Save the oceans!

Have you ever thought what life would be without water? Do you think it would be possible? Of course not! We, humans, need water to survive, as well as animals and plants.

Are you saving water at home? How?

Before going further, play this quiz with your parent without sharing your answers. You will discuss them when you are done.

1. What is the percentage of fresh drinking water on Earth?

   a. 0.5%
   b. 15%
   c. 30%

2. How many people die each year from water pollution-related illnesses?

   a. 1-5 million
   b. 6-10 million
   c. 11-15 million

3. How many days can we survive without food?

   a. 5 days
   b. 20 days
   c. 30 days

4. How many days can we survive without water?

   a. 3 days
   b. 5 days
   c. 10 days

Before checking the answers, discuss them with your parent.

Check the answers and learn about them on the next page.

Answers

1. **What is the percentage of fresh drinking water on Earth?**

   The answer is "a" - 0.5%.

   3% of water on earth is fresh, but 2.5% is unavailable: locked up in glaciers, polar ice caps, the atmosphere, and the soil. Only **0.5%** is available fresh water. The rest is salty or highly polluted, or lies too far under the Earth's surface to be extracted at an affordable cost.

2. **How many people die each year from water pollution-related illnesses?**

   The answer is "a" - 3.75 million.

   The World Health Organization estimates that 3.575 million people die from water-related diseases each year. It doesn't include all the people dying from drowning, boat accidents, or other causes.

3. **How many weeks can we survive without food?**

   The answer is "c" - 30 days.

   A human can go for more than three weeks without food. Some people have tried it for a longer time, but it is very dangerous for the heart and vital organs.

4. **How many days can we survive without water?**

   The answer is "a" - 3 days.

   The body needs lots of water to carry out many essential functions. In general, a person can survive without water for about 3 days. However, some factors (such as how much water an individual body needs and how it uses water) can affect this number. There are many other factors that may change how much water a person needs: age, activity levels, overall health, height and weight.

What surprised you the most? Discuss it with your parent.

Look at these pictures.

Shocking, isn't it? How do you feel about it?
What causes this pollution? Human or natural activities?
Watch this video about the water pollution. You will find answers to these questions.

How long until it's decomposed?

You already know that on earth, some items take longer to decompose, such as plastic. What about the items in the water? Is it the same?

With your parent, try to guess how long each item below takes before being decomposed. Don't show your answers.

- toilet paper
- plastic bag
- cigarette
- cardboard box
- soda can
- plastic fork
- glass bottle
- diaper
- plastic bottle
- fish hook

Before checking the answers, discuss with your parents about your guesses.

Check the answers on the next page.

Answers

- toilet paper: 1 month
- plastic bag: 10-20 years
- cigarette: 10 years
- cardboard box: 2 months
- soda can: 200 years
- plastic fork: 100-1000 years
- glass bottle: 4000 years
- diaper: 450 years
- plastic bottle: never (some plastic bottles)
- fish hook: 600 years

Did you guess right? What are the impacts of these items in the ocean?

Watch this video on the effects of water pollution on marine life.

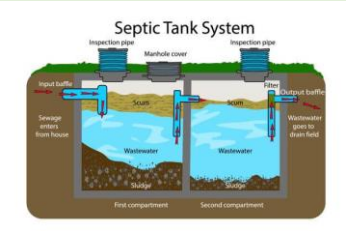
What do you think about it? Discuss it with your parent.

Have you ever thought of how we, individuals, can help stopping this pollution?

1. Do not dump in or around a river. Dumping is one of the leading causes of water pollution.

2. Clean and maintain septic systems properly.

Septic tanks will eventually leak, and human wastes come in contact with groundwater.



3. Dispose of pesticides and chemicals properly.

4. Never pour these substances out in your yard or in drains, the sink or the toilet. All of these pipes and drains lead to bodies of water and eventually chemicals enter the water supply too.

5. Never pour cooking fats and oils down the sink. It can cause illness to spread in your water and block up your drains.

6. Refrain from using bleach when washing at home. It can cause internal burning as well as poisoning and can seriously damage the environment.

What else can we do?

Watch this video which shows us what we can do to help the oceans.

- Discuss it with your parent.

Set up a sea pollution demonstration

You have seen pictures and watched videos about sea pollution. You will now set up your own sea pollution demonstration.

Material:

- A clear bowl or vase
- Plastic fish of plastic object
- Black food colouring
- Litter
- Shells or sand
- Water

Instructions:

1. Set up your mini ocean with lovely clean water.
2. Take a picture.
3. Add some rubbish and black food colouring (to represent oil/sewage).
4. Take another picture.

How different does your mini ocean look after the pollution has been added?

A "stop water pollution" drawing

To end this activity, you will draw a "**stop water pollution**" poster. Look at these for inspiration. Show it to your family and discuss about how each member can do their part.

Are you aware now about how you can help to save the oceans?