

Save the Rain

SAVE A RAINDROP. SAVE A LIFE.

Calculate Personal Water Use

Have students fill out the chart below to estimate their daily water use.

Directions: Fill out the column with the number of times you do each action in one day. Then, multiply columns A and B to determine the estimated gallons of water you use per day for each activity. Place that answer in column C. Add the subtotals in column C, and write the final total in the box at the bottom right.

Action	A: Gallons used	B: Times per day	C: Total
Washing face / hands	1		
Taking a shower (standard shower-head)	50		
Taking a shower (low flow)	25		
Taking a bath	40		
Brushing teeth (water running)	2		
Brushing teeth (water turned off)	.25		
Flushing toilet	4		
Shaving	1.5		
Filling a glass of water to drink and allowing the water to get cold	2		
Washing dishes by hand	.25		
Running dishwasher	3		
Load of Laundry	30		
Watering the lawn	300		
Washing the car	50		
Total			

Add up all subtotals: _____

I use _____ gallons of water each day. The average African family uses five gallons of water each day. If you had access to only five gallons of water a day, how would you change the way you use water? Use the information from the Personal Water Use Chart to determine what a day's worth of water usage would look like if you only had access to five gallons.

GET EVERYONE INVOLVED

Family / Classroom Activity

Together with your family, list as many uses for water as you can.

Does your family use water differently at different times of the year?

Write your family's top 5 uses of water in order of importance.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Talk: Talk with your family / classroom about people who live in developing countries who may not have access to safe drinking water or the luxury of toilets, washing machines, dishwashers or any running water in their homes. Do you think people without access to safe drinking water use their water differently than the way you use yours? How?

Think: Now, think about what would happen if you woke up tomorrow and you no longer had access to water at home or in your town. Your family / class will only be able to get water from a well that is located two miles from your home/ school. If you had to walk miles every day to collect water discuss how you might use your water differently, what would your priorities be?

Discuss: Now, discuss how you might work together with your family/ class to bring the amount of water that you need on a daily basis to home / school. Assign a role to each member of the family / class.

(Things to consider: You will need 15 gallons of water. What container size will you use? How much will the containers weigh? Do you have younger siblings? Is everyone in the family capable of making the trip?