

The Importance of H₂O

Standards

3-4 Science Standards

Standard 1: Science as Inquiry

Benchmark 1: All students will develop the skills necessary to do full inquiry

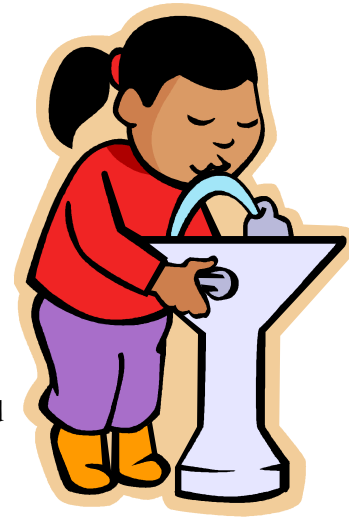
3-4 Geography Standards

Benchmark 2: The student analyzes the special organization of people, places, and environments that form regions on Earth's surface.

3-4 Math Standards

Standard 1: Number and Computation

Benchmark 1: (Number Sense) The student uses numerical and computational concepts and procedures in a variety of situations.



Activity

1. Fill a gallon jug with water and add 1-2 drops of blue food coloring
2. Hold up the gallon of water and show that it represents all the water on the earth
3. Pour out $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water into a measuring cup. *This represents glaciers, ice caps, and all the freshwater in the world.*
4. Take two drops of water from the $\frac{1}{4}$ cup and put it in a student's hand. *This represents all of the water in the freshwater lakes and rivers that is available for people and animals to use.*

Assessment

The students should understand that “every living things needs water. Though water covers approximately three-fourths of the earth, most of it is salty, undrinkable ocean water. Only three percent is fresh, or non-salty, and three-fourths of that is in hard-to-reach places, like glaciers and ice caps. So, it's up to you and I to do our share and conserve water, which we unfortunately take for granted,” says Ellen Hellerich, ATTC coordinator.

Discussion Questions

1. Where is the most/least water?
2. Which source is the most /least usable by living things?
3. Which source is most readily available?
4. How can you and your family conserve water at home?
5. What can farmers do to conserve water for plant and animal use?
6. Why is water so important?

Related Activities

1. Have students make a visual display showing the distribution of water on earth
2. Assign individuals or groups of students the task of making a poster to encourage other to practice water conservation. Display these posters in the hallways or in the community so many will see them.

Source: Nebraska Ag in the Classroom, Between the Rows, February 2003.