

Explore Your Watershed

Rangers in the Classroom—Pre-visit Lesson Plan



Grade Level: 4th

Setting: Classroom

Duration: 30 minutes classroom time, short amounts of time out of class

Standards Addressed:

° Science-Life Sciences:
3.a., 3.b.

Introduction:

Welcome to Rangers in the Classroom! We are looking forward to visiting your class for our Explore Your Watershed program about water resources in your area. To help prepare your class for the ranger visit, we have created a pre-visit activity to introduce your students to some of the concepts we will cover in our program. If you are interested in additional preparation, the program outline includes a vocabulary list and can easily be found on the website at: <http://www.nps.gov/seki/forteachers/index.htm>. By exploring a few concepts and vocabulary words with your students prior to our visit, you will help us hit the ground running. Have fun and we'll see you soon!

Materials:

- ° Copies of "My Water Journal" (one per student)
- ° Pencils

Instructions:

1. Pass out copies of "My Water Journal" for each student.
2. Brainstorm with the class on how they use water every day.
3. Students will track their water usage throughout the day, beginning one morning at school and completing their tally just before they go to bed.
4. Remind students to carry their worksheets with them throughout the day and when they go home, jotting down how many times they used water throughout the day. If they use water in a way not listed on the worksheet, they should make a note of how water was used.
5. Students will share their results with the class the next day.
6. Wrap up this activity by discussing the importance of water in our everyday lives. Ask the students if we are able to create more water. Tell students that a ranger will be coming to their class to teach them where this water comes from and our impacts on our watershed. This activity will help students to begin thinking about the presence of water in their communities and in nature.

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Rangers in the Classroom—Pre-visit Activity

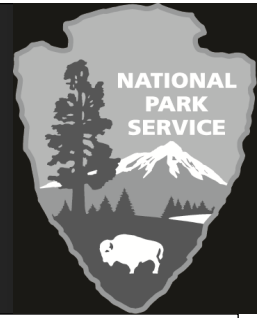


Extensions:

- ° Create a class chart or graph of water usage trends. Go over how much water is used for common household activities (listed in outline for “Explore Your Watershed”).
- ° Print out another copy of “My Water Journal” and hand out to students at another time of the year (another month/a different season). Students can graph use over a period of time to see if there are any changes in their water usage.

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Rangers in the Classroom—Pre-visit Activity



“My Water Journal”

Keep track of how many times you used water in one day, beginning in the morning at school and ending when you go to bed. Use tally marks to help you keep track of how many times you used water.

At school, I used water to:	How many times? (Use tally marks.)
Wash my hands	
Drink of water	
Flush the toilet	
Other (list):	

At home, I used water to:	How many times? (Use tally marks.)
Wash my hands	
Drink of water	
Flush the toilet	
Brush My Teeth	
Take a bath or shower	
To help cook food	
Other (list):	