

EduTrend Contents

W4C · ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE · PRIMARY

Water Savers

How much water do we use, and how can we save it?

Ages 8–11 | Level: Developing | 60 minutes | Groups of 3 · up to 30 | Activity 02

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 02 · AT A GLANCE

Water Savers

Pupils investigate water use. They measure how much water flows from a tap in 10 seconds, how much is used washing hands with the tap running or off, and how much a dripping tap wastes. They scale up their results to a day and a year, then design a water-saving campaign.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- measure volume and time accurately;
- calculate water use by scaling up;
- compare ways of using water;
- present evidence in a persuasive campaign.

KEY WORDS

water · volume · litre · millilitre · flow · waste · conservation

CURRICULUM LINKS

Science: the water cycle, working scientifically. Maths: measuring, multiplication, scaling. Geography: water resources.

1	2	3	4	5	6
QUESTION	**INVESTIGATE**	**MEASURE**	**ANALYSE**	**ACT**	**REVIEW**
What is the issue?	Collect evidence	Count and record	Find patterns	Plan a solution	Did it work?

Materials (per group)

- Measuring jugs (1 litre) and a bucket
- Stopwatch
- Access to a tap
- Calculator
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Check taps near the classroom.
- Set up a “dripping tap” (loosened tap or a bottle with a pinhole).
- Prepare jugs and buckets.
- Agree to reuse collected water for plants.

SAFETY

Wipe up spills immediately to avoid slips. Use cold water only.

ACTIVITY 02 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Timings are for 60 minutes. Collected water is reused to water plants.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–5 min **Hook**	How many litres does one person use in a day? Collect guesses.	*"Where does our water come from?"*
5–20 min **Measure flow**	Groups measure water from a tap in 10 seconds and repeat three times.	*"How can we measure accurately?"*
20–30 min **Handwashing**	Compare washing hands with the tap running and turned off while soaping.	*"Which used less water?"*
30–40 min **Drip test**	Collect drips for 10 minutes and scale up to a day.	*"Does a drip matter?"*
40–50 min **Calculate**	Scale up to a class and a school year.	*"How much could we save?"*
50–60 min **Campaign**	Groups design a poster with their evidence.	*"Which fact is most persuasive?"*

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Use your measurements to calculate how much water your class could save in a school year by turning taps off while soaping. Put the number on a campaign poster.

ACTIVITY 02 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The science in brief

Clean water is a limited resource. Water has to be collected, treated and pumped to our taps, which uses energy. The water cycle constantly recycles water, but in many places people use water faster than rain can replace it in rivers and underground stores.

Small changes add up. A tap can run at several litres a minute, and a steady drip can waste many litres a day. Scaling up from careful measurements helps show the size of the saving.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Water will never run out.” Fresh, clean water can run short locally.
- “A drip is too small to matter.” Drips add up over a day and a year.
- “Saving water saves nothing else.” Treating and pumping water uses energy.

Adapting the activity

Support

Measure the tap flow only and use a calculator for scaling with support.

Stretch

Survey water use at home for a day and compare with other families.

WORKSHEET 1

Tap measurements

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Measure how much water flows in 10 seconds.

Results

Test	Trial 1 (ml)	Trial 2 (ml)	Trial 3 (ml)	Mean (ml)
Tap flow (10 s)				
Handwash, tap running				
Handwash, tap off while soaping				
Drip (10 min)				

WORKSHEET 2

Scaling up

Show your working.

Calculations

Question	Working	Answer
Tap flow per minute		
Drip per day		
Saving per handwash		
Class saving per year		

WORKSHEET 3

Our campaign

Design a poster. Include at least one number from your results.

Poster plan

Why will this persuade people?

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Measures accurately	Scales up correctly	Uses evidence persuasively

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Water Savers is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents W4C Environmental Science programme (primary, level: developing). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

© 2026 EduTrend Contents. This activity may be printed and copied for use with pupils in your own school, club or home. It may not be resold or published elsewhere. Photos: João Paulo Carnevalli de Oliveira / Unsplash.