

How is water wasted? Why is that a problem?

Learning outcomes

- Students can describe the reasons for saving water.
- Students can investigate and apply different strategies for saving water at home and school.

Method

1. As a class, discuss possible reasons for saving water. Students complete the multiple choice questions (**BLM 10**) and then discuss the answers as a class. (Answers: a,b,e,g).
2. Students estimate how many litres of water they use per week by filling in the Water-Use Diary (**BLM 11**) at home.
3. After students have completed the diary, discuss the results. Use a 'before and after' chart to show how the students have changed their behaviour since learning about the importance of conserving water.

Teachers' notes

Why should we save water anyway?

- Climatic predictions are for hotter summers and lower rainfalls.
- The population is growing continuously and therefore the demand on water supply is increasing.
- The more water used, the more treated water goes into the sea.
- It costs to use water (especially for schools).

Water is essential for life; we need it to drink, cook and keep clean. However, there are times when we use more water than we need to. New Zealand people are very lucky to have running tap water. A comparison with third world countries is a good way of illustrating how lucky we are.

