

# THE EARTH'S WATER SUPPLY



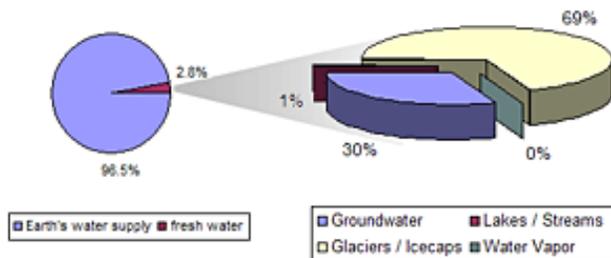
Of all the water on Earth, only a small amount is available for us to use. It's true!

97.2% of the Earth's water supply is salt water.

Only 2.8% is fresh water!

Of the total supply of water on Earth,

- 0.6% is groundwater (we can use some of this water)
- 0.01% is in lakes and streams (we can use some of this water)
- 2.2% is in glaciers and icecaps
- 0.001% is water vapor



# THE WATER CYCLE



Did you know that the water you drank this morning might have been the same water a dinosaur drank millions of years ago? Or it may have been the same water that supported Columbus' ships on the sea. There is the same amount of water on Earth today as there has always been. The water keeps moving around in an endless cycle called **the water cycle**.

Water itself is the only substance that exists in liquid, gas and solid form - the keys to the water cycle. Here's how the cycle works:

Water evaporates from oceans, rivers and lakes (water in its liquid form) and rises into the atmosphere (water in its gas form) where it condenses to form clouds. Precipitation then falls to the earth in the form of rain (water in its liquid) or snow (water in its solid form) where it flows into oceans, rivers and lakes and the process begins again.

All information from this brochure was provided by

Water Education Foundation

<http://www.watereducation.org/doc.asp?id=1022>

## HOW MUCH DOES IT TAKE TOO...

- Brush your teeth? -  
2 to 5 gallons



- Wash the car?  
50 gallons



- Use the dishwasher?  
8 to 15 gallons



- Flush the toilet?  
1.5 to 4 gallons  
(each flush)



- Take a shower or bath?  
17 to 24 gallons



- Run the washing machine?  
35 to 50 gallons  
(each load)

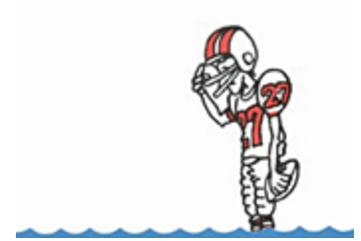


It's important that we all work to save water. About half the water we use each year is used outdoors - watering the garden and lawn, filling the swimming pool and washing the car. Ways to reduce your water use outside include using a shut-off faucet when washing the car and landscaping with plants that use less water.

Indoors, most of the water a family uses is in the bathroom. Saving water is important. In the bathroom, the easiest way to save water is to shut off the faucet while you brush your teeth or take shorter showers and not using the toilet to flush trash. Installing low-flush toilets and low-flow showerheads can also help save lots of water. An ultra-low-flush toilet uses just 1.5 gallons per flush compared to 4 gallons per flush for a traditional toilet.

In the kitchen make sure you wash only full loads in the dishwasher. And if you need a new machine, ask your parents to take a look at some of the water-efficient models that can reduce water usage to 6 gallons per load. New washing machines also offer significant water savings, using up to 40 percent less water per load than older machines, and they can save energy too!

## WHAT'S AN ACRE FOOT?



In the water world, water is commonly measured in acre feet. But what is an acre foot? One acre foot of water can fill one acre of land, approximately the size of a football field, 1 foot deep. An acre-foot contains 325,900 gallons of water, and can supply the annual indoor and outdoor needs of one to two urban households.