

**Chapter 21****ENRICHMENT**

Use with Section 2

# ● Conservation and Wildlife Protection

## Do you waste water?

Most people think water is in abundant supply. It rains from the sky, fills the oceans, and runs down rivers. But what many of us don't know is that water must be in a certain form to be used for cooking, drinking, and bathing. The water we use must be free of most salt, bacteria, and sediments. Safe, clean drinking water is actually scarce. Water purification plants clean the water we drink, but they sometimes have trouble keeping up with the demand for clean water. Do you waste water?

### Procedure

1. Over a weekend, keep track of the water used in your home. Ask other family members to help you. They should report to you how they have used water each day.
2. Use the table below to help you make an estimate of how much water is used in your home over one weekend. For example, the table shows that we use 5 gallons per minute when taking a shower. If you take a 10-minute shower, you have used 50 gallons of water.
3. On a separate sheet of paper, keep track of your water use as well as everyone else's use in your home. On Monday morning, add all the figures together to get the weekend total. Then divide that number by the number of people in your household to get the average amount of water used per person over a weekend.

Activity	Water used
taking a shower	5 gallons per minute
brushing teeth with water running	5 gallons per brushing
taking a bath	40 gallons per bath
cooking	3 gallons per meal
washing clothes	30 gallons per load
washing dishes with running water (by hand)	30 gallons per load
washing dishes (in dishwasher)	20 gallons per load
flushing a toilet	5 gallons per flush

### Conclude and Apply

1. How much water did you use? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How much did your entire family use? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the average amount of water used per person? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which activity used the most water over the weekend? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What could you and your family do to save water? \_\_\_\_\_  
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