# Activity: Wise water users (Years 3 and 4)

Looking after our water

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| Victorian Curriculum F–10[[1]](#footnote-1) links:**Geography****Levels 3 and 4****Geographical Knowledge****Diversity and significance of places and environments**Types of natural vegetation and the significance of vegetation to the environment, the importance of environments to animals and people, and different views on how they can be protected; the use and management of natural resources and waste, and different views on how to do this sustainably |

Students consider the importance of using water wisely and use a set of water saving cards to develop an action plan for using water wisely at home.

## Duration

Two sessions

## Equipment

For each group:

One set of water saving cards

One copy of **Student worksheet: Using water wisely**

## Activity steps

1. Using the information on Melbourne Water’s [alternative water sources](http://www.melbournewater.com.au/how-water-sector-taking-action) from how we’re working to secure our water supply, explain how water is reused to save high quality water for its special uses. Talk about other sources of water such as recycled water and stormwater harvesting, what the recycled water is used for and how the water is returned to the natural water cycle after its time in the urban water cycle.

Ask students why it is important to use water wisely? Guide the discussion with a focus on reasons why it is important to use water wisely for the environment and for our future.

**Teacher tip**

Organise the water saving cards so that there is one set among three or four students.

1. Organise students into groups of three or four. Explain that each group will receive a set of water saving cards. Each student randomly takes four cards from the set and has time to consider why the water saving idea is important for the environment, our future or both. Encourage students to think about:
* the water cycle and how this idea links to it, for example, mulch reduces evaporation and keeps moisture in the ground
* rivers and creeks which flow to reservoirs and to the sea
* animal and plant life in their waterway environment
* reservoirs which store our drinking water
* recycled water: for example, treated water for use in parklands, golf courses and farms; water from the laundry and shower for use in the garden.
1. Students take turns to present their cards to the group and explain why they think it is important for the environment or our future. It is recommended that one card is presented at a time and students rotate taking turns until all the cards have been presented.
2. Groups sort the cards into different collections—water saving ideas for the environment, for our future or for both. Groups can share their ideas with the class.
3. Distribute the **Student worksheet: Using water wisely** and explain that they will use the ideas from the water saving cards discussion to complete it. Students refer to the water saving cards for ideas and prompts, recording:
* reasons for using water wisely for the environment and our future
* their favourite water saving ideas from the water saving cards.
1. Students choose a favourite idea to develop into a plan that they think their family could do.
2. Students take their plan home and discuss it with their family.

## Optional activity

To provide a community perspective, invite an officer from the local council or water authority to speak to students about what they are doing to use water wisely.

## Resources

[Natural and urban water cycle](http://melbournewater.com.au/water-cycle), Melbourne Water

[Water supply system](https://www.melbournewater.com.au/node/143), Melbourne Water

[Using and saving water at home](https://www.melbournewater.com.au/using-and-saving-water-home), Melbourne Water

[Using and saving water at school](http://melbournewater.com.au/using-and-saving-water-school), Melbourne Water

**Local water retailers**

City West Water, <[www.citywestwater.com.au/residents/saving\_water.aspx](http://www.citywestwater.com.au/residents/saving_water.aspx)>

Yarra Valley Water, <[www.yvw.com.au/Home/Inyourhome/Savingwaterathome/index.htm](http://www.yvw.com.au/Home/Inyourhome/Savingwaterathome/index.htm)>

South East Water, <<http://southeastwater.com.au/Business/PWUR/Pages/PWUR.aspx>>

**Student worksheet: Using water wisely**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why is it important to use water My favourite ideas for My plan of what I think my family

wisely for the environment? using water wisely at home. can do to use water wisely.

Draw and write about your plan.

**WISE WATER USE**

Why is it important to use water wisely
for our future?

**Water saving cards**

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| **Reduce your shower time to 4 minutes** | **Install aerators or flow restrictors on all your taps** | **Install a cistern weight, if you have an old single flush toilet** | **Cut one load of washing each week** | **Check for leaking taps, shower heads and toilets** |
| **Mulch the garden** | **Prepare the garden soil with water-storing agents** | **Check your outdoor taps and hoses for leaks** | **Use a cover on your pool and check the pool for leaks** | **If planting new plants, choose drought-tolerant ones** |
| **Don’t cut the lawn too short** | **Install a rainwater tank** | **Turn the tap off while brushing your teeth or shaving** | **Keep bathwater to a minimum and divert to the garden if possible** | **Don’t wash your dishes under running water** |
| **Only wash with a full load of clothes** | **Make sure the dishwasher is full before turning it on** | **Divert your washing machine water to your garden** | **Repair leaking taps immediately** | **Get a FREE water-saving showerhead** |

The water saving cards were developed from the Target 155 suggested actions for saving water at home.

1.  Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) <<http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>> Accessed 14 August 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)