

I. How Much Water Do You Use?

Objective: Describe measures that can be taken to reduce water losses through irrigation, industry, and home use.

- Estimate household water loss from common leaks
- Extrapolate water loss to the surrounding community
- Describe solutions for improving water resource problems
- Describe the major industrial & household uses of water.
- Summarize water use in the United States and the world.

<http://www.drinktap.org/consumerdnn/Home/WaterInformation/Conservation/WaterUseStatistics/tabid/85/Default.aspx>

Procedure

1. In your group or class make a list of the possible water-consuming activities.

2. Use the link below for the water use calculator <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/sq3.html> to determine your personal water use. Make sure it is a day you consider "typical." If your days vary a lot, approximate an average for each water-consuming activity. Record how many gallons you use per day.

Personal Use: _____ gallons per day

Group Use: _____ gallons per day

Class Use: _____ gallons per day

Analysis

1. How much variance is there in the amount of water people used in one day?

2. Why do you think the amount varies?

3. Do you think the numbers each person calculated for the total represent an accurate number for the total amount of water used? Why or why not?

4. Do you think you could lower the amount of water you use? How?
5. What types of programs could the government provide to encourage this type of savings? Be creative, yet realistic.

II. Your Improved Water Use

Most people in the United States can find a way to use less water. Sometimes this requires doing something that is not as easy, fast, or comfortable as we are used to doing. Each person has to decide what his or her water conservation ethic will be. In this activity, you will make some decisions about your own water use and check the results of your decisions.

Procedure

1. In your group or class make a list of the possible water-conserving activities.
2. Go back to the water use calculator <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/sq3.html> to try to lower your water consumption using some of the activities listed above. Record how many gallons you use per day.

Personal Use: _____gallons per day

Group Use: _____gallons per day

Class Use: _____gallons per day

Analysis

1. How difficult do you consider changing water habits could be? Do you think you could keep up the change? How?
3. What do you think is the significance of each person's actions with regard to water use?