



Preparation

- Locate your home water meter.

Purpose

- Investigate places at home and record examples of water use.

Description

1. Students walk around the home and identify and list uses of water at home (e.g. drinking, cooking, washing, cleaning, watering the garden, and growing food).
2. Take photographs of water uses and water access points observed by students (*optional*).
3. Students create a simple map of their home and garden to represent where water is used.



EXAMPLE:

An example of a map showing water use at school.

Before the task

- Explain that students are going to investigate water use around the home.
Ask students to predict how and where they might see water being used around the home.
- Discuss possible water access points, such as a tap or hose.
- Support students' to record their predictions (writing and/or drawing).

After the task

- Locate and show students the home water meter (*optional*).
- Consider showing students an example of a water bill (*optional*).
- After walking around the home, ask students to record their observations (writing, drawing, typing). Add these to the map. You might like to provide students with prompts, such as:
 - Water is used for...
 - Places where water is used...
 - Water access points at home are...
- Ask students to describe what they learned about water on their 'water walk'.
- Discuss examples of the ways students observed water being used responsibly or irresponsibly and being wasted.
- You may wish to share a photo or drawing of your map with others (classmates, teacher, family members).

Explore some more

- Create a poster, video or slide show for the family communicating ways to use water responsibly in the home.
- Contact family members who live elsewhere, and survey them about their water use.
- Create a graph to represent the data you've collected. Or perhaps represent your data like [this infographic from the Australian Museum](https://australianmuseum.net.au/get-involved/citizen-science/streamwatch/water-catchment/streamwatch-water-around-the-world/).
- Learn more about water at ABC Education. <https://education.abc.net.au/home#!topic/496766/water>
- Where does your water come from? Find out about your local water catchment, and how water is delivered to your home.



Discuss the need for students to be careful while they are investigating, for example, avoid hot water, chemical containers, tools or appliances.