

Water Wise Assembly

We believe 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 encouraging children to think carefully about how they use water and how they can avoid wasting it.

Your complete guide to planning and presenting an entertaining and engaging primary school assembly.

Water is precious so it's important that we do not take it for granted and that we use it wisely to ensure there is enough to go around in the future.

Our 'Water Wise' assembly pack has been created to engage children of all ages and to show them that every one of us can really make a difference by using water wisely.

Everything you need to deliver your 'Water Wise' Assembly is contained within this pack. Supporting resources have also been provided, where appropriate, and you can also find additional information from our website at www.thameswater.co.uk/primaryschools



www.thameswater.co.uk/primaryschools



The assembly

The theme of the assembly is the 'Water Wise Challenge', a fun and light-hearted quiz show, with a serious message. The challenge, hosted by two 'presenters', involves two families competing to win the coveted title 'Water Wise Champions of the Year'.

Audience:

The assembly has been written primarily for performance by a Key Stage 2 class. It is also suitable for performance or adaptation by secondary school pupils and could be used as a basis for a Water Wise quiz or discussion by youth groups, such as Scouts and Guides.

Key subjects:

The assembly and associated classroom activities provide learning opportunities for children linked to:

- PSHE/Citizenship
- English
- Science
- Geography and the Environment
- ICT
- Art

Preparation

This pack has been developed to provide you with an instant 'ready made' assembly. While the performance will no doubt be enhanced if the children are able to rehearse in advance, we hope the 'Quiz Show' structure will minimise the need for lengthy preparation. We have included an option to introduce a 'commercial break' part way through the 'quiz'. This provides an opportunity for all members of a class to be involved in the assembly, as those who are not directly involved in delivering the 'Water Wise Challenge' can be invited to perform advertisements that they have prepared in other lessons. Please see the *Water Matters* resource for details of these activities. It can be downloaded from www.thameswater.co.uk/primaryschools.

The assembly resource checklist

Supplied

- Script (sufficient quantity to be photocopied for all cast members)
- 'Applause' card
- 'Laugh' card
- A (answer card)
- B (answer card)
- Water butt picture card

In addition (not supplied)

- Entrance and exit music (examples include Handel's Water Music/ Bridge Over Troubled Water)
- Hymn/song (examples include As Water to the Thirsty/The water is wide/Afton water)
- Suitable reading, poem or prayer
- Appropriate costumes or props for quiz presenters and families
- 6 x two litre bottles, filled with coloured water (please find something useful to do with this water after the assembly!)
- Bucket
- Chairs for all members of 'Waterwisely' and 'Water Waster' families, and presenters, announcers etc.

Cast list

- Announcer
- Walter Water – Quiz Show Presenter
- Sue Splash – Quiz Show Presenter
- Waterwisely family; Mr & Mrs Waterwisely, Harry, Poppy – competing family
- Water Waster family; Mr & Mrs Waster, Wally and Wendy – competing family

Additional source material

Visit www.thameswater.co.uk for more information on Thames Water

For more Key Stage 2 resources visit www.thameswater.co.uk/primaryschools

For more information on water efficiency visit www.thameswater.co.uk/waterwisely

Visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk for information on the environment in your region

Visit www.waterwise.org.uk for information on reducing water wastage in the UK

Visit www.wateraid.org.uk to learn about water in some of the world's poorest countries.

Reflection

Our world has no new water. The water we have is always on the move in a neverending cycle. We need to take care of what we already have.

Now let's spend a few moments thinking about the many ways in which we use water every day. To help us to understand just how important water is, can you think of any living thing that can survive without it? No? That's because everything on earth needs water to live. Next time we turn on the tap we should try to remember this. Because water is so precious, we all need to try our best to use our water wisely.

We can all help make a difference. On average each of our customers uses about 163 litres of water a day; here are just a few things you can do to use a little less:

- Have a quick, refreshing shower instead of a bath – but beware, as power showers can actually use more water than baths.
- Install a water butt in the garden, to collect rainfall to water your plants.
- Don't leave the tap running when brushing your teeth.

Water Wise Challenge script

Announcer: Good morning everyone, and welcome to our assembly. We've been learning about water and considering why we need to use it carefully. Let's see if the teams taking part in our 'Water Wise Challenge' can teach us some simple ways of saving water. Over to you, quiz masters!

Walter Water: Hi kids, my name's Walter Water.

Sue Splash: And I'm Sue Splash, and we're delighted to be here today to introduce the two special families who'll be competing for the title, 'Water Wise Champions of the Year'.

Walter Water: Let's find out which family is overflowing with water saving ideas. On my left, we have the Waterwisely Family.

(Hold up 'Applause' card.)

Walter Water: And on my right, the Water Waster Family.

(Hold up 'Applause' card.)

Sue Splash: Without further ado, let's get on with the quiz, because we've got bucketloads of water questions!

(Hold up 'Laugh' card.)

Walter Water: Question one. When brushing your teeth, should you:
a) keep the tap running until you've finished?
b) turn the tap off and rinse your mouth with water from a cup?

(Families confer. Waterwisely family hold up card B, Water Waster Family hold up card A.)

Walter Water: So, Water Waster family, I see you've gone for answer A, keep the tap running, why's that?

Mr Waster: Well, it's easy to just keep the tap running isn't it? Doesn't everyone do that?

Walter Water: Well, I'm not so sure, let's ask the Waterwisely family.

Mr Waterwisely: No, it's definitely better to turn off the tap. You can still clean your teeth properly by using just one cup of water. Did you know that keeping the tap running when cleaning your teeth, wastes 6 litres of water a minute? And we all know we should clean our teeth for at least two minutes, so that's a lot of wasted water!

Walter Water: Quite right. Let's just have a look at what that means.

(Points to 6 x 2 litre bottles, filled with coloured water).

Walter Water: So, we'd be pouring six of these large bottles full of water down the sink every time we clean our teeth with the tap running.

Walter Water: Well done Waterwisely family, you've really tapped into your knowledge of how to save water. Sadly, Water Waster family, you're already beginning to sink.

(Hold up 'Laugh' and 'Applause' cards.)

Sue Splash: Now for question two. To keep yourselves clean and fresh do the members of your family usually choose to have:

- a) a soak in the bath?
- b) a four-minute shower?

(Families confer. Waterwisely family hold up card B, Water Wasters hold up card A.)

continued overleaf...



Sue Splash: So, Mrs Waster, you're obviously keen on taking a bath.

Mrs Waster: Oh yes You can't beat a long soak in a nice, deep bath.

Sue Splash: Well there's nothing wrong with taking a bath now and again but if we go over to the Waterwisely family, we'll see that they usually opt for a short shower. Why is that Mrs Waterwisely?

Mrs Waterwisely: Well, a four-minute shower (as long as it's not a power shower) only uses half as much water as a bath, so we save hundreds of litres of water every week, by taking showers rather than filling the bath.

Sue Splash: Well done again the Waterwisely family. You're showering us with excellent answers and ways of saving water. Mrs Waster, I'm afraid you've made yourself look a bit of a drip.

(Hold up 'Laugh' and 'Applause' cards.)

Walter Water: Right families, now for the third and final question. We're going to throw this one open to the audience as well. When using water outside, for example, when cleaning the car or watering the garden, should you:

a) use a hosepipe?

b) use a watering can, filled with rain water that's been collected in a water butt?

For those of you who aren't sure, a water butt looks like this.

(Holds up a picture of a water butt.)

A water butt is a large plastic container, which allows rain water to be collected from the drain pipes around your home.

(The following 'commercial break' is optional. Schools who do not wish to include it should miss out the next statement and move straight on to 'Continue quiz'.)

Walter Water: We're going to give you a minute to think about that while we take a short break for some advertisements. (At this point, other children in the class perform their own adverts, which they've prepared in other lessons, eg. Literacy.)

Continue quiz:

Walter Water: Before we ask the families for their answers to our final question, let's see what you, the audience, think. If you think that when using water outside, the answer is a) use a hosepipe – put your hand up now. If you think the answer is b) use a watering can, filled with water from a water butt – raise your hand now. Let's see who agrees with you. Families, please hold up your answer cards now.

(Waterwisely family hold up card B, Water Wasters hold up card A.)

Walter Water: Sorry to dampen your enthusiasm Water Waster family but once again you've shown yourselves to be more than a bit wet. The Waterwisely family have once again pooled their knowledge to come up with the right answer. Harry Waterwisely, perhaps you could tell the Water Wasters where they're going wrong.

Harry Waterwisely: Well Walter, if the Water Waster family use a hosepipe for about an hour a week, they'll use over 100 buckets of tap water.

(Holds up bucket.)

In comparison a watering can holds less than one bucket of water and they'd probably only need to use about ten of these a week, which they could easily fill from a water butt.

Sue Splash: Thanks Harry. Now if we look at the final scores, we can see that the Waterwisely family are the outright winners with a sparkling 3 out of 3. Sadly, we must wave goodbye to the Water Wasters, who will surely become the butt of many jokes.

(Hold up 'Applause' card.)

Announcer: We hope you've enjoyed this morning's quiz and will go away with some fresh ideas about how you and your family can help to save water at home. Remember, be Waterwise, not Water Wasters – every drop counts!



Facts

Flushing the toilet	7 litres	1.4 buckets ⁺
Bath	80 litres	16 buckets
5 minute shower (not power shower)	40 litres	8 buckets
Brushing teeth with tap running	6 litres/min	1.2 buckets
Brushing teeth with tap off	1 litre	0.2 buckets
Dripping tap	63 litres/week	12.6 buckets
Washing machine	65 litres	13 buckets
Dishwasher	20 litres	4 buckets
Washing car with bucket	10 litres	2 buckets
Hosepipe/sprinkler	540 litres/hour	108 buckets

+ Figures based on bucket with 5 litres capacity

Follow up activities

Our assembly pack contains several follow-up activities, intended to reinforce the key learning points and to encourage further discussion and debate:

Further suggestions:

- Improvise 'A Day in the Life of' a Waterwisely Family and a Water Waster family.
- Write and perform raps/poems 'by' the Waterwisely Family and Water Waster family.
- Write short stories involving the two families.
- Create comic strips featuring the two families.
- Identify places in the school where water could be saved, eg. by ensuring taps are turned off in the toilets.
- Create and display water saving posters at appropriate places in the school.
- Create advertisements or 'jingles' to persuade people to save water.
- Write letters to the Water Waster family attempting to persuade them to change the way they use water.
- Debate why we waste water and how we can save it – at home, in school, outside.
- Discuss how children would feel if they had to fetch water from a pipe miles away as in some developing countries.
- Make a booklet, illustrating things that rely on water for life.
- Write a letter to a friend explaining the need to conserve water.
- Make a water quiz flap book for other children to use.

Frequently asked questions

The FAQ's below help answer some of the questions children may have.

Where does water come from?

Good news! The world is mostly water. Bad news!

You can't drink most of this water. The oceans make up two thirds of the world's water but water from the sea is too salty to drink. Most of the water we drink comes from under the ground, the rest comes from lakes, rivers and streams.

How does water get to our homes?

Water is collected by the water companies who clean it up and pump it through the water pipes ready for use.

What do we use water for?

We drink and cook with it. We use it to wash ourselves, our clothes, our dishes. We flush the toilet with it. We use it to wash our cars, to water our gardens. We play in it, swim in it, have fun with it. We need water for so many things that we do every day – but because it is so easy to use, we often forget how precious it is.

Why do we need to save water?

Every year, the number of people living on Earth increases. And everyone needs water to survive. Did you know that two thirds of your body is water? Because water is so precious, we all need to try our best to use our water wisely.

How much water do we use?

- On average, each of us uses 163 litres of water a day
- One third of the water you use at home is flushed down the toilet
- In developing countries which do not have clean water supplies each person uses only 20 litres a day

Water Wise on the web

Further information and activities to support your work on water can be found on the 'primary schools' section of the Thames Water website www.thameswater.co.uk/primaryschools

Here you will find a range of lively resources, designed to support the teaching and learning of water across the curriculum. Check out the information and activities which cover a variety of subjects.

Fun activities for pupils can be found on the Wise up to Water website www.thameswater.co.uk/wiseuptowater. It's a great resource for students and teachers to help schools reduce their water use.



Lough!

Applause!

Our answer is

A

Our answer is

B

