

Precious Liquid

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Water is perhaps the most important thing on earth. It spreads over more than 70 per cent of the earth; people, animals and plants cannot live without it. There is water in every living thing - for example, our own bodies are about 65 per cent water. As the number of people in the world grows, so does the need for water. Not only do people need water to drink, but they also need it to grow the food they eat.

Fish is an example of food that comes directly out of the water. Rice is grown in fields that are flooded. Rice is the main food for many people all over the world.

Most of us get water by turning on a tap. But millions of people in Asia, Africa and South America have to carry their water from wells, streams and rain pools. Wells often dry up and streams get polluted. Many countries are now working together to clean up their water.

There are many simple ways to save water. Instead of washing your hands and face in running water, you can turn off the water the moment your hands and face are wet. You could also try to use a smaller amount of water in your bath or to spend less time in the shower.

Look for other ways to save water - and to save money too.

Comprehension

Answer the following questions about the passage.

1. How much of the earth is not under water?

_____ □

2. How much of a person's body is water?

_____ □

3. Why do people need water? Find two reasons.

_____ □

4. How is rice grown?

_____ □

5. Why is rice important to many people?

_____ □

6. How do many people in Asia, Africa and South America get their water".

7. What often happens to wells and streams?

8. What are many countries now doing?

9. In what ways can you save water? Find at least two.

10. What is an extra advantage of saving water?

Something Extra

Circle the word that does not belong in each group.

- | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|---------|
| 1 | man | people | world |
| 2 | soil | fish | rice |
| 3 | wet | dry | flooded |
| 4 | well | glass | stream |
| 5 | number | amount | time |
| 6 | money | shower | bath |

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