

# Where Does Our Water Go?

## Getting Started



### What Can Be Learned?

This activity illustrates how humans use water and how we can help to conserve it.

### Material; Needed

8 or more sponge pieces of a good size  
1 clear water jug  
1 large bowl  
1 felt tip marker

### The Activity

This activity can be done as a whole class or smaller group.

Start with the jug full of water.

Imagine that the water from this jug is the water in our river/lake (mark the water level on the jug)

Imagine that people camping near the river have used water to cook with and to drink. (A child dips a sponge in, lets it soak and takes it out - without ringing it - and places it in the bowl)

Farmers use the water for their animals to drink and to irrigate their crops (another child repeats the sponge process)

A local nursery uses water from the river to provide its plants with water to grow. (Another sponge...)

A fish farm uses the water to fill its tanks. (Another sponge)

A dairy uses water from the river to wash down the sheds and clean equipment. (Another sponge)

A local orchard uses water to mix with fertilizers and pesticides to keep fruit growing and disease free. (Another sponge)

A factory uses water to mix chemicals as part of their processing. Water is treated before some is returned to the river. (Another sponge)

A sports ground uses water from the river to keep the play area green. (Another sponge...)

Many people in a nearby town leave the tap running while they clean their teeth in the morning and at night. (Another sponge)

Use the felt tip to mark the remaining water level. Invite comments from the kids. What does this tell us about water use?

**As an addition to this activity:**

Leave all sponges, not wrung out, in the bowl.

Think about how we use water, and (from the pollution activity) how water can become polluted...

Ask the students to provide suggestions for how they could look after their river/creek/lake better.

As a student makes a great suggestion, invite them to take a sponge from the bowl and to wring it out to add water to the first jug.

Continue until all the sponges are wrung back into the first jug.

