

The Challenges – Teacher Resources

Name _____

Water by the Numbers

- Most of the water people use in their homes swirls down the toilet bowl. The average high-volume toilet flush in Florida uses 5 gallons of water. Newer, low-flow models use as little as 1.6 gallons per flush.
- The average shower uses 8 gallons of water a minute. A low-flow showerhead uses 2.5 gallons per minute or less.
- Filling a bathtub takes about 36 gallons of water. Taking a bath with the tub half full uses about 18 gallons.
- Faucets, generally use 2.5 gallons a minute. Low-flow models use as little as 1.5 gallons per minute.
- Dishwashers generally use 11 gallons per load in most cases; that's less than when you wash dishes by hand.
- Older washing machines use up to 40 gallons of water per load. Newer, water-saving models use only 18 gallons of water per load.
- Watering the yard sometimes accounts for 25 percent to 50 percent of all residential water use. A hose is capable of spraying 12 gallons of water per minute.
- If you wash a car and leave the hose running, you waste more than 540 gallons of water. If you use a trigger nozzle, bucket, and rag, you use roughly 120 gallons of water.



Information obtained from the Home Water Use... a family survey found at floridawater.com/floridawater/conservation/survey.html

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1. Based on the information given, approximately how many gallons of water can be saved by taking a bath with the tub half filled rather than completely filled?
 - a. 0–10 gallons
 - b. 10–20 gallons
 - c. 20–30 gallons
 - d. 10–30 gallons
2. Most regular showerheads use 8 gallons of water per minute, while low-flow showerheads average about 2.5 gallons of water per minute. Suppose you take a five-minute shower. How many gallons of water would you save using a low-flow showerhead?
 - a. 275 gallons
 - b. 40 gallons
 - c. 12.5 gallons
 - d. 27.5 gallons
3. Suppose you have a new, low-flow toilet in your home. How much water would your family save per day if the toilet were flushed 25 times?
 - a. 8.5 gallons
 - b. 8 gallons
 - c. 85 gallons
 - d. 850 gallons
4. A loaded dishwasher usually uses less water to clean dishes than washing them by hand. Explain why this is possible.

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Answer key

Water by the Numbers

1. b. 10–20 gallons
2. d. 27.5 gallons
3. c. 85 gallons