A Drop
IN THE BUCKET

Rediscovering Science

In Washington it may seem like there's lots of water. However, 7.6 billion people and thousands of plants and animals share the Earth's precious water.

Activity: Estimate and calculate the percentage of available fresh water on Earth following the steps below. You may be surprised!
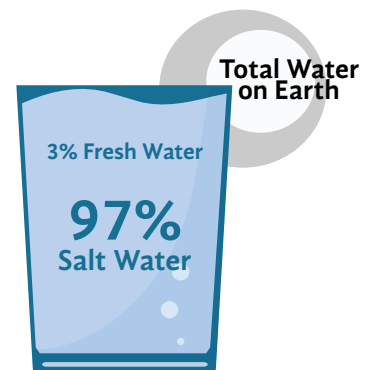
1. Label the sheets of paper - fresh water, total liquid, and clean and available - and place a small bowl on each paper.

2. Fill a medium bowl with water (1 liter = 1000 mL = 4.25 cups). The water represents all of the water on Earth! What are the 2 kinds of water? _____

3. Transfer 2 tablespoons (30 mL) of water from the medium bowl to the "fresh water" bowl. The remaining water in the medium bowl represents salt water found in oceans. Where are 3 places we can find fresh water? _____

4. Transfer 2 teaspoons (10 mL) of water from the "fresh water" bowl to the "total liquid" bowl. What kind of water is left in the "fresh water" bowl? _____ (Hint: it's very, very cold!)

5. Dip your finger into the "total liquid" bowl and let that water drip (1 mL) into the "clean and available" bowl. This represents the small amount of water we can use!

Let's do some math. What percent of all water is clean and available?
Hint: 1 ml ÷ 1000 ml = _____ x 100 = _____ %

Supplies

1 medium bowl

3 small bowls

3 pieces of paper

Measuring spoons

Total Water on Earth

3% Fresh Water

97% Salt Water

Wow, that's not much water! Think about 3 ways you can use less water every day.

Thank you

WET Science Center