

How much water do you use?

In this activity you will estimate your personal daily water use. Then you'll compare your daily use to that of your classmates and people in other parts of the world.

Materials:

- Calculator

Procedure:

1. Fill out the table below to the best of your ability
2. To answer the Total Water Used Multiply Gallons Used by Times per Day

Activity	Gallons Used	Times per Day	Total Water Used for this Activity
Toilet Flushing	5 Gallons		
Shower (water running)	8 Gallons per minute	_____ times per day X _____ minutes =	
Bath (full tub)	30 Gallons		
Laundry washing machine	40 Gallons per load		
Dishwasher	15 Gallons per load		
Dishwashing by hand	30 Gallons (tap running) per load		
Brushing Teeth	1 Gallon		
Cooking (1 meal per person)	3 Gallons		
Washing Car	50 Gallons by hand	_____ times per week ÷ 7 days =	
Watering the garden (30 minutes)	200 Gallons	_____ times per week ÷ 7 days =	
Estimated Total Gallons used per day			

Analysis

1. According to a report written by the World Water Council in 2000, people in North America use an average of 92 gallons of water per day for domestic purposes.
 - a. How did your estimate compare with this value?
 - b. If your estimate was different, think about why and describe some possible reasons.
2. Compared to 92 gallons of water per day used by Americans, Europeans use on average about 53 gallons of water per day, and in sub-Saharan Africa, people use only 3-5 gallons per day.
 - a. Why do you think people in these other regions of the world use so much less than the average American?
 - b. If you only had 3-5 gallons per day of water available to use, what would you use it for?
3. The United Nations recommends that people need a minimum of 13.2 gallons of water a day for drinking, washing, cooking, and sanitation.
 - a. Is this reasonable?
 - b. Explain your thinking.