklist will help to identify potential risk areas in the day-to-day operation of the school. The school cleaner and principal will be important sources of information

Year level/s: Years 4 - 7 but suitable for all year levels

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02) (AC9S4I03); Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K05) (AC9HS4K06) (AC9HS4S02) (AC9HS4S03) (AC9HG7S04); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG702) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04)

Geographical concepts: place, change, interconnection, environment, sustainability
Civics and citizen concepts: active citizenship; Science ideas: systems, sustainability

3. WATER SOURCES

3.1 [Water storage features](#) ³⁰

Hands-on activity

Water can be stored in many different systems. Natural systems include aquifers, oceans, lakes and rivers; man-made systems include rainwater tanks, dams and reservoirs. Students brainstorm all types of water storage systems. Discuss large areas (like reservoirs or the ocean) and small areas (like a rainwater tank).

Variations

Depending on their year level, students can:

- cut out pictures of storage systems and link it to its features
- invent and draw a diagram of their own man-made storage system
- research a variety of storage systems and analyse their benefits in terms of cost, size, environmental impact, source of water, water yield etc.

Year level/s: Years 1 - 7

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02) (AC9S4S104); Year 1 Geography (AC9HS1K03); Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K05) (AC9HS4S02) (AC9HS4S03); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K01) (AC9HG7K02)

Geographical concepts: place, space, environment; Science ideas: Scientific inquiry

3.2 [Exploring groundwater](#) ³¹

³⁰ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water - learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 2 Water in the urban environment* Page 15 <https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

³¹ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water - learn it. live it. Volume 1 Water in the natural environment (2013) *Exploring Groundwater Activity 2* Page 34

Demonstration / Hands on activity

Conduct two experiments to demonstrate the features of groundwater and how groundwater reaches the surface. In Activity 1 the bottom of a cup or container acts like the bedrock of clay that is found beneath the earth's softer soil layers. Fill two cups with gravel and sand and add water. Measure the amount of water 'stored' in each cup. Discuss how the water fills, or saturates, the soil/sand once it reaches an impermeable layer. Note any similarities or differences. In Activity 2 make a layer of gravel 1 - 2 cm deep in a clear container. Make a finger sized hole in the gravel. Pour in water you have coloured with food dye into the container at one edge. Note what happens to the 'soil' and where the water gathers. Identify the water table and where groundwater reaches the surface. Encourage students to make predictions about what will happen to the water in these activities.

Year level/s: Years 4 to 10

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02) (AC9S4I02); Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K05) (AC9HS4S02); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K01) (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03)

Geographical concepts: place, space, environment; Science ideas: scientific inquiry

3.3 Gnangara groundwater system³²

Lesson

The Gnangara groundwater system is one of the Western Australia's precious water sources, a huge aquifer that is Perth's largest source of fresh water.

Students are introduced to Perth's aquifers, believed by the Noongar people to have been created by the Waugal, forming the Gnangara groundwater system. They were of significance to past generations of Aboriginal communities and continue to supply valuable water into Perth's Integrated Water Supply Scheme. Students watch the video and complete the comprehension worksheet. A Lesson Plan is available for teachers.

Variations

Use the full range of [Walk with the Waugal](#) videos and lesson plans to guide students through an immersive journey by Noongar Elder Dr Noel Nannup to learn about the story of how Waugal created deep underground system and waterways. He takes students to significant sites around Perth and explains their cultural importance and sustainable management today.

<https://www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/assets/volumes/resource-downloads/Water-LiLi-Volume-1.pdf>

³² Water Corporation: Walk in Aboriginal culture. Walk with the Waugal videos.

<https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Education/Water-in-Aboriginal-culture/Walk-with-the-Waugal-videos>

Walk with the [Waugal 360 experience](#)³³ is an interactive website in which students can investigate habitats across Perth with 12 points of interest to follow. In each scene, videos, images, audio and text are used to develop students understanding of water in Aboriginal culture and the cultural practices carried out using the flora and fauna of these environments.

Following this insight into Aboriginal connections to water in Western Australia, students investigate their local groundwater the uses of groundwater today and the value to Aboriginal Peoples past and present.

Year level/s: Year 7 but suitable for Foundation to Year 10

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02) (AC9S4H02); Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K05) (AC9HS4K06); Year 5 Geography (AC9HS5K04) Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7K03) (AC9HG7K07); Year 10 Geography (AC9HG10K02) (AC9HG10K03)

Geographical concepts; place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability

Science ideas: sustainability

3.4 Desalination: make a solar still³⁴

Hands-on activity / Virtual Tour

This ‘Solar Stills’ activity shows salt removal from water by evaporation. Pour salt water into a large container, place a smaller glass beaker in the middle of the water. Cover the container with cling wrap, making sure the seal is tight. Place a weight in the centre of the plastic wrap, suspended over the empty glass. This will assist the water to collect in the glass. Carefully place your construction (called a solar still) in a protected sunny area. Refer to Activity 1.3 ‘Water Cycle Processes’ for a different context for this activity.

Variations

Students investigate other methods used to create fresh water (desalination methods) and investigate places where desalination is an essential source of water. The advantages and disadvantages of desalination processes can be examined by older students. Students brainstorm the challenges to remote communities in accessing fresh water and propose solutions before examining the use of desalination to meet this challenge. This Australian Water Association [media report](#)³⁵ is an appropriate place based example.

³³ Water Corporation: Walk with the Waugal immersive experience
<https://www.walkwiththewaugal.com.au/index.html>

³⁴ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water - learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 1 Water in the natural environment* pages 29 and 31
<https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

³⁵ Australian Water Association: *New desalination plant to deliver drinking water to remote SA Aboriginal Community* <https://tinyurl.com/mrhvhhwa>

Some corporations have virtual tours of their desalination plants and facts sheets online. Examples include Water Corporation ³⁶ [Turning Seawater into Drinking Water](https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Education/Water-supply-and-water-conservation/Virtual-tours) and the Victorian Desalination Plant [Desal Plant Virtual Tour](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW3JFRHw9BA)³⁷.

Year level/s: Year 7

Key curriculum link/s: Year 7 Science (AC9S7H03) (AC9S4104) (ACS4105); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04)

Geographical concepts; environment, sustainability, place; Science ideas: sustainability, scientific inquiry

3.5 Removing the salt ³⁷

Demonstration

There are a number of ways salt can be removed from sea water to produce freshwater. This demonstration models reverse osmosis. Mix a handful of uncooked rice into a bowl of coloured set jelly. The rice represents the salt molecules and the jelly represents water. Place a sieve over the bowl and pour the jelly and rice mixture into the sieve. Use a spoon to put pressure on the mixture and force the jelly through the sieve. The rice (salt) should stay in the sieve while the jelly (water) gets through.

Year level/s: Year 7 but suited to Years 4 - 6.

Key curriculum link/s: Year 7 Science (AC9S7H03) (AC9S4104); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04)

Geographical concepts; environment, sustainability; Science ideas: sustainability

3.6 Recycled water ³⁸

Game

Using images of things people do with water (shower, flush the toilet etc.) and a worksheet with two columns labelled ‘treated water’ and ‘recycled water’, students match the activity to what can and can’t be done with recycled water then cut and paste their answers (either in hard copy or on the computer). For example, a picture of brushing teeth should go in the ‘treated water’ column and a picture of washing a car should go in the ‘recycled water’ column. Adapt this activity for the types of recycled water used in your area.

Variation

³⁶ Water Corporation Virtual Tours <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Education/Water-supply-and-water-conservation/Virtual-tours>

³⁷ Victorian Desalination Plant <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW3JFRHw9BA>

³⁸ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water – learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 2 Water in the urban environment* Page 49 <https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

Research recycled water and find an interesting example of how it is being used in a real-life community. They may find something locally or search for some examples overseas.

Year level/s: Years 4 - 8

Key curriculum link/s: Year 7 Science (AC9S7H03) Year 8 Science (AC9S8H04); Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K06) (AC9HS4S02) (AC9HS4S04); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04)

Geographical concepts: sustainability; Science ideas: scientific inquiry, sustainability

4. WATER TREATMENT: DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER

4.1 Catchment to tap ³⁹

Demonstration or hands-on activity

In this demonstration, students watch as different materials are used as a filter for water from the catchment. It can also be done as a hands-on activity with students in small groups. You will need 'dirty' water (you can add things like dirt and leaves), cotton wool, sand, gravel, a hand towel and a 2-litre plastic soft drink bottle without a lid.

Cut the plastic bottle in half. Turn the top half of the bottle upside down and put it inside the bottom half. Put the hand towel into the plastic bottle and pour the dirty water through it. The hand towel will act as a filter. Students can record their observations on the worksheets provided. Remove the used filter and clean the plastic bottle. Repeat with each different filter (cotton wool, sand and gravel).

Variations

The [Water: learn it for life](#) ⁴⁰ (Page 16) version uses similar materials for filters. However, the filters are put into a cup before students can see them then covered up with aluminium foil, creating a mystery filter. The cup also has two or three holes in the bottom for drainage. Pour the dirty water into the mystery filter then discuss what comes out and why this happened. Reveal the mystery filter.

Water Corporation's Lesson Plan ⁴¹ [Environmental Sustainability](#) has a virtual tour through one of Water Corporation's wastewater treatment plants. Students create an educational

³⁹ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water – learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 2 Water in the urban environment* Page 33 <https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

⁴⁰ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water:: Water: Learn it for life (2013) *Year 7 curriculum Science* p. 16

<https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

⁴¹ Water Corporation Lesson Plans: Environmental Sustainability P2

<https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Education/Water-supply-and-water-conservation/Lesson-plans>

poster to educate fellow students about items which can or cannot be flushed down the toilet. The activity teaches students about their personal responsibility.

Year level/s: Year 7 but suitable for most year levels

Key curriculum link/s: Year 7 Science (AC9S7H03); Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K06) (AC9HS4S02) (AC9HS4S04); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04)

Geographical concepts; environment, sustainability, change; Science ideas: science inquiry, sustainability

4.2 Tour a wastewater treatment plant

On-site tour activity / incursion

Many water corporations offer tours of wastewater treatment or recycled water plants. Different plants have different ways of treating wastewater after it leaves our homes and businesses. Students can see and smell the process in action and visit the many interesting visitor centres.

Variations

Many corporations also have virtual tours of their treatment plants and many facts sheets online. One Example is Water Corporation's [Inside a Waste Resource Recovery Facility](#)⁴² to look inside the Beenyup Plant in Craigie at the process wastewater undergoes to be treated for reuse or discharge in the ocean. Please see the Resources list.

Year level/s: Years 4 - 7. Also suitable for most years.

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02), Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02)

Geographical concepts: sustainability; Science ideas: sustainability

4.3 What happens to treated wastewater⁴³

Lesson

Investigate the different ways of using or disposing of treated wastewater. List advantages and disadvantages of each option on the worksheet and decide which is the best option.

Year level/s: Years 4 - 7. Also suitable for most years.

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02), Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02)

Geographical concepts: sustainability

⁴² Water Corporation Virtual Tours <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Education/Water-supply-and-water-conservation/Virtual-tours>

⁴³ Water corporation. Water Supply and Virtual Lessons: What happens to treated wastewater <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Education/Water-supply-and-water-conservation/Virtual-lessons>

4.4 Wipes out of pipes ⁴⁴

Lesson and practical experiment

What happens when we flush something down the toilet? Investigate the issue of what should and should not go down the toilet by reading '[What happens after you flush](#)' and '[Love your loo](#)' ⁴⁵

Undertake a test to see [what happens to things that are flushed down the toilet](#) and into the wastewater system. You will need five jars, one wet wipe, one facial wipe and two types of toilet tissue. Discuss any environmental claims on the packaging, for example recyclable, contains oxygen bleach rather than chlorine bleach. Place each kind tissue into a separate jar and shake the jar for 30 seconds. Students observe and record what happens. Leave the jars for one week and observe and record again. Students draw conclusions about what type of tissue is the most environmentally sound (easiest to treat at a treatment plant). Note: At the treatment plant, materials that stay in larger pieces are best as they are removed in one of the first two screening stages. Small, slushy pieces (and dyes) must be chemically removed.

Variations

Discuss environmental claims on product packaging. Flushable wipes are a product that is also of concern to wastewater treatment plant operators. There are a number of current [online media articles](#) ⁴⁶ to provide a 'real-world' context for this issue and flushable wipes could be added to jars in the hands-on activity above.

Year level/s: Years 6 and 7 but suitable for all year levels

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4H02), Year 8 Science (AC9S8H04), Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04)

Geographical concepts: sustainability; Civics and citizen concepts: active citizenship

Science ideas: scientific inquiry, sustainability

5. WATER USE AND MANAGEMENT

5.1 Water sensitive urban design ⁴⁷

Hands-on activity / Creative activity

⁴⁴ Sydney Water: Stage 4 Science resources: Practical Investigation *Wipes out of pipes* <https://www.sydneywater.com.au/education/programs-resources/high-school.html>

⁴⁵ Unity Water Toilets and Sewerage: *What happens when you flush?* <https://www.unitywater.com/residential/toilets-and-sewerage>

⁴⁶ Unity Water Toilets and Sewerage: *Wet wipes are rubbish* <https://www.unitywater.com/residential/toilets-and-sewerage>

⁴⁷ Barwon Water: Water – learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 2 Water in the urban environment* Page 65 https://www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/6279/Water-Learn-it!-Live-it!-Volume-2-Water-in-the-Urban-Environment.pdf

Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) is a concept that refers to designing and planning urban areas that use water in an environmentally sustainable way. The key principles of WSUD include protecting natural water bodies, directing stormwater, protecting water quality, and reducing run-off. Students use an online search engine to find out about raingardens. What are they? Why should we use them? Find some instructions on how to plan and build your own raingarden. As a class or in groups, students use the instructions to plan and design a raingarden in their school.

Variations

Walk around the school gardens after a period of heavy rain. Where is the water collecting? Are there puddles in some places? Why might a garden help?

Visit the [Melbourne Water website](#)⁴⁸ to find out what sorts of techniques WSUD includes. Select one feature to research.

Year level/s: Years 7 -10

Key curriculum link/s: Year 7 Geography ((AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7K05) (AC9HG7K08) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S02); Year 10 Geography (AC9HG10K04) (AC9HG10S02) (AC9HG10S06)

Geographical concepts: sustainability, environment, liveability

5.2 Plan a liveable settlement⁴⁹

Lesson

Discuss the term ‘liveability’ and what students think increases the liveability of a place for them. They should consider the role of water in liveability and the value people place on water for their physical and mental wellbeing. In this lesson students use the Sydney water ‘Liveable cities’ information and the video [Water: Enriching life and liveability](#)⁵⁰ to identify what settlements need to make them liveable. They can plan a new settlement to include features ‘needed’ to ensure it is liveable. Water in the new settlement may be limited so students should consider all sources of water (dams, groundwater, desalinated sea water, recycled water, stormwater harvesting or other new innovative sources).

Variations

Students replan their own neighbourhood to enhance liveability, with the focus being on water. Link the planning activity to Activities 3.1, 4.1 and 4.3 for an added a focus on sustainability.

Year level/s: Years 5-10

⁴⁸ Melbourne Water: *How to build a raingarden.* <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/environmental-issues/why-we-need-save-water/tips-saving-water/raingardens>

⁴⁹ Sydney Water: Liveable cities <https://www.sydneywater.com.au/education/water-management/liveable-cities.html>

⁵⁰ Water services Association of Australia: Water Enriching life and liveability <https://www.wsaa.asn.au/water-enriching-life-and-liveability>

Key curriculum link/s: Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K05) (AC9HG7K06) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S06)
Geographical concepts: sustainability, environment, liveability

5.3 Stormwater campaign⁵¹

Lesson

Many environmental campaigns from the past have encouraged people to put their rubbish in the bin or to clean up their local areas. Students can research past campaigns then create their own. Ideas for campaigns include creating slogans, posters, TV ads, songs or a performance.

Variations

Research some successful campaigns, for example Clean Up Australia Day and Keep Australia Beautiful. What makes them work?

Year level/s: Year 5 - 10

Key curriculum link/s: Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7K08) (AC9HG7S06) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S05) (AC9HG7S06)

Geographical concepts: sustainability; Civics and citizen concepts: active citizenship

5.4 Drink tap double bubble⁵²

Hands-on activity

On one piece of paper, draw (or make on the computer) a cluster of blue bubbles attached to a bubble labelled 'tap water', a cluster of purple bubbles attached to a bubble labelled 'bottled water' and a cluster of green bubbles attached to both. Inside the blue bubbles, students list all of the things that are unique to treated tap water such as: goes through a filtering system, treated according to highly regulated standards. Inside the purple bubbles, they list all of the things that are unique to bottled water, such as: uses water from underground springs, uses plastic bottles. Inside the green bottles, students then list what bottled water and tap water have in common, such as: necessary for survival, helps keep us hydrated. Discuss the positives and negatives of both types of water.

Variations

This activity can be used in an incursion with another activity that explores why water is important for human health. It uses a three-dimensional anatomical model of a human with removable parts to build understanding of how water helps the human organs to function at

⁵¹ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water - learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 2 Water in the urban environment* Page 48 <https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

⁵² North East Water: *Drink tap double bubble* activity teacher information worksheet <https://www.newater.com.au/Portals/0/NE-Water/Sections/What-we-do/Education/Teacher-resources/Choose-Tap/Choose-Tap-Double-Bubble-Activity-Teacher-Information.pdf>

their best. The incursion also provides information on the environmental and cost benefits of drinking tap water.

Year level/s: Years 4 and 7 but also suitable for Years 5-8

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4H02); Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K06) (AC9HS4K06); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S04)

Geographical concepts: sustainability. Science ideas: scientific inquiry, sustainability

5.5 Bottled water⁵³

Hands-on activity

This activity asks students to list the good and bad aspects of bottled and tap water before and after they watch the YouTube video [The Story of Bottled Water](#)⁵⁴. A worksheet is provided for students to compare their impressions.

Variations

This activity has a number of extensions:

- Students create a chant, song or poem that remind other students to bring a refillable water bottle to school instead of buying bottled water.
- Students plan a campaign to ban bottled water being sold or used at school.
- Students investigate the strategies used to market bottled water.

The [brand without a bottle](#)⁵⁵ is Sydney Water's project-based learning resource to build students' writing skills in a fun and engaging way. Students analyse and create persuasive texts by studying different marketing strategies used by bottled water companies. By inspiring your students to make a short film, you can engage them, spark their imagination and creativity, and improve their persuasive writing skills all at the same time. And they'll learn about the impact of how people choose to get their hydration.

A full set of supporting resources is provided for download online. Targeted at persuasive writing in English, the activity links with Australian Curriculum Geography topics.

Year level/s: Years 4 and 7 but also suitable for Years 5-8

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Science (AC9S4H02); Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K06) (AC9HS4K06); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S04) (AC9HG7S06)

Geographical concepts: sustainability; Civics and citizen concepts: active citizenship

⁵³ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water – learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 3 Water in the community* Bottled Water p. 46

<https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

⁵⁴ The Story of Stuff: The Story of Bottled Water,

<https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-bottled-water/>

⁵⁵ Sydney <https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-bottled-water/>Water: Programs and Resources: High School, *The Brand without a bottle*. <https://www.sydneywater.com.au/education/programs-resources/high-school/the-brand-without-a-bottle.html>

5.6 Water bingo ⁵⁶

Game

To prepare for this game, record a range of water sounds: running a shower, brushing teeth, drinking water/water in a glass, flushing toilet, water running down a sink, a running tap and a sprinkler. You could also include other water sounds: waves, rainfall, frogs and thunder. A number of websites provide free downloads of sound effects. An activity sheet is provided with images that match the sound effects or you could make your own.

Students then play water bingo—they place a coloured counter on the image when they hear the matching sound. The student who matches all correctly and shouts ‘bingo’ is the winner.

Variations

Afterwards, younger students can engage in activities that use water such as making jelly, painting with watercolours and blowing bubbles using water and detergent.

Year level/s: Years Foundation - Year 1

Key curriculum link/s: Foundation Geography (AC9HSFK03) Geography Year 1 (AC9HS1K03)

6. USING WATER WISELY

6.1 Water at home ⁵⁷

Lesson

The intention of this activity is for students to recognise the ways water is used in the home and how to reduce water use.

Brainstorm the ways water is used in the house or garden – e.g. washing the dog, cleaning dishes, and drinking. Collect and display these words according to categories such as: cleaning; cooking; playing. Students use ‘think, pair, share’ to consider ways to save water and share them with the class, briefly describing or displaying water saving actions. Remind them that simple actions can save lots of water. This information could be displayed in the classroom, perhaps on a display shaped like a large bucket. Some numeracy activities are integrated into this activity

⁵⁶ Logan City Council Foundation Lesson 2 Water Bingo

<https://www.logan.qld.gov.au/downloads/file/1420/lesson-plan-foundation-year-lesson-2-water-bingo>

⁵⁷ Logan City Council: Year 1 Lesson 4: Being a water saver at home

<https://www.logan.qld.gov.au/downloads/file/1408/lesson-plan-year-1-lesson-4-being-a-watersaver-at-home>

Variations

[Every drop counts, being waterwise!](#)⁵⁸ is a similar activity that includes a tool to measure water use at home and an extension activity in which students create a waterwise garden [Water – learn it. live it.](#)⁵⁹ offers an additional idea—students create an educational board game (such as Snakes and Ladders, Monopoly or Trivial Pursuit) to teach younger students about efficient water use at home. Students should come up with a clear set of rules, clear instructions and ensure there is a winner at the end. Students should also make sure their information is accurate.

Hunter Water [Water Use Calculator](#)⁶⁰ can assist students to calculate personal or household water use.

Year level/s: Years 1 - 7 but suitable for all years if adapted.

Key curriculum link/s: Foundation Geography (AC9HSFK03) Geography Year 1 (AC9HS1K03); Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K06); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S06)

Geographical concepts: sustainability; Civics and citizen concepts: active citizenship

6.2 [Water careers](#)⁶¹

Lesson (x 2)

This activity contains two lessons. The first lesson sets the background understanding for the second. In ‘Water challenges’ (Page 31) students respond to hypothetical scenarios about water shortages. The lesson activity requires the preparation ‘what if’ water scenario cards, with text or images provided in the resources. or Use scenarios that are suitable for the class.

In ‘Water carers’ (Page 38), after considering hypothetical water scenarios students draw on their understandings about water, to design and produce persuasive posters. These are to be placed in prominent places in the school and possibly in the wider community to inform people about reasons and strategies for reducing water usage. Students also complete a sorting task to demonstrate their understanding of water and how it is used.

Variations

Teachers use the full sequence of connected water lessons in this resource for continuity and focus on deep understanding.

⁵⁸ Junior Landcare Learning Activity: Every Drop Counts. https://juniorlandcare.org.au/learning_activity/every-drop-counts-being-water-wise/

⁵⁹ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water – learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 3 Water in the community Water at home* p. 26

<https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

⁶⁰ Hunter Water Water Usage Calculator <https://waterusage.hunterwater.com.au/>

⁶¹ Waterwise Queensland Water Learn it for life Year 2 Science for the Australian Curriculum. Lesson 9 and Lesson 10. https://www.resources.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1407633/year2-wonder-water.pdf

Year level/s: Years 2-7

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K06); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S06); Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02)

Geographical concepts: sustainability; Civics and citizen concepts: active citizenship

6.3 School water audit⁶²

Lesson / Incursion/ Take home activity

This lesson or introductory activity is useful for students in the early years to highlight just how many places water comes from around the school. Students are asked to suggest the areas around the school where they think water is used. Make a list then discuss any areas that they may have overlooked. Students may think of drinking fountains and taps but may not take showerheads, toilets or tanks into consideration. Students take a walk around the school and grounds to review all of the places water is used. Complete a water audit to see what fixtures and fittings the school has and make a note of any that are broken or leaking. Worksheets are provided or can be created to suit a school's size and facilities. Students may be asked to complete a similar activity at home.

Variations

The [Water – learn it. live it.](#)⁶³ version provides worksheets to fill in the information students find during their audit. The activity can be extended using copies of the school's water bills and datalogger information to graph and chart water use.

Year level/s: Years 2 and 7 but also suitable for Years 3-6

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K06); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S06); Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02)

Geographical and scientific concepts: sustainability; Civics and citizen concepts: active citizenship

6.4 Using water efficiently⁶⁴

Take home activity

A single dripping tap can waste up to 20,000 litres of water per year. If found early, leaking taps may be fixed by simply replacing a worn washer. Water efficient appliances are another effective way to use only the water you need at home. A worksheet is provided for students

⁶² Queensland Government: Water: Learn it for life! (2013) *Lower Primary School Water Audit* p. 6
https://www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1407631/prep-year3-water-audit.pdf

⁶³ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water – learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 3 Water in the community* p. 29

<https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

⁶⁴ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water – learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 3 Water in the community* p. 32

<https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

to audit their home to find out how many leaks they have and how many water efficient appliances are in each room of the house. Another worksheet offers a place for students to calculate how much water is used for each dripping tap.

Variations

The Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) program is introduced to draw students' attention to water efficient products.

Year level/s: Year 7 but also suitable for Years 3-6

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K06); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S06); Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02)

Geographical concepts: environment, sustainability

Civics and citizen concepts: active citizenship; Scientific concepts: scientific inquiry, sustainability

6.5 Embodied water⁶⁵

Hands-on activity

Embodied water, sometimes called ‘virtual’ or ‘hidden’ water, refers to the total amount of water required to produce an item, for example an apple, a loaf of bread, a car or a smartphone. Embodied water takes into account the water used in the item’s production and transport. Using an online calculator or app, students research how much water is used to produce everyday items. Using pictures or models of items (for example, a chip packet or a fake apple or toy cow), ask students to put in order the items that use the least water to the items that use the most.

Variations

The [Angela Morelli infographic](#)⁶⁶ can be used as an introduction to this topic.

The Australian Environmental Education [Water Use Table](#)⁶⁷ can assist students to calculate personal or household water use.

The [Water Footprint PDF](#)⁶⁸ presentation can be used for a deeper investigation into Virtual Water as a component of water use at a variety of scales - personal to national.

Year level/s: Year 7 but also suitable for Years 5, 6, and 8

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K06); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04); Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02)

Geographical concepts: sustainability; Civics and citizen concepts: active citizenship

6.6 Using greywater⁶⁹

Demonstration or hands-on activity

Greywater contains contaminants like detergent, oil and soap so it cannot be reused for drinking. However, these contaminants are often hard to see so care must be taken when and where we use greywater. This experiment demonstrates the typical contaminants in our

⁶⁵ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water – learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 3 Water in the community* p. 42

<https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

⁶⁶ Morelli, Angela (2012) Infographic: The water we eat. *What if I told you...*

<https://thewaterweeat.com>

⁶⁷ Australian Environmental Education website

<https://www.australianenvironmentaleducation.com.au/activities/school-water-audit/>

⁶⁸ Water Footprint Network presentation

https://www.waterfootprint.org/resources/schoolresources/WFN_presentation_schools.pdf

⁶⁹ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water – learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 3 Water in the community* p. 64

<https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

greywater and students are asked to analyse and research the effect it might have on our gardens.

Into a large empty soft drink bottle, pour 3 cups of water. Add 1 cup of cooking oil. Screw the lid on and shake it. What do you see? Take the lid off and add 1 cup of dishwashing detergent. Replace the lid and shake it again. Students record their observations again. Leave the bottle to settle for 10 minutes and describe what you see. Does it look safe enough to drink or to put on your garden?

Variations

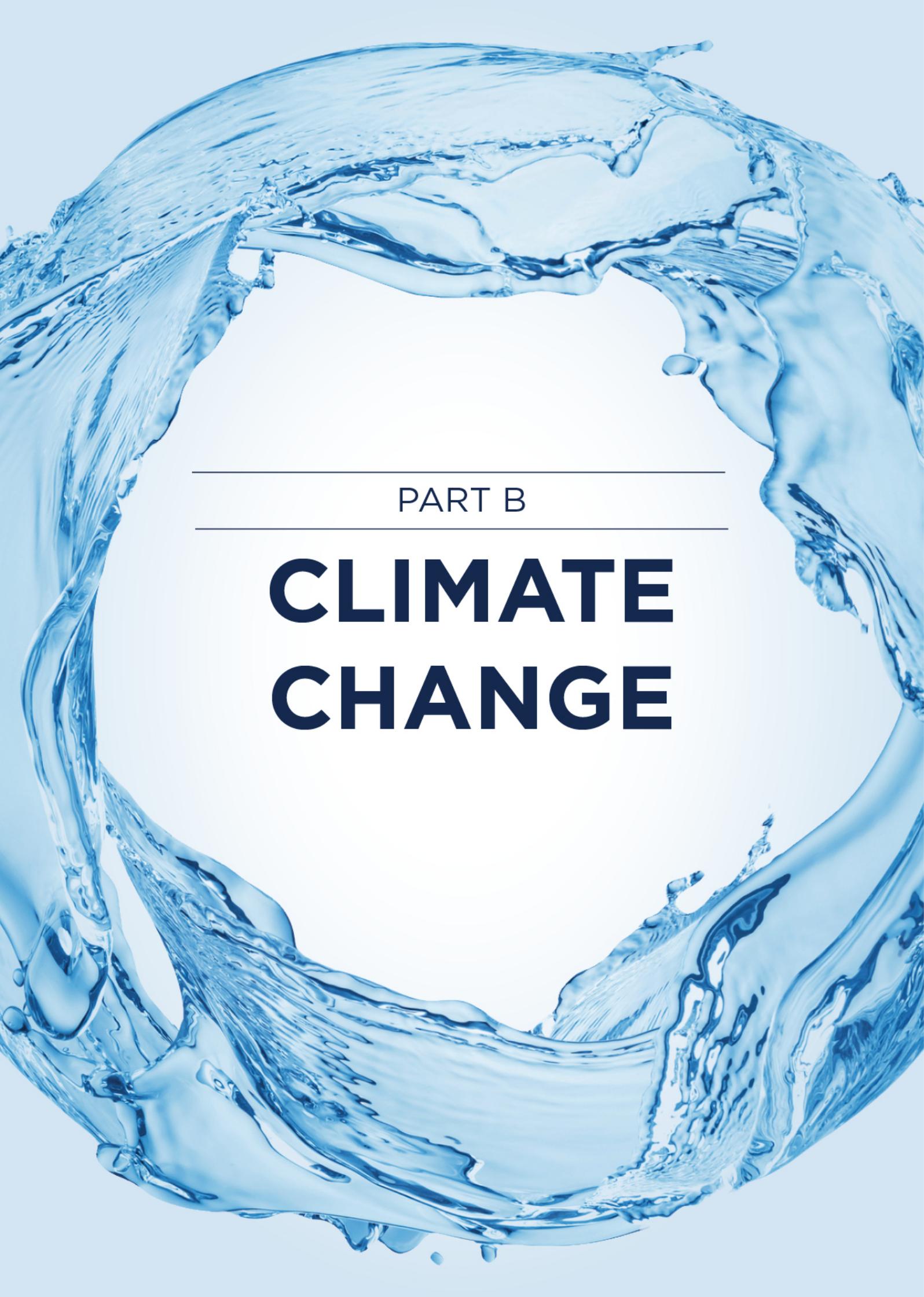
Discuss where greywater may be used around the home and where it should not be used.

Year level/s: Years 4 - 7

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K06); Year 4 Science (AC9S4U02)

Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04)

Geographical and scientific concepts: sustainability



PART B

CLIMATE CHANGE

PART B. CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 Climate changing ⁷⁰

Lesson

Students discuss differences between weather and climate and the impacts of weather and climate on water supplies using the text on [Water - learn it. live it.](#) Volume 1 Page 64 as a starting point.

For the main activity, they create a set of interview questions for an older friend or relative about how they have noticed their local climate changing over time. Students reflect on the most interesting thing they learnt. They could create a PowerPoint presentation about their findings or write an article including quotes and images. Students use the Engage, Connect, Explore, framework to analyse their findings. Details about this activity can be found on Page 64.

Year level/s: Year 2 - 7 but suitable for most year levels

Key curriculum link/s: Year 4 Geography (AC9HS4K06); Year 7 Geography (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S01) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04)

Geographical concepts: environment, sustainability, change

7.2 Weather makers – Water worries ⁷¹

Lesson

A free membership is available to teachers / schools to access and download the Cool Australia, Teacher Guidelines and Student Worksheets⁷² for this activity.

Students investigate how rainfall levels are changing in Australia. They begin the activity by brainstorming the causes and effects of declining rainfall using guided questions before completing a student worksheet. Depending on age or ability, students can either work independently or in pairs. Activities include

- calculating and comparing the percentage of water available and inflow levels in cities across Australia.

⁷⁰ City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water: Water – learn it. live it. (2013) *Volume 1 Water in the natural environment* p. 60

<https://14568786.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/14568786/Careers%20in%20Water/WATER.%20LEARN%20IT.%20LIVE%20IT..zip>

⁷¹ Cool Australia. Activity: Weather Makers - Water worries <https://www.coolaustralia.org/activity/weather-makers-water-worries/>

⁷² Cool Australia: <https://cool.org/lessons/weather-makers-water-worries#heading-2-lesson-guides-and-printables>

- investigating ways of harvesting and storing water by researching and assess the strangest or weirdest water harvesting or storage ideas they can find and creating a blog post on these ideas.

Variations

As an extension activity, students predict the annual average water consumption in 20 years' time, taking into account better efficiency measures and projected population growth.

Year level/s: Year 7

Key curriculum link/s: Geography 7 (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04) (AC9HG7S05) (AC9HG7S06)

Geographical concepts: environment, sustainability, change

7.3 More water / less water ⁷³

Lesson / Discussion / Spatial technologies

The activities in this lesson require students to consider the impact of climate change on water resources generally and then specifically in the region of NSW where they live.

1. As an introductory activity, students can examine the illustration depicting climate change and the water cycle from the [Australian Climate Council](#)⁷⁴ to discuss the impact of climate change on rainfall distribution. They can be asked to predict whether they think their own location will become wetter or drier with climate change in the future.
2. Students discuss [How water resources are affected by climate change in NSW](#)⁷⁴. They consider surface water, groundwater and water quality.
3. In NSW, students use the Adapt NSW [Interactive Climate Change Projection Map](#) to investigate predicted changes in climate for NSW and ten regions. Information available includes temperature, rainfall, fire, heat and cold nights across two projected scenarios - to 2030 and to 2070 referred to as Near Future and Far Future. Students can work in small groups to:
 - select their own region from the dropdown menu and examine predictions for the Near Future and Far Future.
 - download the regional report to examine the diagrammatic summary of predicted changes to climate on page 3.
 - compare predicted changes for their region to all of NSW and another region.
 - write a scenario describing what life would be like in 2030 and 2070 under the current predictions. This could include references to water security and liveability.

⁷³ ADAPTNSW <https://www.climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/home>

⁷⁴ ADAPT NSW: Water resources

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/climate-change-and-the-water-cycle/>

- develop a personal and class plan of action to address climate change at a local scale.

Year level/s: Year 7 - 10

Key curriculum link/s: Geography 7 (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S02) (AC9HG7S03) (AC9HG7S04) (AC9HG7S06); Geography 10 (AC9HG10K01) (AC9HG10K06) (AC9HG10S06); Science 10 (AC910U04)

Geographical concepts: place, change, environment, sustainability

Civics and citizen concepts: active citizenship

7.4 Save climate change while acting⁷⁵

Lesson / Creative activity

The purpose of this activity is for students to practice their improvisational skills but with a climate change twist! Each group is given a story of someone suffering from climate change and they are tasked with acting it out with a positive mindset.

Variations

Students link the human impacts of climate changes to the water cycle, water resources and water related hazards.

Everyday stories of climate change⁷⁶ is a graphic novel that also contains human stories of climate change that can be used in a similar way or added to the stories in the main activity.

Year level/s: Year 7 - 10

Key curriculum link/s: Geography 7 (AC9HG7K02) (AC9HG7S04) (AC9HG7S06); Geography 10 (AC9HG10K01) (AC9HG10K06)

Geographical concepts: change, environment, sustainability

⁷⁵Climate Science: Change while acting. <https://climatescience.org/schools/solve-climate-change-while-acting-9-11?curr=2bddc015-9301-4638-a007-560de57053cd>

⁷⁶ Gemma Sou: *Everyday Stories of climate change*: Graphic novel <https://gemmasou.com>



PART C

CAREERS

C. CAREERS

The Australian Water Association has a [Careers in Water](#) program and website which is an evolving hub of resources with entrance pathways, inspiring stories and relevant links to explore the boundless opportunities into the water sector.

The program is an important part of a strategy to build skills capacity and retain existing employees within the sector to deliver a sustainable water future.

Attracting young people and making it easy for them to understand pathways and connect to the water industry and AWA Member recruiters is the first step.

Our Ambassadors are the front line of inspiring them to understand the value and importance of water, our shared responsibility to protect it as an important resource and the diverse range of roles available for them to consider when they are ready to choose a career path.

8.1 Careers expo

Event

Local governments often run careers expos for year 10 and/or 11 students. Setting up a stand at one of these expos, along with a member of staff who is an engineer or human resource professional, is a great way to show students what your company offers and what types of careers are available in the water industry.

Variations

Some expos give students a passport this is stamped once certain activities are completed. Students fill in the passport throughout the day. Puzzles or games are popular for this. Giveaways are also handy.

Year level/s: Years 9 and 10

8.2 Water themed field day

Event/Excursion

Invite students along to a water or environmental themed field day, along with other environmental education providers. Students complete hands-on activities throughout the day and learn more about the industry.

Year level/s: Years 5-8

8.3 Guest speaker

Incursion

Some teachers like having an industry professional come to speak to their students in specific classes. This may also be relevant for TAFE or university groups. Industry professionals talk about their career and other careers in the water industry and conduct a Q & A (question and answer) session. If the water corporation has a graduate program, this may be useful for senior secondary, TAFE and/or university groups. Younger students may be interested in how their learning relates to the water industry.

Variations

Water authorities often have a section of their website promoting careers related to water. Teacher Associations may have publications such as careers posters and flyers that highlight careers with water linked to Geography or Science.

Year level/s: Years 5–9, TAFE and university students in a range of courses (Engineering, Science, Administration, Education, Communication)



RESOURCES

RESOURCES

Books / PDFs

CSIRO

The Waterbug Book by John Gooderham

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/3148.htm>

Global Education Project

Water for life (PDF)

https://www.globaleducation.edu.au/verve/_resources/Water_for_Life_web.pdf

Water For Life Queensland

Water: Learn it for Life Year 7 Science for the Australian Curriculum

https://www.resources.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1407640/year7-water-cycles.pdf

Posters

Water Corporation WA

Think before you flush poster

<https://www.watercorporation.com.au/-/media/WaterCorp/Documents/Help-and-advice/Water-issues/Flush-poster.pdf?rev=ed1aada270ff4377b66bdf8a21d721e1>

Waterwise Queensland Government

Water cycle poster

https://www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1407628/water-cycle-poster.pdf

Sydney water

Urban Water cycle poster

<https://www.sydneywater.com.au/content/dam/sydneywater/documents/education/urban-water-cycle-presentation.pdf>

Games, activities and animations

Angela Morelli

Virtual water infographic The Water we eat

<https://thewaterweeat.com>

ABC Science

Catchment detox

<https://www.abc.net.au/science/catchmentdetox/files/play-game.htm>

EPA (USA)

<http://water.epa.gov/learn/kids/drinkingwater/gamesandactivities.cfm>

Interactive site for education

<http://interactivesites.weebly.com/clouds--water-cycle.html>

Project WET – Water Education for Teachers

<http://www.discoverwater.org/>

South East Water

Natural water cycle and game

<http://www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/natural-water-cycle/>

Urban water cycle and game

<http://www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/melbourne-water-cycle/>

Australian Science Teachers Association

Wetrocks games

<http://www.wetrocks.com.au/games>

Videos

Barwon Water

School Resources

<https://www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/community-and-education/teachers-and-students/school-resources>

Ecosafe international

Innovative technologies to improve water quality

https://www.ted.com/talks/michael_pritchard_invents_a_water_filter

Hands on H2O Water Lab (NRMA)

www.watersciencelab.com.au

<http://www.watersciencelab.com.au/videos.html>

Melbourne Water

Learning resources and tours

<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/learning-resources-and-tours>

The story of stuff project

The story of bottled water

<http://storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-bottled-water/>

SA Water

Treated well, it's not just waste: A remarkable journey. (Part 1 of 3)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iocus1ZyNbU>

Treated well, it's not just waste: An amazing transformation. (Part 2 of 3)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cbnRwWGIE0>

Treated well, it's not just waste: An important responsibility. (Part 3 of 3)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yK4Q_RQRIT8

SA Water – safe, clean drinking water

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iRJ0AVobIw>

South East Water

States of matter

<http://www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/resources/changing-water-video/>

How we use water

<http://www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/resources/water-for-our-future-video/>

SEQ Water

Video Gallery

<http://www.seqwater.com.au/education>

Sydney Water TV

Water filtration explained

<https://youtu.be/31ZUXx6NXDA>

Ultrafiltration at St Marys Water Recycling Plant

<https://youtu.be/Ge6RT6eAXDA>

How does reverse osmosis work?

https://youtu.be/aVdWqbpbv_Y

The osmosis principle

<https://youtu.be/2RNVkHRQ-Lg>

ACT - Icon Water

A variety of videos

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ACTEWCorporation>

Free the Poo

<https://www.iconwater.com.au/my-home/free-the-poo/game-desktop>

Unity Water

Resources

<https://www.unitywater.com/community/education>

Virtual tours

South East Water

Treatment plant tour

<https://www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/resources/where-does-the-water-go-video>

Sydney Water TV

Sydney Water's wastewater treatment explained

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rntqxqrJ2Yk>

Victorian Desalination Plant

Desal Plant Virtual Tour

<https://youtu.be/kW3JFRHw9BA?si=vvvLroQqWI7EwKnB>

WA Water Corporation

A great variety of videos including groundwater, catchment to tap, desalination, reverse osmosis and water and the drying climate.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQHJSMfAX-CGTrIOSnGKLMA>

Fact sheets and other resources

Barwon Water

Excursions / Incursions and resources

<https://www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/community-and-education/teachers-and-students>

Cool Australia

Water resources

<https://cool.org/search?term=water>

Fizzics Education

Water science activities

<https://www.fizzicseducation.com.au/category/150-science-experiments/water-science-activities/>

Melbourne Water

Teacher resources and fact sheets

<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/education>

NT Power and Water (PowerWater)

That's my water

<https://www.powerwater.com.au/about/community/thats-my-nt-water-story>

South East Water

Fact sheets about treatment plants, recycled water and the water cycle

<https://www.educationsoutheastwater.com.au/resources/>

Wannon Water

A variety of water resources for primary schools

<https://www.wannonwater.com.au/stronger-communities/learning-centre.aspx>

ACT - Icon Water

Water Education

<https://www.iconwater.com.au/Water-education.aspx>

WaterNSW

Education resources

<https://www.watnsw.com.au/water-quality/education>

Sydney Water

Education Programs and resources

<https://www.sydneywater.com.au/education>

Sustainable schools NSW

Water programs and activities

<https://sustainableschoolsnsw.org.au/curriculum/teaching-resources/water/>

STELR - Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering.)

Water in the 21st Century is a STEM education program designed to engage students in learning about the Earth's water resources and sustainable use of water.

<https://stelr.org.au/stelr-modules/water-in-the-21st-century/>