

WATERDROPS

Water Conservation

A Southwest Florida Water Management District Water Resources Newsletter for Grades 3-5

Hello Readers!

This issue of **WaterDrops** is all about saving **water**, or **water** conservation. If we practice **water**-saving habits now, we can make sure we have enough clean, safe **water** in our future.

We have included a feature story, articles, activities and games on **water** conservation. When you finish this issue, we hope you will teach others about easy ways to save **water** at home, at work and just about anywhere we use **water**. The time to conserve is now. Let's protect our precious **water**!

In other issues of **WaterDrops** you will learn more about how important **water** is to us. Don't forget to take the **water** conservation pledge on the back page of this issue and become a **water** conservation citizen.

Happy Splashing!



Southwest Florida
Water Management District

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A WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM AT SCHOOL

Every Monday, Mr. Smith's class brings in newspaper articles and stories for the news bulletin board. Students share their news with the rest of the class and the most interesting pieces are displayed. This week, Brian brought an article about a [water](#) conservation program at a nearby school. Brian began to tell the rest of the class about the article.

"It says that the school has saved a lot of [water](#) since they began the program two months ago," said Brian.

"That sounds interesting," said Mr. Smith. "Tell us more about it."

"Well, first they did a study of how much [water](#) they used in an average month," said Brian. "They did this by reviewing [water](#) bills for the past year." Brian saw that his classmates seemed interested in his news article. "Then they made a list of several ways the school could save [water](#)," he added.

"Like not using the toilet as a trash can?" asked Julie. A few students giggled.

"Exactly," responded Brian.

"Or turning the [water](#) off when you brush your teeth?" asked Harvey.

"Right," answered Brian.

"Or fixing leaky faucets?" asked Cindy.

"Yes," said Brian. "They thought of many ways everyone at school could stop wasting [water](#). Other classmates added their suggestions for saving [water](#) at school."

"Tell us what they did after making the list," said Mr. Smith.

At that point, Brian showed the class the photo printed above the article.





It was a photo of a big display that covered the entire wall next to the school office. The display included charts, drawings and photographs showing many ways to save **water** at school. Slogans such as “Don’t be a **water** waster — Be a **water** saver” were also displayed.

When students and teachers entered the school each day, they were reminded of the many ways to conserve **water**. “It says that the program has been very successful,” said Brian, “and a lot of people have even begun practicing these **water**-saving habits at home.”

“Wow! That’s really cool!” exclaimed Tara. “Could we do a **water** conservation program here?” she asked Mr. Smith.

“Yeah, it would be fun and we would be saving **water** too!” added Tyrone.

“It sure sounds like a good idea,” said Mr. Smith. “I’ll meet with the principal and a few other teachers and find out what they think about it.”

Pretend that your school has decided to do a water conservation program. List several ways your school could save water. Try to include a few ways that were not mentioned in the story.

Take It Home

Save Water at Home — It Can Be Fun!

Try to encourage your family to save **water** at home. Take a tour of your home and visit each area listed below. Describe how **water** is used. Then describe how it could be saved. As a reminder to save **water**, make a doorknob sign and write a message on it. Hang the sign near an area where you plan to save **water**!

| Home Area | How Water Is Used Now | How Water Can Be Saved |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Kitchen | _____ • _____ | _____ |
| Bathroom | _____ • _____ | _____ |
| Garage | _____ • _____ | _____ |
| Laundry | _____ • _____ | _____ |
| Outdoors | _____ • _____ | _____ |

Water Conservation Doorknob Sign

Directions:

1. Cut a rectangle 4 inches wide and 8 inches long. Near the top, cut a hole with a slit for hanging. Use the illustration to help you.
2. Create a **water** message. **Examples:** Run full load of dishes only. Save our **water**. Don't waste **water**.
3. Color and decorate the sign. Hang it where people will see it!



Ask Water Cycle Wanda

Karen asks: At a park nearby, signs are posted that say “Reclaimed **Water** Used for Irrigation.” What is reclaimed **water**?

Water Cycle Wanda:

Reclaimed **water** is **water** that has been treated enough so that it is safe to use for irrigation. The **water** is restored to a useful and good condition, but it is not good enough to use inside our homes or for drinking. However, it can be used safely in many other ways. Reclaimed **water** is used to irrigate public areas such as parks, golf courses, playgrounds and residential neighborhoods. Reusing **water** is another kind of **water** conservation.

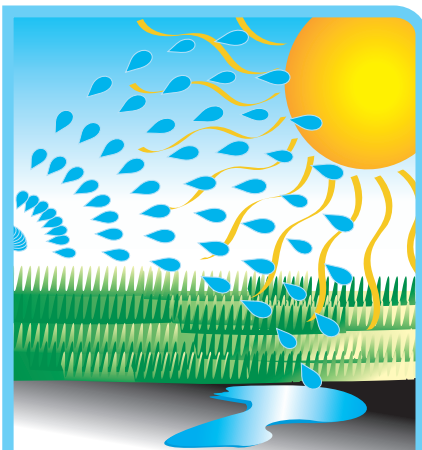


Water in Our World

TIPS FOR CONSERVING WATER

Conserving **water** is not a difficult thing to do. All of us can become better at saving **water**. Look at the list of a few easy tips for using less **water** indoors and outdoors. Then read about three **water** wasters who need to make changes in their habits. Help these **water** wasters become **water** savers by writing the number of the tip they should follow.

- 1** Don't over**water** your lawn. **Water** lawns during the early morning hours and don't allow sprinklers to **water** your street, driveway or sidewalk.
- 2** Don't let **water** run while shaving or washing your face. Turn **water** off while you are brushing your teeth.
- 3** Run automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded.
- 4** Don't hose down your driveway or sidewalk. Use a broom instead to clean leaves and other bits and pieces of rubbish from these areas.



Lucy has a habit of **watering** her lawn around noon every other day. One of her sprinklers is aimed at the street, causing a lot of **water** to flow on pavement instead of on her lawn.

Follow tip # _____



Dan has a habit of letting the **water** run the entire time he is washing and shaving his face. He continues to let it run while he brushes his teeth. Only when he is finished with these activities does he shut the **water** off.

Follow tip # _____



After Carlos finishes mowing the lawn, he rakes the grass clippings and leaves onto his driveway and sidewalk. Then he turns on the outdoor faucet and hoses the driveway and sidewalk to clean these areas.

Follow tip # _____

For an additional activity, give an example of another **water** waster. Ask a classmate to describe a tip for saving **water** that would help the **water** waster become a **water** saver.

Water in Our World

FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™ PRINCIPLES — WATER CONSERVATION OUTDOORS!



Have you heard about a way to have a nice yard and save **water** at the same time? It's called *Florida-Friendly Landscaping™*. Using Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ guidelines, you can help save **water** and keep an outdoor area looking beautiful, even during times of drought. By choosing plants that don't need a lot of **water** and grouping them with plants with similar **water** needs, you will use less **water** in your garden. Covering the ground near the roots with mulch, such as wood chips, pine needles or oak leaves, also helps conserve **water**. Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ is becoming very popular. Information is available at WaterMatters.org/yards and by contacting your county Extension office. Pretend that you are a Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ designer. Can you think of an area near your home or school that could be changed into a Florida-friendly area? Describe what your area would look like and how it would save **water**.

Fill in the blank

As a *Florida-friendly landscape* designer, try to complete each guideline with the correct word.

Try to group your trees and _____ together based on similar needs such as the amount of **water**, sun and shade.

Use mulch to reduce the amount of **water** needed, slow erosion and control weeds. Examples of _____ are wood chips, pine needles and oak leaves.



You can _____ **water** by **watering** only what is needed for the kinds of trees, shrubs and plants in the Florida-friendly landscape area.

CONSERVATION WORD SEARCH

Find and circle the words below.



DROUGHT

CONSERVE

WATER

RECLAIMED

IRRIGATION

SHOWER

WASTE

SAVE

MULCH

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | W | D | R | O | U | G | H | T | Z |
| N | V | U | P | N | W | X | E | R | E |
| O | D | E | M | I | A | L | C | E | R |
| I | H | P | O | F | T | L | O | J | A |
| T | R | C | S | P | E | O | N | K | S |
| A | O | F | L | H | R | C | S | W | G |
| G | U | H | X | U | R | F | E | I | A |
| I | G | S | E | R | M | E | R | R | P |
| R | E | T | W | A | V | D | V | E | E |
| R | C | O | W | A | S | T | E | X | D |
| I | N | S | S | R | E | W | O | H | S |

Water Words

Unscramble the following groups of letters to form **water** words. Then use these words to tell a **water** conservation story.

twer a _____

acdalnsep _____

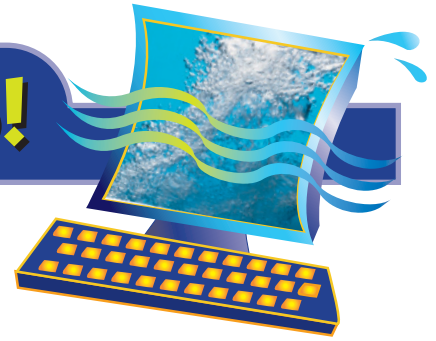
itionrragi _____

thugrdo _____

orwhes _____

contiversona _____

What's Wet on the Web!



Are you ready to learn more about **water** conservation? Then go directly to the Southwest Florida **Water** Management District's website: **WaterMatters.org/conservation/**.

The **Water** Conservation area provides a lot of information. Although it is written for adults, we think you will like it. If you find that it is too hard to read, ask your teacher to help you. For an interesting activity, do a class research project on **water** conservation!



Water Conservation Pledge

I promise to do my best to save **water** in my home and at school.

I also promise to help others by telling them about ways to conserve **water**. I will do my best to be a **water** conservation citizen.

Signed _____



The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District's Human Resources Bureau Chief, 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4702; TDD 1-800-231-6103 (FL only); or email ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org.

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