

Water Savers: Introduction – Why save water?

Regardless of how much rain you may have received recently in your local area, Australia is the driest populated continent on the earth. Water therefore needs to be used wisely and not wasted. In Australia we are lucky to have clean water provided to our homes as compared with much of the continent of Africa where this is not the case. In Africa water is not wasted but valued as a precious resource, far more so than here in Australia. In this unit of work you can identify ways of saving water in and around your home.

1. On the map of Australia below draw a line to indicate the approximate area that receives 400mm or less of rain per year on average and shade this area brown. Shade the rest of Australia green. Write a legend at the bottom to define the colours. Estimate what percentage of Australia has been shaded brown.

For information about how much of Australia is a desert check your atlas or the following link on the bureau of meteorology website, http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/climate_averages/rainfall/index.jsp



LEGEND:

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2. Go to the www.savewater.com.au website and click on “Why save water?” and “The global water situation”. What percentage of Australia is classified as desert or semi-desert?

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3. Do you think water consumption in your area is generally higher or lower than the national average? Explain why.

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4. Go to the www.savewater.com.au website and click on “Why save water?” and “The global water situation”. On average how much water does each Australian consume each year and how does this compare with other countries?

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5. Check at home (or ask your local water corporation) to find out how much water your household consumed during the last year then divide by the number of people living in your house to get the average amount of water per person consumed.

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6. As a class calculate the average amount of water consumed by each student. How does your class average compare with the average Australian (see your answer to question 4)? You can also see how you personally compare with the average Australian and with the rest of your class.

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7. Water consumption rates will of course vary with several factors such as the size of gardens but sometimes will depend on how much water is wasted. Make a list of factors that could determine the amount of water consumed by a household. Try to specify at least four items.

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8. In groups find from your atlas or the internet what the average annual rainfall is for the capital city of each Australian State and Territory.

Adelaide:	.....	Brisbane:	.....
Canberra:	.....	Darwin:	.....
Hobart:	.....	Melbourne:	.....
Perth:	.....	Sydney:	.....

9. Governments in Australia often impose water restrictions to help save water. In groups find out (online) what water restrictions (if any) apply in the capital city of each state and territory.

Adelaide:

Brisbane:

Canberra:

Darwin:

Hobart:

Melbourne:

Perth:

Sydney:

Is it a case that the cities that have the lowest annual rainfall have the highest water restrictions imposed?

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Further information

For more information on how you can save water at home, work or school visit www.savewater.com.au or contact your local water provider.

