

Water Efficiency Presentation Guidance Notes

At Business Stream, we're passionate about water efficiency and we want to encourage everyone to use water wisely. That's why we're working with Business in the Community to visit primary schools across the country to spread the word. We're delighted to provide this presentation as a free resource for teachers and parents/guardians to use.

These guidance notes are designed to support you as you talk your child/children through the presentation.

"Let's Begin with Some Fun Facts..."

Slide 2, 3 and 4

On these slides, you'll find some facts about the amount of water that's on Earth. We'd encourage you to let your child/children guess the answers to the first two questions.

These answers highlight what percentage of the Earth is covered in water and how much is available for us to use. Most of the water on Earth (around 97%) can be found in our oceans and of the tiny percentage that's not in the ocean about 2% is frozen up in glaciers and ice caps. The remaining 1% of water is freshwater.



Slide 5

There's a high chance that the water we use today is the same water that thirsty dinosaurs were gulping about 65 million years ago. This is because of something called the water cycle which the next slide will explain in more detail.

Slide 6

You can see a diagram of the 'water cycle' on this slide. The 'water cycle' begins with the water in our seas and rivers, it warms up with the heat from the sun and rises into the sky as very tiny droplets. When it cools down, it forms clouds. When the clouds get really heavy the water falls from the clouds as rain, sleet or snow, and it goes back into our seas and rivers. Where the whole cycle starts again. This same water has circulated our planet for nearly **5 billion years!**

"Now it's time for some more Fun Facts..."

Slide 7 - 12

You'll find some facts about water usage on these slides. Again, we'd encourage you to get your child/children to guess the figures before revealing the answer.

“Here are some reasons why we should try to use less water”

Slide 13 – 16

These slides outline some of the reasons why it is important to try and use less water. You may wish to ask for some ideas before moving forward from slide 13. Further detail is provided below:

Protecting the environment

There is a bigger demand for water today than ever before and in some parts of the UK we are already seeing water shortages. Recently we heard that unless we protect our water more, some areas in England there may not be enough water for everyone in 20-25 years – which is a scary thought! As we explained before, only 1% of all the water on earth is available for us to use, so it’s really important that we use it wisely and don’t waste it.

And by using less water we can also help to save wildlife too. Most of the water we use in our homes is taken from rivers and lakes that wildlife rely on to survive. So if we take too much water from the rivers and lakes then we can cause harm to the wildlife that live there.

Climate Change

Treating water to make it safe for us to drink and use (as well as transporting water around the country to areas that get less rain than we do in Scotland (!)) are both very energy intensive activities. So by reducing the amount of water we use, we can reduce the amount of energy used in treating and pumping water – which in turn reduces our carbon emissions, which contribute to greenhouse gases and Climate Change.

Saving money

At Business Stream we work closely with our customers (who are all businesses) to help them use less water, which helps our customers to reduce their bills too. Heating water costs money and uses up energy and that’s why we encourage our customers to take simple steps such as only filling the kettle with the amount of water they need and only using the dishwasher when it’s full, to try and reduce costs and waste. These simple steps can make a big difference to the amount we use and spend on water.



Top tips to save water

Slide 17 – 28

These slides highlight some top tips to save water at school and at home. Before going through the slides, you can ask for some ideas of ways to use water wisely.

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“Time for an activity...”

Slide 29

It's time for a fun water related activity! Ask your child/children to design a poster which will encourage others to use water wisely. They can use some of the facts from earlier in the presentation, or create their own.

“It's quiz time...”

Slide 30

Now it's quiz time - good luck!

The answers to the questions are provided below:

Q1 How much of the Earth's surface is covered in water? **70%**

Q2 How much of the water on this Earth is available for us to use and drink? **1%**

Q3 How many filled bathtubs of water does it take to make one cotton t-shirt? **49** Q4

How many litres of water does the average person in the UK use in a day? **150**

Q5 How many litres of water are used if a tap is left running for 2 minutes? **12**

Q6 What uses more water – a bath or a shower? **A bath**

We hope you've found this presentation useful and will help us to spread the word about water efficiency!

“There are lots of things we can all do to save water, even small changes can make a positive difference!”