

What the animals taught the children

Use water wisely.

- Use only as much water as you need to do a job.
- Never waste water.

What children can do

- Take short showers.
- Turn of faucets while brushing teeth or soaping hands.
- Tell adults about water leaks.
- Avoid using the toilet as a wastebasket.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean up outside.
- Water the garden in the early morning or in the evening.
- Help their families learn to conserve water.



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www.sni.org



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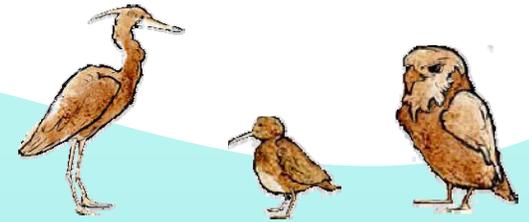
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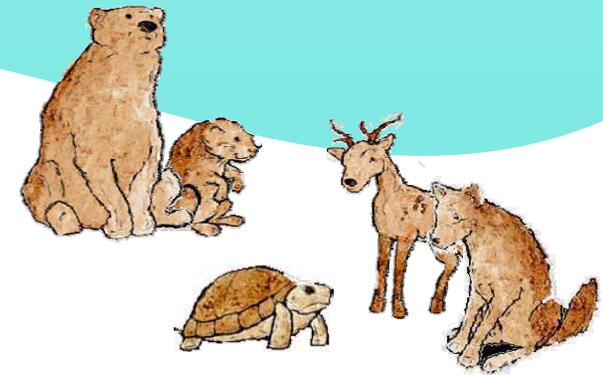
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How the Children Learned to Save Water

Hadiksa'shö'öh Wadiyë'het Denöhnegadë:nid



A water conservation curriculum for Seneca children

Why water conservation matters

Water is a crucial natural resource. Without water, there would be no life on Earth. Water also affects our health, lifestyle, and economic well being.

On average, Americans use 100 gallons of water each day—in and around our homes (for cleaning, preparing food, and recreation), and in industry and agriculture (for transportation, generating power, and raising plants and animals).

Although water covers about 75 percent of the Earth, only about 1 percent of that water is available for drinking. The planet's water supply is fixed: no new water is being made.

Water can become contaminated—by microorganisms, metals, salts, chemicals, medical waste, and other substances—and can thus become unsafe for human use.

Preventing water pollution and conserving water will help to ensure an adequate supply of usable water for ourselves and for future generations. Using water wisely, as described in this book, helps to protect the quantity and quality of our water resources.

Wise water use can also help people to save money on water, sewer, and energy bills. It helps to reduce the demand on water treatment and wastewater facilities and to reduce the amount of waste put into rivers and streams.

What children need to know

This activity book and teacher guide have been developed to teach students about the importance of water conservation and practical ways of implementing its principles. It has been designed for use by classroom teachers in conjunction with other aspects of the curriculum, such as language arts, math, and science. It includes reading, writing, word search, math, drawing, discussion, and journal activities. The teacher guide contains information that children can take home to parents or guardians.

At the end of the program, students will know

- Why water is important
- Principles of using water wisely
- Sources of water
- How people use water
- The importance of hand washing
- How to wash their hands without wasting water
- Ways to save water inside and outside their homes

A culturally specific approach

This program has been developed for, and in cooperation with, the Seneca Nation of Indians. Besides teaching about water conservation, it supports Seneca children in learning about and honoring their cultural heritage.

In this book, students learn how to use water wisely from the Seneca clan animals:

- Bear / *Nyag:wai´*
- Beaver / *Nögönya´ gö´*
- Deer / *Neogë´*
- Hawk / *Gaji´ da:s*
- Heron / *Joäshä´*
- Snipe / *Nö´ jahgwë´*
- Turtle / *Ha´ no:wa:h*
- Wolf / *Otha:yö:nih*

When Snake / *Oshaisda´*, a troublemaker, tries to trick the children into wasting water, the clan animals emphasize that water is a valuable gift from Mother Earth. They provide good advice about conserving water as a way of showing respect for Mother Earth.

While written in English, the book highlights some key Seneca-language terms. It includes an English/Seneca glossary and a Seneca/English glossary.