



How much water is available for human use?

Aim:

To demonstrate how much of the water found on Earth is available for human use.

Time:

10 min

Best for:

Year 3-8. Good links with Year 7. Links with Science, Geography, Maths and Sustainability.

Materials:

- Clear Litre jug
- Medicine cup or small measuring cup/jug
- 2 small clear cups

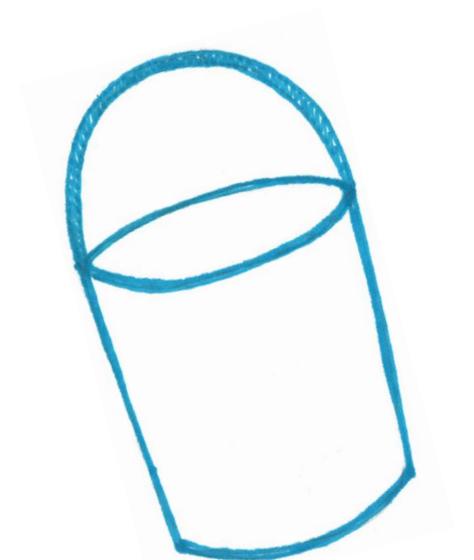
Activity:

Start with a container filled with 1 litre of water. This represents the Earth's total water.

Using that water, measure 30 ml and empty into another container. This represents the proportion that is freshwater. Everything else is saltwater.

Take 10 ml from the second container and empty into a third. This represents the water available for us to use. The other 20 ml of fresh water is unable to be used as it is underground or in icecaps etc.

Discuss how humans use water (at home, in industries such as farming, etc) and the importance of conserving water.





Curriculum links

	Year	Content Description
Science	F	Living things have basic needs, including food and water (ACSSU002)
	2	Earth's resources, including water, are used in a variety of ways (ACSSU032)
	4	Living things, including plants and animals, depend on each other and the environment to survive (ACSSU073)
	7	Water is an important resource that cycles through the environment (ACSSU222)
		This activity also use Science Inquiry Skills, including Planning and Conducting (making observations about the availability of water) and Communicating (sharing their observations and results). This activity also use Science as a Human Endeavour in all year levels, through exploring and observing. See ACARA for details.
Geography	7	The classification of environmental resources and the forms that water takes as a resource (ACHGK037)
	7	The quantity and variability of Australia's water resources compared with those in other continents (ACHGK039)
	7	The nature of water scarcity and ways of overcoming it, including studies drawn from Australia and West Asia and/or North Africa (ACHGK040)
		This activity also uses Geographical Inquiry and Skills, including Observing, questioning and planning; and Reflecting and responding. See ACARA for details.

Links can be made to other subject areas including Maths (Measurement and geometry). Refer to ACARA.

