

WATER – too little to waste

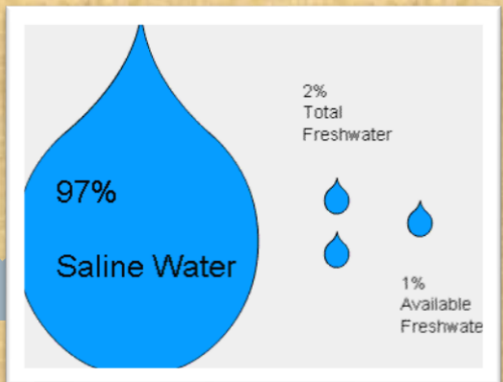
Is water really important for life?

If your answer is Yes! Can you list out a few points about water that you know?

Let us do it together!

“Water is a precious resource”

- ✚ Almost all Earth’s water is in the oceans. 96.5 percent of the water on Earth is in our oceans, covering 71 percent of the surface of our planet.



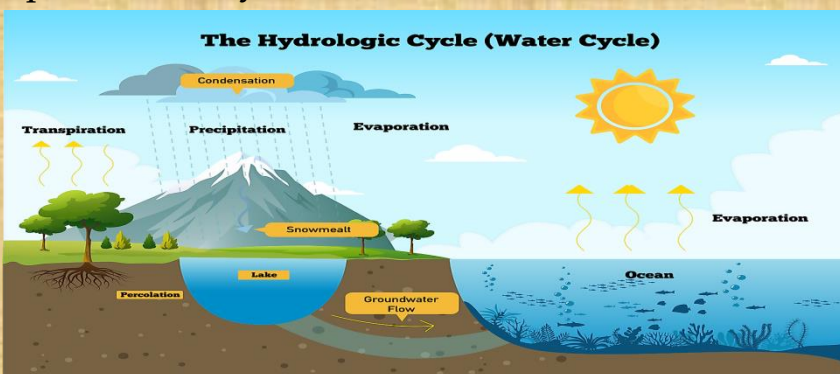
- ✚ Less than 1% of the water supply on Earth can be used as drinking water.
- ✚ Most of the earth’s surface water is permanently frozen or salty.
- ✚ Ground water contamination is nearly always the result of human activity.
- ✚ 80% of all illness in the developing world is water-related.
- ✚ A leaky tap that drips one drip per second can waste more than 11,300 liters a year!

After knowing all these facts, can you say that we are really conscious about our precious resource – water!

Water is one of the most essential needs for life. It was with water that all the life on Earth started, so it is not surprising that all living things on our blue planet need water. About 0.3% of the water resources in the world are usable. Water shortages already exist in many regions, with more than one billion people without adequate drinking water. As the world population increases need for water also increases. However, as a result of human activities, water resources are decreasing, polluted, and still used unconsciously.

Story of water:

Sun heat causes water to evaporate. It forms masses in the atmosphere in the form of clouds of water droplets that evaporate and descend to the earth in the event of rain, hail, or snowfall and enable life to continue. Plants absorb water from the soil and release a certain part of it back into the atmosphere through transpiration, evaporation, precipitation, and perspiration. They make up the water cycle.



One of the main features that distinguish our world from other planets is that **it contains water**. Water resources in the world are found in the air, sea, land,

rivers, lakes, and oceans. While the water in the air moves between the earth and the atmosphere, the water on the land is in the form of underground water.

Not only our blue planet but the human body is also made up of water!

Three-quarters of our world is covered with water and the human body is mostly made up of water. Water is the main ingredient of carbohydrates, fats, and proteins in the human body. Water has an important place in performing many vital activities such as circulation, excretion, and reproduction. 80-90% of our blood and 75% of our muscles are made up of water. Water is an indispensable element of life and we feel uncomfortable when we are dehydrated even for a short time.

When we lose very important blessings like the water we have, we begin to realize how precious water to us is.

The main pollutants encountered in water are acids and alkalis, detergents, household wastes and fertilizers, food industry wastes, various gases, heat, various metals, nutrients, oils and dispersants, organic toxic wastes, pathogens, and pesticides.

Why do we need to know about water pollution here?

Because water pollution does not only stay in the water, it passes to the soil and from the soil to plants, vegetables, and fruits through irrigation, and these harmful wastes also pass to the animals that drink from this polluted water.

- ✚ Use of poor quality water, diseases caused by water on living things, low productivity in agricultural activities, the reduction of biodiversity in the aquatic habitat, deaths, and increases in drinking and utility water treatment costs are all the effects of water pollution.
- ✚ Water resources are also chemically contaminated by industrialization, pesticides used in agriculture, chemicals used unconsciously in agriculture and industry.

The healthy water we drink and use should be colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Water - its chemical content should contain some basic elements needed by the body such as calcium, magnesium, sodium. They should not contain nitrite, nitrate, organic matter, chemicals, heavy metals, and disease-causing microorganisms.



In order to meet the water needs of the increasing population sufficiently, water basins should not be occupied with settlements and industrial facilities, water resources should not be polluted, clean water resources and forests that serve as natural dams should be increased rather than reduced.

SAVE WATER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Some measures to prevent water waste can be:



As it causes serious water loss:

- Drip taps should be repaired.
- Water-saving equipment should be used.
- Instead of washing vegetables and fruits under a stream, they should be washed in a bowl.
- The hot water pipes should be covered with insulating material.
- The washing machine should be operated when it is completely full.
- A shower head with an adjustable flow rate should be used while taking a bath.
- Cool hours of the day should be chosen for watering the garden and flowers.
- Care should be taken to grow plants that do not require much water in the garden, choose plants suitable for the climate of your location.
- Rain large water tanks should be used to collect water.

The factors to be taken into consideration in order to use irrigation water more effectively in agriculture are:

- One of the methods of sprinkler and drip irrigation should be chosen in all areas where climate, soil, and topography conditions are favorable.
- Methods that will keep the soil moisture should be used in agriculture. The continuous use of commercial fertilizers in agricultural production disrupts the soil structure and reduces the water holding capacity of the soil. Green manure and the use of animal manure increase the water holding capacity of the soil.
- Hence, tillage causes moisture loss, agriculture without tillage should be preferred by using a direct sowing drill.
- Ensure to develop plant varieties resistant to drought and salinity.

Today, unfortunately, many societies are faced with water scarcity and with the expected population growth, the number of people experiencing water scarcity will gradually increase. In this case, **the only and consistent way to provide water supply and to protect existing resources is to recover and reuse wastewater.**

Water is an essential substance not only for humans but for all living things. However, water resources are in danger of decreasing due to climate change, global warming, misuse, and pollutants.

As a result, it is absolutely necessary to use and protect the natural composition of the soil, water, and air which are necessary for the continuation of life, for sustainable living, and the natural environment. With the conscious use of water, we can prevent the pollution and depletion of our water resources by taking simple measures without impairing our quality of life.

We must act in the awareness that the lives of future generations are in our hands. The prerequisite for this is to give potable water and a livable environment to future generations.

