



Water Wow!
An Infographic Exploration
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Genre: Non-fiction
Themes: Environment, energy, biodiversity, renewable and non-renewable resources
Suitable for: Grades 4-7

ABOUT THE BOOK

Water Wow! provides an overview of a range of topics related to water, including water distribution, water footprints, global water scarcity, and water myths.

Some key topics include:

- water ecosystems and biodiversity in water environments
- water as a resource—how we use it, access to water, water pollution and pollution prevention
- water use and energy
- the connection between water and climate change
- wise water use

ABOUT INFOGRAPHICS

Water Wow! uses a mixture of artwork, photography, and infographics (charts, graphs, etc.) to present key points visually. The text is brief, to convey the basic concepts quickly. Each infographic illustrates a larger idea, and so can be the starting point for longer discussions. A further reading list and the detailed bibliography is provided for students or teachers who are interested in looking deeper into a topic.

Ecosystems and Biodiversity

- 1 Why is water so important for living things? (See p 16-17)
- 2 Can you name three different types of water ecosystems? (See p 20-21)
- 3 What is a wetland, and why are they important? (See p 20-21)
- 4 What is an estuary? (See p 20-21)
- 5 What happens to an ecosystem when there is not enough water? (p 14-15)

Environment and Resources

- 1 How do you use water in your everyday life? In the home? Can you think of four categories of personal water use? (See p 24-25)
- 2 What is the difference between direct water use and indirect water use? (See p 24-25 and 26-27)
- 3 The water you use in the home is an example of direct water use (ie. your answer to question #1). What other ways do we use water? (See p 26-27 and 32-33 and 34-35)
- 4 Where does the water in your community come from? How does it get to you? (See p 40-41)

Your local water authority will have information on the water source for your community. As well, here are a couple of useful resources for locating your local watershed:

watershedreports.wwf.ca
www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geography/atlas-canada/selected-thematic-maps/16888
flowergarden.noaa.gov/image_library/regionmaps.html
americaswatershed.org/reportcard/
water.usgs.gov/wsc/map_index.html

- 5 How does pollution get into our sources of water? (See p 46-47)
- 6 Can you think of ways to reduce water pollution? Try to think of at least one thing you can do personally to reduce pollution. (See p 48-49 and 50-51)

Suggested activity Draw a map of your home. (Include your yard and garage if you have one.) Write down one way you use water in each room. Write a “D” beside every direct use, and an “I” beside every indirect use. Write down one way you could use less water in each room.

This is a way for students to create their own infographic. Students can either write in point form, or draw a picture or icon to represent different water uses (ie. a tap, a light bulb, etc.).

Water and Energy

- 1 What is hydropower? (See p 30-31)
- 2 Besides hydroelectric power, how is water used to make energy?
What forms of energy are the “thirstiest”? The least “thirsty?” (See p 32-33)
- 3 How are food, water, and energy connected? (See p 34-35)
- 4 Can you think of some ways to use less energy?

Water and Climate Change

- 1 How does water affect the weather? (See p 12-13)
- 2 How do changes to water affect the climate? (See p 12-13)
- 3 What are some ways to reduce your impact on water? (see p 12-13 and 50-51)