

Activity: How Much Water Do You Use?

Introduction

Water is a valuable resource that all living things need to survive, especially in the desert state of Utah. Desert tortoises are adapted to make the most out of available water. Just like desert tortoises humans need water to survive. However, we use water in many different ways other than just staying hydrated. Many daily activities use water, such as brushing your teeth or even going to the bathroom! What are some ways that we use water? Complete this activity to discover how much water you use in a day.

Learning Objectives

- Calculate volume of water used on a daily rate.
- Learn the average water consumption for one person in a home.
- Discover ways to limit their water usage.

Instructions

Use the chart below to track your water use. Write the number of times you or your family members do each activity in one day. Multiply the **Estimated Amount** of water used by the **Number of Times** the activity was done. Write your calculated number in the **Gallons Used** column. At the end of the day add all the numbers in the **Gallons Used** column to find the **Total Gallons Used** in one day.

Water Use Chart

Activity	Estimated Water Use Amount (in gallons)	Number of Times Per Day	Gallons Used
Flushing Toilet	2		
Washing Hands	1		
Brushing your teeth (leaving water running)	5		
Taking a Shower	17		
Taking a Bath	36		
Washing laundry	30		
Washing dishes by hand	10		
Running a dishwasher	15		
Cooking or Drinking	2		
Watering the lawn	225		
		Total Gallons Used	

Discussion

After you have completed the Water Use Chart, let's consider how humans use water.

- What are other ways not included in the chart that we might use water?
- Are there products that we use that require water to manufacture?
- Can you estimate how much water you might use in a week? In a year?
- Do you think the average person in Utah uses a similar amount as you?
- Utah is a desert state with some of the driest areas receiving only 10 inches of rainfall annually. How should this effect the way we think about using water?
- What are some ways that humans can conserve water?