

# WATER

## HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 7-14

Now, more than ever, is a time young people need support to help understand their world, reflect on what matters, and think about how they can make a positive contribution. Yet so much learning is taking place online, in their homes, and away from their peers.

We want to help. We've created a selection of themed learning content on the Oxfam Education website for use at home, in the classroom or both! Consider what we all need to thrive, explore what connects us and be inspired to make a difference.

### About this resource

It's all too easy to forget what a miracle water is. Whether for drinking, washing or growing our food, we all need water. But worldwide, 785 million people don't have clean water close to home, that's around one in ten people.<sup>1</sup>

Here are some quick activity ideas to support learning and thinking about water. Keep a water diary, build a water filter, go on a water hunt, measure how much water you use for different purposes, and act out the journey of a water drop!

This pack is for use by teachers, parents and carers alongside the [Water: Home Learning Activities](#) page on the Oxfam Education website.



<sup>1</sup> [www.wateraid.org/facts-and-statistics](http://www.wateraid.org/facts-and-statistics)

## Activity ideas

- **Write down all the different ways you use water.** These might be things like drinking, having a shower or bath, cleaning your teeth, washing clothes, cooking, doing the dishes, going swimming. Now sort your results in order of how important they are to survival. For example, we use water to drink - we need to do this in order to stay alive. We use water to swim in - we do this for fun.
- **Go on a water hunt in your kitchen!** Have a look at the labels on different food items and drinks. Which ones contain water in the ingredients? Look through recipes. Which ones use water?
- **Use a water diary** to keep a record of the different ways you use water each day. See the activity sheet below.
- **Try looking after two plants.** Water only one and observe the difference in their growth and health.
- Use the internet to research **how much water is needed** to produce different types of food and other items such as the clothes we wear.
- **Make a water collage** by cutting out or printing off pictures of water being used in different ways.
- Have a go at **making your own water filter**. Try using sand, small stones, grass and other natural materials to filter muddy water to get it as clean as possible. Try the [Ditch the Dirt](#) challenge from the charity Practical Action to investigate ways of making dirty water cleaner and safe to drink.
- **Measure how much water you need for different activities.** How much do you use for one drink? To clean your teeth? To wash your hands? To have a shower or bath?
- Many people in other parts of the world don't have a water tap at home and may have to walk long distances to collect water. This is often the job of women and girls, some of whom spend a few hours each day just fetching water. Try carrying a bucket full of water across your garden. **What activities would you stop doing if you had to carry the water for them?**
- **Have a go at building a tippy tap!** A tippy tap uses a simple container, like an empty plastic bottle, to hold and pour water. Follow these [instructions](#) from the charity WaterAid to make your own:
- **Pretend you are a rain drop** and act out a journey from cloud to cup. Or write a story or use pictures to describe its journey.
- **Find where the water comes into your home.** Look under the kitchen sink or in the bathroom to find some pipes that the water travels through. Have a go at using some tubes or piping to pour water from one container to another.
- **Collect rain water in a bucket.** Try and work out a way of collecting more rain water. If it is not raining you could use a watering can to simulate rain. Look at pictures of other rain collecting devices, for example water butts that attach to drain pipes.
- Think about how you and your family could **try to cut down on how much water you use**. Simple things like setting a time limit on showers or turning off a running tap when cleaning your teeth can save lots of water. Water companies often offer lots of free advice and gadgets to help cut down on water use. Set yourselves a challenge to reduce your water use and bills!

## My water diary

## Activity sheet

Use this table to keep a record of your water use during a typical day. Keep a tally in the righthand column of the number of times you use water for this purpose. As an extra challenge, try and estimate how much water (in litres) you use for each of type of water usage.

Water use	Number of times
Going to the toilet	

## Water word search

## Activity sheet

N	I	A	R	N	F	N	I	I	L
B	E	I	A	A	E	I	O	R	E
N	A	E	S	H	O	W	E	R	I
H	L	T	O	I	L	E	T	I	F
C	E	F	H	O	K	H	E	A	E
Y	R	P	I	N	A	R	K	B	E
H	A	E	I	L	E	T	C	E	B
T	S	R	T	P	T	L	U	R	O
I	D	A	A	A	S	E	B	R	B
C	N	S	W	N	W	C	R	L	H

Can you find the following words? Words can go in any direction – forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards or diagonally.

Filter

Drink

Rain

Bucket

Water

Pipe

Shower

Clean

Bath

Toilet

Wash

Tap

