



TAKE CARE OF TEXAS: EDUCATOR MATERIALS

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP HANDOUT

Where Texans Get Water

Name: _____

This handout references the video "Where Texans Get Water" that can be found at [YouTube.com/TakeCareOfTexas](https://www.youtube.com/TakeCareOfTexas). While watching the video, complete the Fill-in-the-Blank section of the handout. Once the video is finished, work in groups of 2-3 to complete the Discussion section.

Fill in the Blank

Water is essential, or super important, for all life on the planet. Water helps plants grow, provides habitats for all different types of animals, and it keeps us alive! Earth is often called _____ because out of all of the other planets in our solar system, our Earth has the most water! In fact, water takes up almost _____ of the Earth's surface. That means water covers almost the entire planet. If you look at Earth from space, it actually glows blue. That's because of all the water!

Types of Water

There are a lot of things about water that make it special. One of the coolest things about it is that we can find water in three different forms: _____, _____, and _____. Each of these three forms of water plays an important role in our environment. Can you guess what solid water is called? That's right! _____ We don't get much natural ice in Texas. But you probably have some in your freezer at home. Water can also exist in liquid form. The liquid form of water can be found all over Texas in _____, _____, and _____. Texas is also located right next to an ocean, called the _____, which has a lot of liquid water. You may not realize it, but every time you breathe, you breathe in the gaseous form of water, which is called _____ . It is in the air everyday. It's too small to see with our eyes, but even if you can't see it, it is always there.



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Natural Sources

We define water in Texas by two main groups: _____ and _____.

About three quarters of our drinking water in Texas comes from groundwater, which is water that is found in the ground, through a _____ or an _____. The rest of our water comes from surface water, which is water that comes from above the ground and is found in a lake or a river.

Wherever the water comes from, special steps must be taken to _____ the water to make sure it is safe for humans to drink. The water that we drink in Texas typically comes from _____ sources like rivers, lakes or underground. Although Texas is right next to the ocean, we don't normally use ocean water for drinking. That's because the ocean is made up of _____, and it is too salty for humans to drink without extra treatment to remove the salt. This is called _____. In fact, most of the water on Earth is saltwater. Out of all the water on the planet, _____ is the kind of water that humans can actually drink.

Conclusion

Because humans only have a small amount of water that we can drink, it is very important to _____ or save water. We can all work together to help save water by _____ when we wash our hands or brush our teeth. We can also try to take _____, instead of baths, since they use less water. Ask your parents for permission to visit our website to learn other ways that you can save water! By making a few small changes and working together, we can help conserve water and Take Care of Texas.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Earth glow blue when seen from outer space?
2. Using a map, locate two (2) rivers, two (2) lakes, and one (1) pond that can be found near you.
3. Why is it important for people to clean the water we use?
4. Name two (2) other ways to conserve water.

Answer Key

Fill in the Blank

Water is essential, or super important, for all life on the planet. Water helps plants grow, provides habitats for all different types of animals, and it keeps us alive! Earth is often called “The Water Planet” because out of all of the other planets in our solar system, our Earth has the most water! In fact, water takes up almost three fourths (3/4) of the Earth's surface. That means water covers almost the entire planet. If you look at Earth from space, it actually glows blue. That's because of all the water!

Types of Water

There are a lot of things about water that make it special. One of the coolest things about it is that we can find water in three different forms: solid, liquid, and gas. Each of these three forms of water plays an important role in our environment. Can you guess what solid water is called? That's right! Ice! We don't get much natural ice in Texas. But you probably have some in your freezer at home. Water can also exist in liquid form. The liquid form of water can be found all over Texas in rivers, lakes, and ponds. Texas is also located right next to an ocean, called the Gulf of Mexico, which has a lot of liquid water. You may not realize it, but every time you breathe, you breathe in the gaseous form of water, which is called water vapor. It is in the air everyday. It's too small to see with our eyes, but even if you can't see it, it is always there.

Natural Sources

We define water in Texas by two main groups: groundwater and surface water. About three quarters of our drinking water in Texas comes from groundwater, which is water that is found in the ground, through a well or an aquifer. The rest of our water comes from surface water, which is water that comes from above the ground and is found in a lake or a river. Wherever the water comes from, special steps must be taken to treat the water to make sure it is safe for humans to drink. The water that we drink in Texas typically comes from freshwater sources like rivers, lakes or underground. Although Texas is right next to the ocean, we don't normally use ocean water for drinking. That's because the ocean is made up of saltwater, and it is too salty for humans to drink without extra treatment to remove the salt. This is called desalinization. In fact, most of the water on Earth is saltwater. Out of all the water on the planet, less than 1% is the kind of water that humans can actually drink.

Conclusion

Because humans only have a small amount of water that we can drink, it is very important to conserve or save water. We can all work together to help save water by turning off running water when we wash our hands or brush our teeth. We can also try to take showers, instead of baths, since they use less water. Ask your parents for permission to visit our website to learn other ways that you can save water! By making a few small changes and working together, we can help conserve water and Take Care of Texas.