

Water Usage & Conservation

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will measure real household water usage and calculate ways to reduce their water footprint.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- a measuring cup or container
- a timer or stopwatch (phone works)
- paper
- pencil
- calculator

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Time how long a typical shower or handwashing session lasts in your house using a stopwatch, and note the number of times faucets/toilets are used in one day per person.
2. Using a measuring cup and a timer, measure how many cups/liters of water flow from a faucet in 10 seconds, then calculate the flow rate per minute.
3. Estimate your daily household water use by combining flow rate data with usage times (showers, dishwashing, toilet flushes, etc.) using reasonable assumptions.
4. Research (or estimate from provided reference data) 3 water-saving strategies, such as shorter showers, fixing leaks, or running full dishwasher loads only.
5. Calculate how much water your household could save per week if you adopted one specific strategy, showing your math.

QUESTIONS

1. What was your measured faucet flow rate per minute, and how did you calculate it?
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2. What is your household's estimated daily water use, and what assumptions did you make?
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3. Which water-saving strategy did you choose, and how much water would it save your household per week? Show your calculation.

4. Why is water conservation considered an environmental issue and not just a household chore?
