

FRESHWATER AVAILABILITY

Slide 1, Freshwater Availability

Today we will be talking about freshwater availability and the importance of access to freshwater!

Slide 2, 01 Needs of all living things

There are 5 basic needs of all living things. Do you know what they are? All living organisms need air, food, sunlight, a proper habitat and WATER in order to survive. So why do living things need water?

Slide 3, Plants and animals

Living things need freshwater in order to stay alive. From animals to plants, they all rely on freshwater to function. Some animals drink more water than others, and also use the freshwater to clean themselves.

Slide 4, Plants

Plants drink water from the ground through their roots. The water travels all the way from the roots to the leaves where it evaporates back into the air through transpiration. Plants absorb water to stay hydrated and obtain nutrients.

Slide 5, Animals

Animals need fresh water for their bodies to function. They gain water not only through the action of drinking but also from the food they eat. Water is vital for bodily functions such as regulation of temperature, nutrient uptake, removing wastes, body weight, and health. Even some marine animals (animals that live in the sea), like manatees, require a freshwater source of drinking water. Animals need water to stay hydrated too!

Slide 6, Humans

Humans also need water to survive. We use freshwater in many ways, such as washing our hands, drinking water, and taking showers or baths everyday. It is important to do all of these things to stay healthy!

Slide 7, Hygiene

Our hands are full of germs, Yuck! Even if we do not see them, there are thousands of germs on our hands. That's why it is super important to wash our hands frequently and thoroughly. Washing your hands reduces the risks of catching viruses and being sick. Do you know what's on your hands?

Slide 8, Hydration

We also need water to drink. Especially since we live in a warmer climate, we must hydrate ourselves. Did you know your body is made up of 65% water? All of our organs need water to function at its maximum capacity. We should drink on average a total of 8 cups of water each day! Do you think you drink 8 cups of water everyday?

Slide 9, How Much?

The average person typically uses about 120 gallons of water everyday. Although we need to use freshwater everyday, we can make small changes to encourage the conservation of water.

Slide 10, 02 Scarcity

We know how important freshwater is to all living things, which means it is constantly being used. So with so many living things depending on freshwater it's important to know how much freshwater we have access to. When there is a lack of freshwater or access to freshwater we say that it is 'scarce'.

Slide 11, The Bahamas is surrounded by saltwater

We live on an Island in the Atlantic Ocean. So, instead of being surrounded by freshwater lakes and rivers, we are surrounded by saltwater. Even our groundwater can turn "brackish" or salty from saltwater intrusion from beneath the surface.

Slide 12, Conservation

We already learned that we have very little freshwater available to us on our island, so we must do our part to save (conserve) water! What do you think we can do to use less water?

Here are some ways:

- 1) Take showers instead of baths
- 2) Take shorter showers
- 3) Turn the faucet off when brushing your teeth or washing your hands
- 4) Tell your parents if you find any leaks around the house

Ask students if they have any other suggestions for conserving water.