



Going Green!

Nature Van Pre-Activity



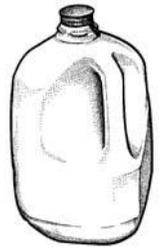
Our planet is covered mostly with water, but only about 3% of that water is **freshwater**. The rest of the water is makes up our oceans and is too salty for humans and animals to drink. During very dry conditions, like when California is in a drought, it is important to not waste freshwater.

This activity will help us track how much water we use as part of everyday activities. After discovering how much water we all use, we can also find ways that we can conserve even more water!

Part 1- How much is a gallon?

For this activity, we will be using average amounts of water used in terms of how many **gallons** it fills. A gallon helps us measure the amount of liquids.

- Fill an empty gallon sized plastic jug, and then pour into various containers to gain an understanding of how much liquid a gallon can hold.
- Once you have finished measuring the water, make sure to reuse the water wisely! Use it to water plants, bathe a pet, or wash your dishes later.



Part 2- Track your water usage!

- Using the following tracking sheet, mark each time you do one of the listed actions. Do this every day for 7 days!
- At the end of the week, total up the amount of tallies for each action. You can ask a parent or teacher for help to do the next calculations.
- Use the column titled “Average Number of Gallons” to see how many gallons of water were used for each action. Multiply this by the number of times you did the action. This will then give you the total number of gallons used for each row/action.
- Total up all the gallons used in the last column to get the week’s total amount of water used.
- Compare with your classmates to get a range of estimated water usage amount.
- Remember that these are estimates, and certain factors such as leaks, high or low flow hardware, or length of time can all make the water use more or less.

Part 3- How would you conserve?

- After completing one week of tracking water usage, what would you do to make that number less during a second week of tracking?
- Challenge yourself! Set a goal to reduce you water usage during your second week!

