



School water survey

Learning objective

To identify where water is used in your school and where you could save water

Overview

Children conduct a survey of water-using appliances around school to identify where water is being used and wasted

Resources

- **School water survey** worksheet 3.1
- Clipboards
- A map of your school, showing all rooms and outdoor areas
- Graph paper

Curriculum links

-  Eco-Schools – environmental review
-  Geography – skills and fieldwork
-  Mathematics – statistics

Activities

In advance

- Tell staff and children in advance that a water survey will be taking place and arrange for pupils to have access to necessary areas. Remind staff and children on the day of the survey.

Starter

- Challenge children to think of as many places as possible where water is used in the school. List the places and how water is used in each area.
- Mark the places on the map.

Main

- **Safety:** Remind the children of health and safety rules. Stay with your group, walk carefully and wear sensible shoes. Wash your hands after touching anything in the toilet areas. Be aware of wet and slippery floors and of hot water taps.
- Ask children to go to each room marked on the map, count the number of water-using items in each area and record in the table.
- Children use observation and ask staff to answer **Find it out** questions.
- Children survey their own class to examine attitudes to water. Encourage them to add their own questions. Children record responses as a tally chart.
- Children display survey results by:
 - Devising symbols and a key to identify water-using appliances on their map
 - Using a traffic light system on their map, red for areas where water is wasted, amber for moderate areas and green for areas of water saving
 - Using bar graphs to display results of survey

Classroom-based alternative

- Complete the survey sheet in advance with the data for your school. Children can use the completed table to display the results using maps and graphs.

Plenary

- Show maps and graphs created
- Discuss how water is used and wasted in your school
- Children suggest ways water could be saved in your school
- Remind children that Southern Water will soon be visiting to install water-saving fittings to your taps, toilets, urinals and showers. Watch out for changes



School water survey

Look around your school to see where you could save water. Visit the the classrooms, playground, toilets, kitchen or anywhere you might find water being used

Spot where you could save water

Mark on your map all the places you find water being used.

Count the number of each water-using item, such as taps and toilets, and record them here:

Where?	Number of taps	Number of dripping or running taps	Number of toilets	Number of urinals in boys' toilets	Number of water fountains	Number of other items that use water (like dishwasher)
Total						

How do you turn on your taps?

Count the number of each type



How do the toilets flush?

Count the number of each type



Find it out!

Can you discover the answers as you look round your school? Or ask your teacher or midday meal supervisor

Does your school have a water butt for collecting rainwater?	Yes	No
Do all the sinks have plugs?	Yes	No
In the kitchen, is the dishwasher filled before it is switched on?	Yes	No
Are there pictures in your toilets reminding you to save water?	Yes	No
Does your school have an eco or green club?	Yes	No

Ask your class!

Can our school save more water? If so, how?

