

A scroll-shaped graphic with several writing prompts. The prompts are: "What: _____", "Where: _____", "When: _____", "Who is involved: _____", "Causes: _____", and "Effects: _____". Each prompt is followed by a horizontal line for writing.

Title of article

A large, irregularly shaped outline with a scalloped edge, intended for writing the title of the article. The text "Title of article" is written above the top left corner of the shape.

Who does this benefit?

Three or more important facts about this topic:

Summarize this topic in 1-2 sentences.

Summing up...

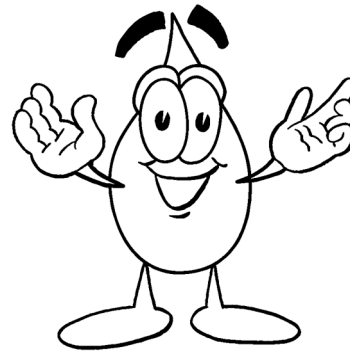


What I Drink



What I Use

Favorite Body of Water



Least Favorite Body of Water

Water Sports

Water and Me!

Water Memories

Summing Up...

Water: a Precious Resource

By Evian Manantial

Humans need water to live. Yet, many people in the world today do not have clean water. Over five million people die every year due to poor water quality. According to WHO (World Health Organization), over one billion people in the world today do not live near water and they cannot buy water. Nearly half of the people in the world do not have clean water. In fact, most sicknesses (80%) in the world today are caused by inadequate water quality and sanitation.

Even though most (80%) of the earth's surface is water, only 3% is freshwater. Freshwater is found in rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. Nearly half of the United States pumps drinking water from underground rocks called aquifers. California also transports a lot of its water from the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The five great lakes (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie and Superior) contain nearly 20% of all the water in the world's freshwater lakes. Another 20% of all freshwater is found in one lake: Lake Baikal in Asia.

The two main reasons for the water crisis are population growth and environmental changes. In the past century, the world's population has tripled. We now use six times more water than we used one hundred years ago. In crowded cities where people get water from aquifers, overuse of water is especially dangerous. When too much water is pumped out of an aquifer, the ground is no longer held up by the water pressure and it can sink. Mexico City is an example of overuse of aquifers. Since the entire city uses up so much of the water in the aquifer, the land has shifted and it is now sinking. Environmental changes are also cause for great concern. Nearly half of the earth's wetlands have disappeared this last century and the global rise in temperature has led to environmental changes including floods, hurricanes, and droughts.

It will take everyone's effort to solve the water crisis. Small changes, like not buying bottled water and using recycled bottles, can have a big impact. The United Nations estimates that it would cost \$30 billion to provide safe water to the entire planet – and that is only a third of what the world currently spends on bottled water. Since all people need water, we will have to work together to find solutions to have safe, clean water for everyone.

Source: United Nations/UNESCO: www.wateryear2003.org

Summing Up...

Water: a Precious Resource By Evian Manantial



Can you imagine not having clean water to drink? Everyone needs water to live. Many people in the world do not have clean water. Some people do not live near water sources. Others do not have money to buy water. Poor water quality causes most sicknesses (80%) in the world today. Millions of people die every year because their water is not safe to drink.

Population is an important reason for this growing water problem. More and more people are using the earth's freshwater. Only 3% of the water on the earth is freshwater. Freshwater is found in rivers and lakes. It is important for people to think about ways to conserve water.

It will take everyone's effort to solve the water crisis. Small changes can have a big impact. One solution is to not buy bottled water. The world spends \$10 billion on bottled waters. The bottles end up in landfills. Also, the money spent on bottled water could pay for safe water for one-third of the planet. Since all people need water, we will have to work together to find solutions to have safe, clean water for everyone.

source: where something comes from

sickness: illness

million: 1, 000, 000

population: number of people

conserve: to save

effort: to try

crisis: big problem

solve: to fix

impact: effect

landfill: land for garbage

solution: answer to a problem

bottle: type of container

Source: United Nations/UNESCO: www.wateryear2003.org