

Primary assembly delivery notes

Introduction

These notes will help you get the most out of the assembly presentation, and give you some ideas for follow-up activities.

The boxed notes below are taken directly from the PowerPoint slides. The rest of the notes are provided for further support in delivering the presentation.

Before starting, talk about why water is so precious. Share these facts with the children:

- most of the water on our planet is salty sea water - around 97%
- around 2% of water is deep underground or trapped in ice
- only around 1% of all the water on our planet is fresh enough to drink.

The drought

Show **Slides 1 and 2**, then ask the children what they know about drought. What effects might they see? For example, rivers and streams dried up / lower levels in reservoirs / hosepipe ban at home. Remind them that our region (East Anglia) is the driest in the UK.

Explain that, if there is a hosepipe ban it is inconvenient for us, but a drought is much more serious for farmers and wildlife. When there isn't enough moisture in the soil, it's harder for grazing animals to feed, and for wildlife to survive. It's very difficult for farmers to grow their crops and tend to their animals without enough water.

Tell the children that in a drought, the level of water stored in reservoirs drops, and Anglian Water can apply for special licences to take more water from nearby rivers to help top up its supplies. This can affect the habitat of wildlife such as insects, birds and fish. If we all waste less water, we will need less from rivers and reservoirs, which is better for wildlife.

We need many months of persistent rain to ensure our water supply. We need lots of steady rain, which is better absorbed by the soil than heavy downpours.

PowerPoint notes for Slide 2

Discussion question: What is a drought?

- A drought is when there is very little rainfall over a long time
- From October 2010 to April 2012, our region had very little rain
- In fact, this had been the driest it's been for 100 years
- In some areas, it rained less than in hot countries like Spain or some areas of Africa!

Discussion question: Even if it's been raining, why might we still be in drought?

It would need to rain persistently for many months to solve a drought problem without our help. It is important that we all start using the water we have more wisely.



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Rain and our drinking water

Show **Slide 3**, then ask the children what links the rain and the water in our taps.

Anglian Water is the company that provides the water in our region. It stores water from the rain and rivers in reservoirs. It also uses water from deep underground sources called aquifers.

The water is made safe to drink at special treatment works. Here, large particles such as stones and smaller ones like dirt are removed through screens and sedimentation (when particles settle at the bottom of the tank through gravity). The water is filtered to make it cleaner, and chlorine is added to kill any bacteria. Then it is pumped through thousands of pipes to reach your taps at home and at school.

PowerPoint notes for Slide 3

Why do we need rain?

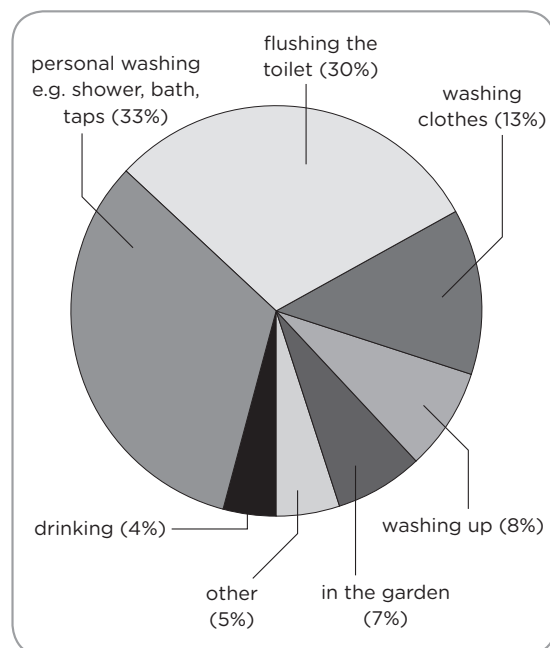
- 💧 To water our crops and the soil to provide grass for grazing animals to eat
- 💧 To keep the level of rivers and streams high enough for the wildlife that live there to find food
- 💧 To fill our reservoirs (which are man-made lakes) and our aquifers (which are underground reservoirs)
- 💧 To provide enough water for our taps at home and school.

Discussion question: What's the link between rain and the water in our taps?

- 💧 Anglian Water stores water from the rain and groundwater in reservoirs
- 💧 The water is made safe to drink at special treatment plants
- 💧 Then it is pumped through thousands of pipes to reach your taps at home.

The water we use

At **Slide 4**, ask the children where they think water is used the most at home. Tell them that water usage is made up of:



PowerPoint notes for Slide 4

Discussion question: How much water do we use?

On average, every person in the Anglian Water region uses about 145 litres of water each day.

A large bucket usually holds 10 litres of water, so the children could visualise this as almost 15 buckets of water.



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How Anglian Water is saving water

Show **Slide 5** and explain that Anglian Water is doing its bit to prevent water being wasted. The company is fixing leaky pipes underground and can move water to the areas most affected by drought. Anglian Water is also giving its customers free gadgets to save water at home.

PowerPoint notes for Slide 5

Anglian Water is saving water by:

- Fixing around 30,000 leaks in pipes underground every year
- Moving water around the region to the driest areas
- Giving free water-saving gadgets to customers.

Discussion question: Why might there be a hosepipe ban in a drought?

When there is a hosepipe ban, it is to save water because the average hosepipe uses 150 litres in just 10 minutes. That's more than the average daily use per person!

How you can save water

After **Slide 6**, hold up a 1-litre bottle of water and say that to 'Drop 20', the children need to stop wasting 20 bottles of water each day. Or you could show them two large buckets full of water, which is the same as 20 litres (10 litres in each bucket).

PowerPoint notes for Slide 6

If everyone used just 20 litres less of water each day, it would make a huge difference.

That's the same as two large buckets full.

What different ways can you think of to save water?

Three easy ways to save water

Slide 7 provides some inspirational ideas to help the children use water wisely. If they brush their teeth twice a day, turning the tap off for two minutes as they do so, it is the easiest way to 'Drop 20' (24 litres in fact!).

PowerPoint notes for Slide 7

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth - drop 12 litres each time.

How many litres would you drop if you brush your teeth twice a day?

Spend two minutes less in the shower - drop 16 litres each time. (This is for a normal shower and not a power shower, which can use as much water as a bath.)

Try using a timer to make sure your shower is no longer than five minutes.

Put the plug in the sink when washing your hands (instead of running the tap for two minutes) - drop 12 litres each time.

You will also drop 12 litres if you use a bowl when washing vegetables in the kitchen sink.

How can you do more to drop your 20 litres a day?



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Other ways to save water

Show the title of **Slide 8**. What other ways can the children think of to save water? Then show the three images. Did the children come up with collecting rainwater in a water butt, fixing a dripping tap or only using the washing machine when full?

PowerPoint notes for Slide 8

Here are some more ways to save water, which children can ask their parents/guardians about:

- 💧 Fit a Freddie save-a-flush device in your toilet cistern – drop 1 litre per flush
- 💧 Fix a dripping tap – drop 3 litres per day
- 💧 Only use the washing machine when it's full (or use the 'half load' function) – drop 10 litres each time
- 💧 Do the washing up by hand instead of half filling the dishwasher – drop 15 litres each time
- 💧 Have a shower instead of a bath – drop 40 litres each time
- 💧 Use a bucket and sponge to wash the car instead of a hose – drop 150 litres every ten minutes
- 💧 Use rainwater collected in a water butt to water the garden instead of a hose – drop up to 5000 litres per year (on average)

How will you 'Drop 20'?

Slide 9 asks the children to really get involved in the 'Drop 20' campaign by asking their families to help too. Challenge them to mention one or two of the water saving ideas to their parents/guardians (which they think will be easy to put into practice). Follow this up a week later: did anyone manage to change the habits of their families and stop them wasting water?

PowerPoint notes for Slide 9

Ask the children how they could 'Drop 20' at home, and what suggestions they could make to their parents/guardians to 'Drop 20' as a family.

Follow-up activities

We've provided lots of fun, but informative resources to get the children thinking about how they can 'Drop 20'. Watch the film, have discussions about the fact files, try out the activity sheets, and reward the children with certificates for using water wisely.

The **Teachers' guidance notes** offer plenty of support and details about all the other resources available in this 'Drop 20' for schools pack.



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