

# ‘Wise up to Water’ school resources

Request your **FREE**  
**Splash Trumps** cards  
to help teach students  
how to save water!



The Thames Water region, like much of the South East, is ‘seriously water-stressed’, which means a very high proportion of the drinking water in the environment is already used.

We know that water-saving habits started now will become a way of life for the future. That’s why we’re asking schools to help us by teaching children to think carefully about how they use water and actions they can take to save water.

We’ve pulled together some thought-provoking ways to introduce your students to the topic of water shortages and saving water and have included a new lesson plan inside which can be used with your **FREE Splash Trumps Cards**.

## Understanding water resources

Droughts are not caused by a few dry weeks and they can’t be solved by a few wet ones. We need regular rainfall throughout the year to make sure we have enough water to treat and send to your home and school.

Winter rainfall is really important as it refills the natural underground reservoir, which fill up the rivers. Summer rain is largely used up by plants and lost to evaporation.

As none of us can control the weather, we all need to use water responsibly.

At the moment, people in London and the Thames Valley each use 163 litres of water each day on average. That’s more than the national average and the Government target of 130 litres.



# What you can do to make a difference

Help students and staff in your school understand more about water shortages and the ways that they can reduce their water use at school and at home.

## Use the information and activities in this pack for discussion with your students

Help them understand what a drought is and why it happens. Encourage them to think about what they can do to make a difference and reduce how much water they use.

## Hold a Water-Wise assembly

Educate students about what actions you can take as a school to reduce your water consumption. You can find an example assembly plan at [www.thameswater.co.uk/primaryschools](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/primaryschools)

## Request a Thames Water speaker

We have a team of employees who are available to come and talk at your school. Whether you would like advice on how you can be more water-wise or you simply want to learn where your water comes from, we will do our very best to send someone to you.

Visit [www.thameswater.co.uk/speaker](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/speaker) to request a speaker.

## Order FREE packs of Thames Water cards to use with your students

These are a fun way to introduce information about how different actions can help save water and energy and how easy they are to follow. Order yours online and use the lesson plan provided to engage your students. You can also order stickers for your students to take home. The stickers and Splash trumps cards can be ordered online at [www.thameswater.co.uk/primaryschools](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/primaryschools)




## Explore our online interactive town, Waterwisely

Calculate how much water you and your students are using and discover all sorts of ways you can save water. Visit: [www.thameswater.co.uk/waterwisely](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/waterwisely)

## Find out about the water cycle

Help your students understand the water cycle, and how we treat water and waste. Visit: [www.thameswater.co.uk/cycles](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/cycles)


**Helga**



Take food out of the freezer the night before, it's the water-free way to let it thaw.

Energy saving	63
Water saving	45
Eco-cool	50
Easy to do	69

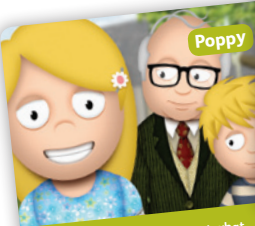
**Harry**



Toilet cisterns can leak, so with a grown-up take a peak. Throwing in food dye is a test you can try.

Energy saving	15
Water saving	100
Eco-cool	35
Easy to do	15

**Poppy**



Tell someone else about what you've done, so they can join in the water-saving fun.

Energy saving	20
Water saving	64
Eco-cool	98
Easy to do	15

# Learning about drought

## Lesson plan/activities

### Learning objectives:

- To understand what drought is
- To think about how drought can affect people, wildlife and the environment
- To understand how we can all make a difference by reducing our water usage

### Starter

- Share some pictures related to drought with the class. These could show cracked earth, dried river beds, or dried-up reservoirs. The pictures shown here give some examples.
- Discuss with the class what the pictures show and what they think about when they see them.
- Explain that these images are linked to drought. Give a definition of drought to the class. You may like to use the definition below:



**Drought is a period of time when a place or region has a lack of rainfall. Too little rainfall can cause shortages in the water supply, destroy crops and cause widespread hunger in developing countries.**

### Main input

Split the class into pairs or small groups and ask them to think about the ways that drought can affect:

- **People** – e.g. watering plants/crops, window cleaning businesses or other companies that rely on water.
- **Animals** – e.g. animals dying of thirst, being unable to wash/clean themselves, fish dying because of low river levels.
- **The environment** – e.g. dry land can cause dust storms, crops are unable to grow, if it does rain, the dry dust turns to mud and can wash away leaving exposed areas of land.

- Select some pairs/small groups to feedback their ideas to the class.
- Highlight that although we often associate drought with very hot countries, areas of the UK are also suffering from drought because they have not had enough rainfall. Share the **Understanding water resources** information on the front page of this pack with the class.
- Hold a whole class discussion to see what ideas the students can think of which would help them save water at school and at home. Share the **Top ten water-saving tips** from the back of this pack with the class if they are struggling to think of ideas.

### Group task

- Provide students with a pack of **Splash Trumps** cards. They create a fast, fun game for 2-4 players which helps students understand what actions they can take to make a difference and save water. Follow the instructions on your pack.

### Extension tasks:

- Ask students to write a letter to their parents/family or a friend asking them to take one action to help save water.
- Ask students to create a poster to display in school about taking action to save water to ensure there is enough to go around in the future.
- Ask students to create a film or advert, giving ideas for what action people can take to save water.
- Ask students to create their own Splash Trumps cards with water saving tips for use at school.
- Ask the students to choose one action they have discovered through class discussion or the Splash Trumps game that they will pledge to do to save water at school or at home and create a pledge card stating: **I have learnt that the Thames Water area is seriously water-stressed. To help save water I pledge to:**
- Pledge cards could be decorated and made to a size where students can display their pledges or carry them with them to show others.

### How to play Splash Trumps

- Shuffle and deal all the cards face down.
- Each player holds their cards so they can see the top card only.
- The player to the dealer's left starts by reading out an item from the top card (e.g. water saving 70).
- The other players then read out the same item.
- The one with the highest value wins and places all the cards including their own at the bottom of their pile. It is then their turn to choose an item from the next card. If two or more cards share the top value, then all the cards are placed in the middle and the same player chooses again from the next card.
- The winner of the hand takes the cards in the middle as well. The person with all the cards at the end is the winner.



# Further resources available

We have a range of resources designed to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom for primary school students. Visit the primary schools section of the Thames Water website [www.thameswater.co.uk/primaryschools](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/primaryschools) to access the following schools resources:

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## **Water Matters teacher's guide**

Water Matters has been designed to encourage school children to investigate and consider the ways in which they use water, and the amount used both at school and in their homes.

## **Wise up to Water**

Wise up to Water is an online resource for students and teachers to help schools reduce their water use.

It's full of useful facts and information about using water wisely, such as why save water, what you can do to make a difference, and even a tool to measure how water wise your school is. Go to [www.thameswater.co.uk/wiseuptowater](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/wiseuptowater) to take a look.

**Order your FREE packs of Thames Water Splash Trumps cards and waterwisely stickers. Simply go online at [www.thameswater.co.uk/primaryschools](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/primaryschools)**

Each pack of cards provides information about how different actions can help save water and energy and how easy they are to do. They are a fun way of engaging your students with saving water and highlighting the difference they can make.

# Top ten water-saving tips

Saving precious water can be easy for all of us. It just takes a few small changes every day which can add up to a big difference! Share the ideas below with your students.



## 1. Fix leaking taps and toilets

A dripping tap can waste more than 60 litres of water per week and a leaking loo wastes an average of 2,800 litres per week.



## 2. Don't leave the tap running to clean dishes or vegetables

Use a bowl of water instead. A running tap uses 6 litres of water per minute.



## 3. Keep a jug of water in the fridge

Planning ahead means there is no need to run the water until it gets cold.



## 4. Fully load your washing machine

A full load uses less water than two half-loads.

## 5. Make your garden 'drought-tolerant'

Your garden centre can advise which plants will need less water.

## 6. Take shorter showers

We recommend 4 minutes! On average a shower uses 10 litres of water a minute.

## 7. Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth

A running tap can use 6 litres of water per minute.

## 8. Fill the kettle with only as much water as you need

This will save water and energy.

## 9. Skip the car wash

A dirty car shows you are doing your bit to save water (please keep your lights, windows and number plate clean!).

## 10. Only flush the toilet if you need to

Every flush uses 7 litres of water on average, so please don't just flush a tissue!

