Water

Conservation | Pollution | Watershed Education | Freshwater and Marine Wildlife | Hydration | Waste | Collection | Grey Water Recycling | Rain Barrels

Water covers about 70 percent of the Earth's surface. But the vast majority of Earth's water is found in the oceans, too salty to drink and unfit for many other applications. Of the freshwater on Earth, about two-thirds is frozen in the ice caps and glaciers, which leaves less than one percent accessible for human use.

Fresh clean water is one of the basic necessities of life. But in the United States and throughout the world, it is becoming a scarce resource. As weather patterns shift and temperatures rise due to climate change, water security, including health and conservation will only become more crucial.

Most people take water for granted, that it has always been in abundance and available, much in the same way that electricity or heating are perceived.

By studying water, where it comes from, how it cycles through the environment and why we are so dependent on it, students will develop their systems thinking skills. Most importantly they will also come to understand how water connects us intimately with millions of species and with the landscapes and wildlife we love.

Driving Questions

- ✓ How can we, as hydrologists, better educate our community on how water moves through our watershed and promote the importance of a healthy watershed?
- ✓ How can we, as water utility managers, educate the community about storm water curb and gutter inlets in an effort to reduce harmful pollutants from entering our local waterways?
- ✓ How can we, as a school district facilities manager, reduce water consumption and waste within the schools?
- ✓ How can we, as conservation biologists, understand the needs of the plant and animal life in our local watershed and engage the community in action-oriented activities that will make a positive impact on our watershed ecosystems?

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Top 10 Tips | Fast Facts | Standards Alignment | Sample Action Plan | Water Audit | Lesson Links