AUSTRALIAN WATER ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL WATER WEEK

Water is Life

National Water Week Quiz 2026

Upper primary (Years 3 to 6)

Questions

Assumption-busting questions about stormwater, sewerage, catchments, hidden water and local action.

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A neighbour empties pool water into the street gutter. Where is that water most likely to go?

A. To a wastewater treatment plant
B. Into stormwater drains and possibly a creek, river, wetland or ocean
C. Back into the drinking water pipes
D. Into the sewerage system automatically

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Which system usually carries water from toilets, showers, sinks and laundries?

A. Stormwater
B. Aquifer
C. Irrigation
D. Sewerage

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Which statement about “flushable” wipes is true?

A. They disappear as soon as they are flushed
B. They should go into stormwater drains
C. They can still block pipes and pumps
D. They clean the sewerage system

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What is a catchment?

A. A water bottle that catches rain
B. An area of land where water drains to a common low point
C. A pipe under a house
D. A tank used only for toilets

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Which is the most accurate difference between a dam and a reservoir?

A. A dam is usually the barrier; a reservoir is the stored water behind it
B. A dam is underground; a reservoir is always in the ocean
C. A dam stores sewage; a reservoir stores stormwater
D. They are always completely different words for unrelated things

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A student says, “Rainwater is clean, so stormwater must be clean too.” Which response is best?

A. True, rainwater always stays clean after it lands
B. True, gutters clean stormwater as it passes through
C. Not always, but only if the rain is heavy
D. Not always: stormwater can pick up litter, oil, soil, fertiliser and animal waste

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What is an aquifer?

A. A machine that filters seawater
B. An underground layer of rock, sand or gravel that can store and move groundwater
C. A pipe that carries stormwater
D. A small dam in a backyard

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Which item has hidden water connections before it reaches you?

A. A cotton T-shirt
B. A slice of bread
C. A mobile phone
D. None of A, B & C
E. All of A, B & C

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A school finds leaking taps but repairs cost money. What information would help decide what to do?

A. How much water is being lost
B. How much repairs cost
C. Whether the leaks are getting worse
D. All of these details help the decision

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Why might a fishway be built near a dam or weir?

A. To help fish move past barriers in a river
B. To stop all fish entering rivers
C. To clean drinking water
D. To hide the fish from birds of prey

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Why are mangroves important for water and climate – choose from the following options:

1. They store carbon and provide habitat
2. They can help protect coastlines
3. They trap sediment and support waterway health
4. They are only useful as scenery

A. Option 1 only
B. Option 4 only
C. Options 1 & 2 only
D. Options 1, 2 & 3

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Why is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge important when caring for rivers, wetlands and other waterways?

A. It only applies to waterways in remote areas
B. It is exactly the same in every part of Australia
C. It includes knowledge built over many generations about Country, seasons, plants, animals and water
D. It can be used without permission or local guidance

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Answers

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Answer: B. Into stormwater drains and possibly a creek, river, wetland or ocean

Street gutters usually connect to stormwater systems, not sewerage systems. Stormwater may not be treated before reaching local waterways.

Discuss:

What might be in pool water that local waterways would not enjoy?

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Answer: D. Sewerage

Sewerage systems carry wastewater from homes and buildings to treatment plants. Stormwater systems carry rainwater runoff from outside surfaces.

Discuss:

Why does it matter that these systems are different?

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Answer: C. They can still block pipes and pumps

Many wipes do not break down like toilet paper. They can combine with fats and other materials to create blockages.

Discuss:

What should be flushed? What should be binned?

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Answer: B. An area of land where water drains to a common low point

A catchment is an area of land. What happens on roads, farms, parks and school grounds can affect the waterways in that catchment.

Discuss:

What catchment or local waterway is near our school?

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Answer: A. A dam is usually the barrier; a reservoir is the stored water behind it

People often say “dam” to mean the whole storage, but technically the dam is the wall or structure and the reservoir is the body of stored water.

Discuss:

Why do precise water words help?

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Answer: D. Not always: stormwater can pick up litter, oil, soil, fertiliser and animal waste

Stormwater is rainwater after it has travelled across surfaces. It can carry pollutants into creeks, rivers, wetlands or the ocean.

Discuss:

What could our school do to keep stormwater cleaner?

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Answer: B. An underground layer of rock, sand or gravel that can store and move groundwater

Groundwater is water stored underground. Aquifers are important for many communities, farms, ecosystems and cultural values.

Discuss:

Why might groundwater need careful management?

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Answer: E. All of A, B and C have hidden water connections

Water is used to grow cotton and food, process materials, manufacture products and support supply chains. Water use is often hidden from view.

Discuss:

Can you find hidden water connections in your school bag?

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Answer: D. All of these details help the decision

This is a trade-off question. Good water decisions need evidence about cost, risk, timing and benefits.

Discuss:

How could students present a fair recommendation to school leaders?

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Answer: A. To help fish move past barriers in a river

Water infrastructure can change river connectivity. Fishways can help some fish move along rivers to feed, breed and complete life cycles.

Discuss:

How can infrastructure support people and nature at the same time?

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Answer: D. Options 1, 2 & 3

Mangroves can provide habitat, store carbon, trap sediment and help protect coastlines. They are far more than scenery.

Discuss:

What wetland, coastal or river habitats are near us?

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Answer: C. It includes knowledge built over many generations about Country, seasons, plants, animals and water

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples hold deep knowledge of water and Country, developed through long relationships with particular places. This knowledge differs between communities and should be shared with permission and appropriate recognition.

Discuss:

What could local Traditional Owners teach us about caring for waterways on their Country?

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THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART!

Thank you for bringing people together to test your water knowledge and celebrate National Water Week.

Held annually in October, National Water Week encourages people across Australia to learn more about the value of water and the systems, people and places that help keep it safe, reliable and sustainable.

The quiz may be finished, but the conversation does not have to stop. Keep exploring where your water comes from, where it goes after you use it, and how water connects our communities, environment, culture and economy.

Discover more National Water Week activities and resources at:
https://www.nationalwaterweek.org

WE'D LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK

Tell us how you used the quiz, what your group learned and which questions prompted the most discussion.

Email: nationalwaterweek@awa.asn.au

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