

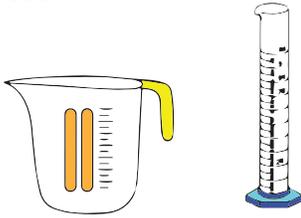


ACTIVITY I: HOW MUCH WATER DO I USE?

Aim:

Do you know how much water you use for different purposes every day? In this activity you can record and estimate the volume of water you use for different activities at home in a single day. ('Estimating' means finding a value that is close enough to the right answer by measuring, calculating, and thinking.)

What you need:



A measuring cup or cylinder (or any container with which you can measure volumes)



Some typical containers you use at home, like a cup/glass used for drinking, or a mug/ bucket in the bathroom etc

What to do:

(a) Using household containers to measure water quantity (volume)

To estimate your water usage, you first need to know the volumes of typical household containers that you use. Once you know their volumes, you can use these containers to measure how much water you need for different activities. This will help you estimate your total daily water usage.

Use the measuring cup or cylinder to find out how much water each of the following containers can hold when it is full. (Make sure you are not wasting the water you use to measure the volumes of these containers!)

1. A glass (or cup) I use for drinking holds _____ ml.
2. A mug I use for bathing and washing holds _____ ml.
3. A bucket I use for bathing and washing holds _____ mugs of water.
4. This is equal to _____ litres.

(Multiply the volume of one mugful by the number of mugs of water used to fill the bucket. Remember, 1000 ml = 1 litre)

(b) Measuring your water consumption for a day

Think of all the ways you use water in a day. A few uses are listed below. Are there other activities you can add to the list?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Drinking | 2. Brushing your teeth |
| 3. Washing face, hands etc. | 4. Bathing |
| 5. Flushing the toilet | 6. |
| 7. | 8. |

Use one of the containers whose volume you measured earlier to keep track of how much water you use for each activity. For example, use water from a mug when you need to wash your hands and note down how many mugs of water you use. Note down the number in the table below. Use an appropriate container to do this every time you use water during the day.

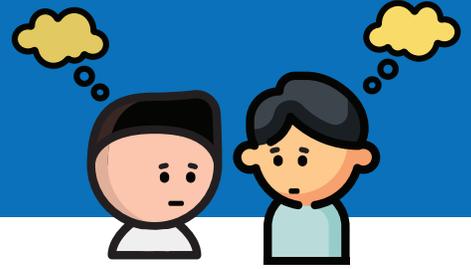
Record:

Fill in the table below every time you use water. You can add more activities to the table if you need to.

 Purpose	 Measured with	 Number of full containers of water used (You can use tally marks here)	 Total quantity used (Multiply the total number of full containers of water with the volume of the container)
 Drinking	Glass with volume		
 Washing and cleaning	Mug with volume		
 Bathing	Mug with volume		
 Flushing the toilet	Bucket* with volume		

(*If you use a flush, you can estimate or find out the volume of the flush tank. If you don't know you can assume a flush tank releases 6 litres of water.)

THINK ABOUT



At the end of the day, use the information you have filled in the table to answer the questions below. Remember, you need to measure, estimate or calculate to find the answers.

1. How much water did you drink?
2. How much water did you use for bathing?
3. How much water did you use for washing and cleaning yourself (hands, teeth, etc)?
4. How much water did you use to flush the toilet?
5. Which of these activities consumed the most water?
6. Which consumed the least?
7. Were you surprised by any of the answers?
8. Do you think you used more or less water in the day because you were measuring the quantities compared to a day when you don't measure your water usage?
9. Think of some ways you could reduce your water consumption (while keeping yourself and your surroundings clean and healthy!).
10. List any other ways you used water in the day for which you were unable to measure the water you used. Can you estimate the quantity of water you used for each task?
11. What are the other purposes for which water is used in your home? Here are a few suggestions. Can you think of more?
 1. Cooking
 2. Dishwashing
 3. Washing clothes



1. What did you use the most water for? What did you use the least water for? Compare this with a few others in your class. In what ways is your water usage the same? In what ways is it different?
2. Compare how much water you use in a day with that of your whole class.
 - You can make a graph to show the results.
 - You can calculate the average water consumption for a student in your class. Did you use more or less than the average?
3. What are the ways in which you can conserve water in your daily life?