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GobarTimes

Green Schools Network

ACTIVITY SHEET



Why talk about water?

Most of us are tired of grumbling about water. Every time we think about it – we are reminded of the long wait for that trickle of water from the municipal supply or the fight for a fair share from the water tanker. Even in a 'good-monsoon' year! Will this water crisis haunt us forever?

We must be going wrong somewhere... Its time to take stock of the situation. Its time to find out how this crisis is generated. How are we using water? Is there anything we can do to manage it better? Can we make sure that the monsoon rains bring us some relief? This summer as the crisis arises again, lets understand water usage and find out different ways of tackling water shortage.

Name

Class Date

ACTIVITY: LETS GO...

SCHOOL WATER TRIP

Ask your teacher if you can go on a school water trip? Start your adventure by first finding out the source of municipal or other piped source of water for your school. Find out that single pipe, which supplies water to the whole school. If possible have a look at the point where it joins the main municipal supply line. Just gauge the diameter of the pipe used. Trace this pipe around your school.

Where does it go first? _____

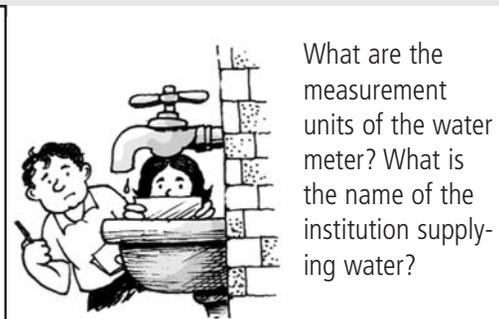
How does the water get distributed in the school?

Does the diameter of the pipe increase or decrease as it moves in the school? Increase/Decrease

It would be helpful, if you take a person from the administrative staff along with you.

Does the school have a water meter? Yes/No

If yes, how does it look like? Draw



Catch hold of the water bill of your house. Look at the rate of water, per unit consumed. Photocopy the bill and attach it to the activity sheet.



*Hi!
I am Pandit Gobar Ganesh.
You will find me in Gobar Times—a magazine that tells you how your everyday life is linked to the world around you. Hooked, huh? If you want to know more about me and GobarTimes visit us at www.gobartimes.org*

GT-GSP Privilege offer

The members of GT-GSP Network can now get 3 extra copies of Gobar Times with Down to Earth, for distribution and use in eco-club activities. All you have to do is mail this advertisement along with the Down to Earth subscription note.

DOWN THE DRAIN: Trace the path; the water takes after being used in the water fountains or wash rooms. Where does it go? It would be great if you can actually have a look at the main drain pipe, which spits the dirt of the school?

Yuck! Why would I like to see such a dirty thing?- Just to know your contribution to the society. Or is it environment?



Draw a rough map of the water flow into and out of your school, with major stops like overhead tanks, washrooms etc.

If possible, try and trace the path of the drain and see where it finally lands up- obviously into the sea- but surely it would be an adventure to see how it travels. If it is not possible in the school – try to convince your parents to take you on such a trip.

RAINDROPS



Has it ever happened – its raining and you are waiting desperately for the rain to go away because you want to play. Well, next time it happens - try this out! Of course ask your mom.
Wear your raincoat and take your umbrella. Go out and follow the trails of water everywhere. Rain falls on the roof- where does the water go? Does it stand on your terrace or does it move? Where does it head for? What happens after it flows down the roof? Follow the water and see where it goes. Does it carry anything along with? What?

See if you can collect some rainwater falling from some drainpipe. Store it in a can and keep it at a safe place. After a few days when your plants require water, you can use that water. Notice the following:

What are the mechanisms/paths humans have made to get rid of the water being collected everywhere?

Can this rainwater be put to use? How? _____

Look at the child above, what do you think, he is doing?

Experiment

The average annual rainfall of Delhi is 611mm – must have read it in the books, newspapers or heard it on radio or television. The meteorological department must be having some apparatus to know how much did it rain in the year.

You do your own experiment of measuring the amount of rainfall.

The next time rain is forecast or you know that it would start raining any moment, start this experiment. Get a glass or any other

material tumbler with uniform dimensions and place it on your terrace or open ground away from any wall. Make sure that falling water from other sources is at a distance from your tumbler. After the sky is clear and the rain stops, go and pick up your tumbler and see how much water is there inside it. Measure the height of the water in the tumbler and you'll get, guess what? - the approximate average rainfall on that day.

Hey wait! Your experiment hasn't finished as yet. Call up the local meteorological office and ask for the days rainfall figures. Although you are not using the same apparatus as them but surely your figure would be approximately the same as theirs. Hurray! Ready to be a meteorologist.

If you are in the school, you can ask permission from your teacher to do the same.

Now if you know the rooftop, paved or unpaved area- you can find out the water- you could have harvested on that day. Refer Green Schools Manual, Pg.10. Visit www.rainwaterharvesting.org for more details

STORY TIME: HOME ALONE

Rahul- smart, cool and happening. Class IX, School- GPS, New Delhi

Interests: Watching Cartoons, Basketball and sleeping

There comes a time in every child's life, when he is left alone at home. Rahul's parents had to go out to a relative's wedding the next day and they obviously entrusted Rahul with some duties. He was asked to wash his cycle, clean up his room, eat the food cooked by mom, clean his dishes, iron his clothes and water the 50 plant pots in his house. He was supposed to do those tasks the next day as his parents were to return home, late in the night. Rahul had an exam after one day, so his parents asked him to study, do some work and not go out of the house. They had told him that he was to complete all the tasks given to him, otherwise his New Year gift- a computer would not be given to him.



Next day morning, Rahul was extremely sleepy and didn't get up despite repeated calls from mom.

He got up to brush his teeth and left the tap open. In sleep. Water kept flowing, as Rahul got back and again fell asleep. He got up by lunch and had his heart full of delicious food cooked by mom, before sitting down in front of the television to watch his favourite cartoons.

In no time it was evening and he realized that he had to finish some of the duties his parents had given him. He quickly cleaned up his room and ironed his clothes. And then he went into the bathroom to realize that he had left the tap open and all water in the overhead tank had run out. There were just two buckets left in the bathroom and he had to do lots of washing to do. Washing dishes and his cycle would alone take one-bucket each= two buckets. How would he water the plants, which requires two more? He was sure- he was going to get into trouble with his parents and would not get his computer too. He started crying. Can he finish these tasks with two buckets. We think he can? Can your help Rahul? What would you do? Be realistic.

Moral of the story: We know yaar! Don't waste water. Don't leave taps open. Water is precious. Our teachers and parents have told us about it plenty of times and we do not waste water. Ok ok- but do you think (if you can find a solution to Rahul's problem) there is something else we can learn from the story.

Thinking about water? After all whom does water belong to - the government or people? Log on to www.gobartimes.org and check out the May 2005 issue of Gobar Times on water. Bye Bye

Did you find this activity sheet interesting? E-mail us at eeu@cseindia.org or write to: Activity Sheet, Centre for Science and Environment, 41 Tughlaqabad Institutional Area, New Delhi-110062 or Call 29955124 Extension 219