



Going Green! Nature Van Pre-Activity

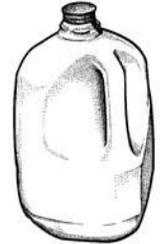


Our planet is covered mostly with water, but only about 3% of that water is **freshwater**. The rest of the water is makes up our oceans and is too salty for humans and animals to drink. During very dry conditions, like California's current drought, it is important to not waste freshwater. This activity will help us track how much water we use as part of our everyday activities. After discovering how much water we all use, we can also find ways to conserve even more water!

Part 1- How much is a gallon?

For this activity, students will be discussing average amounts of water used measured in terms of how many **gallons** it fills.

- Fill an empty gallon sized plastic jug, and then pour into various containers to gain an understanding of how much liquid a gallon can hold.
- Once you have finished measuring the water, make sure to reuse the water in your classroom wisely! Use it to water plants or wash your hands later.



Part 2- Track your water usage!

- Send each of your students home with the attached tracking sheet. Mark each time they do one of the listed actions. Have them do this every day for 7 days!
- At the end of the week, have them bring the sheet back to total up the amount of tallies for each action. Use the column titled "Average Number of Gallons" to see how many gallons of water were used for each action. Multiply this by the number of times they did the action. This will then give you the total number of gallons used for each row/action.
- Total up all the gallons used in the last column to get the week's total amount of water used.
- Make a chart of the students' totals to get a range of estimated water usage.
- Remember that these are estimates, and certain factors such as leaks, high or low flow hardware, or length of time can all make the water use more or less.

Part 3- How would you conserve?

- After completing one week of tracking water usage, ask the students what they would do to make that number less during a second week of tracking?
- Challenge them! Set a goal to reduce the class' overall water usage during a second week!





Going Green!



Keep track of how much water you use doing these simple activities! After 7 days, total up the number of times you did each action into the green column, and multiply it by the average number of gallons of water that action uses (grey column). Put these numbers in the blue column. Add those numbers from the blue column together to get your total water usage for a week!

ACTION	Average number of gallons used for each action	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total number of times you did action	Total number of gallons of water used
Brushing your teeth (with water running)	2 gallons									
Brushing your teeth (turn off faucet)	¼ gallon									
Washing Hands	1 gallon									
Taking a Shower (less than 10 minutes)	25 gallons									
Taking a Bath	40 gallons									
Washing Dishes	10 gallons									
Flushing Toilet	5 gallons									
Drinking Water	1/16 gallon per cup									
Total amount of water used in one week (in gallons) =										

On average, people use about 80 gallons of water in their homes every day. That is around 560 gallons of fresh, drinkable water every week! How did your number rank? Did you use water with any other household activities not listed here? What are some steps you would take to REDUCE the amount of water you use?