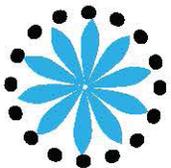
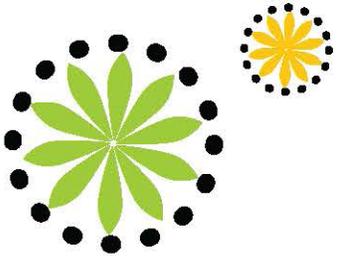
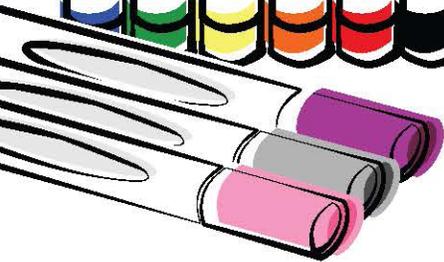
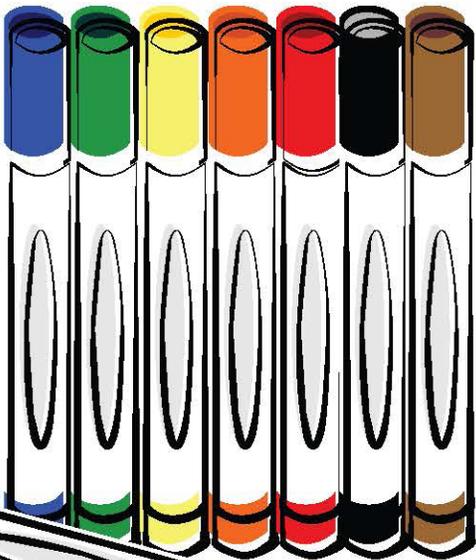


# Kids

**WATER ACTIVITY BOOK**

Every Drop Counts:  
Use It Wisely!



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*This activity book is brought  
to you by the City of Santa Ana*

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A special message for you:

The City of Santa Ana is pleased to make this 2021 Kids Activity Book available to you and all your classmates. The Activity Book invites you to explore all the reasons why using water wisely is important...especially as California experiences more and longer dry seasons.

Think of all the ways you use water...at home, at school, and in your community. Water is essential to everything in life! Protecting this precious natural resources will make sure we have enough water during times of drought. In this Activity Book, you will learn about drought conditions and ways you and all your family members can save water.

We hope you enjoy this book and share what you've learned with your family. Our goal is that conserving water becomes a way of life for everyone in Santa Ana. Together, we can make a difference. Let's make sure every drop counts!



Cesar Barrera P.E.  
Acting Deputy Director of Public Works  
Water Resources Manager



# Every Drop Counts!

Our lakes count. Our rivers count.

Our reservoirs count too!

Our crops count. Our animals count.

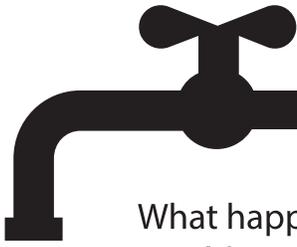
You and I count too!

Planet Earth counts on water.

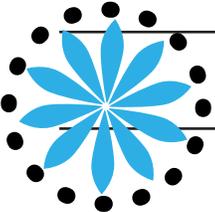
Make sure every drop  
counts for you!



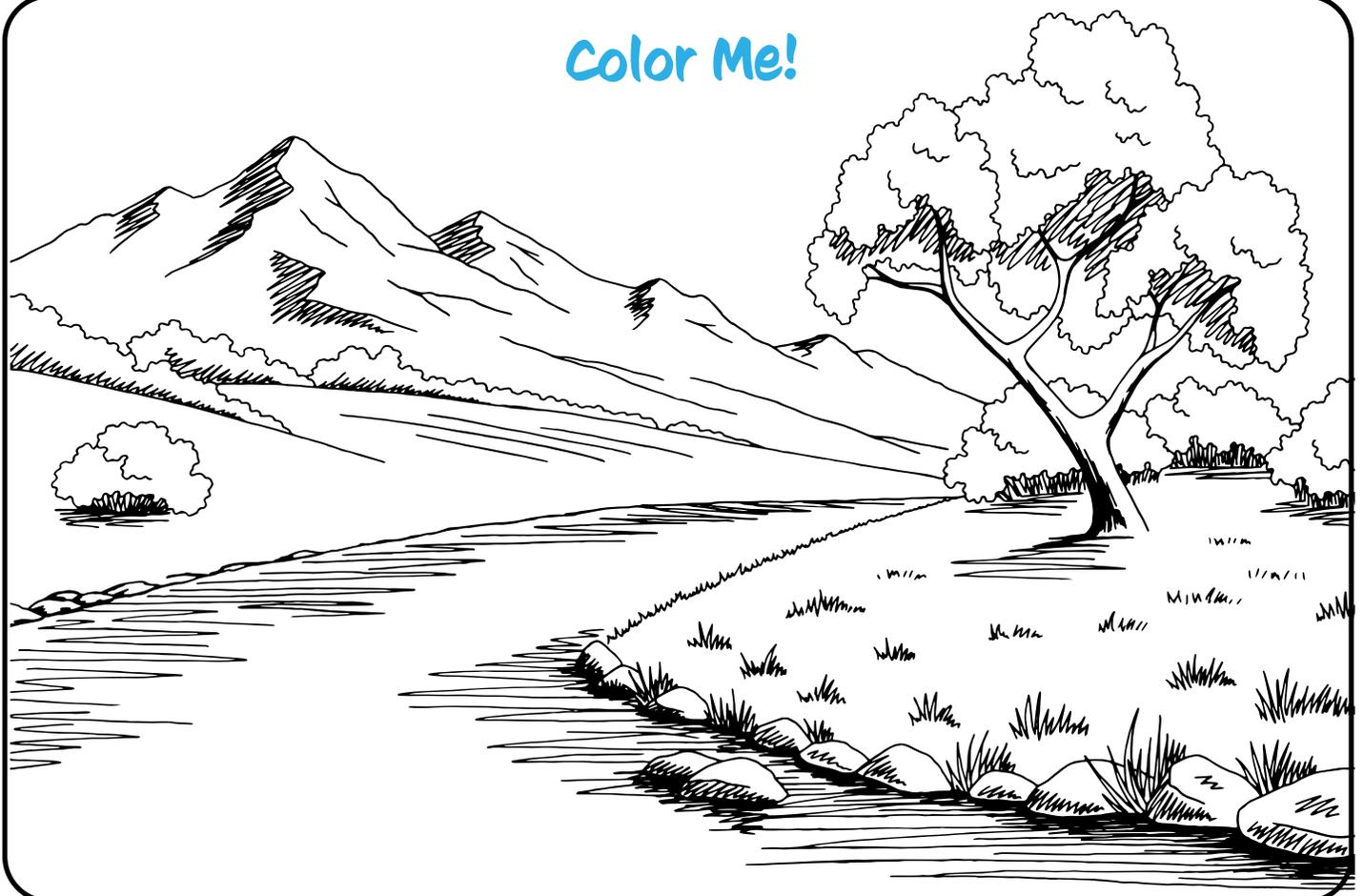
# Normal Conditions



What happens when water fills our rivers, lakes and reservoirs? What words would you use to describe normal conditions? Write your description here, then color the picture!



Color Me!



# Stuff About Droughts

## Word Scramble

### Directions:

Below are statements about droughts. Fill-in-the-blanks by unscrambling the words at the bottom of this page and placing them correctly in the sentences.

1. A drought occurs when there is very little \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ over an extended period of time.
2. When this happens, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes dry up. \_\_\_\_\_ in wells can go away too if we use it up.
3. Droughts can be triggered by people as well. \_\_\_\_\_ (people cutting down \_\_\_\_\_ in forests and not replanting more trees), \_\_\_\_\_ (redirecting) rivers, and emptying lakes are ways that man interferes with nature and can cause drought.
4. In some parts of the world, hot and dry \_\_\_\_\_ mean the area is almost always in a state of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In the U.S., the western states are the \_\_\_\_\_. These states, like \_\_\_\_\_, have experienced drought for several years.
6. During a drought, \_\_\_\_\_ can't keep plants \_\_\_\_\_. Crops \_\_\_\_\_ and dry.
7. People might not have the water they need for \_\_\_\_\_, washing, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. Droughts affect \_\_\_\_\_ too.

### Scrambled Words:

naflrail \_\_\_\_\_

flosnwal \_\_\_\_\_

eirrvs \_\_\_\_\_

eakls \_\_\_\_\_

eurwdartong \_\_\_\_\_

dnfoeiaorstte \_\_\_\_\_

reset \_\_\_\_\_

eitigvdrn \_\_\_\_\_

epseemurtatr \_\_\_\_\_

hrdgotu \_\_\_\_\_

sirdte \_\_\_\_\_

anfciarloi \_\_\_\_\_

arrsemf \_\_\_\_\_

ridiegrta \_\_\_\_\_

lservhi \_\_\_\_\_

ininkdrg \_\_\_\_\_

intbagh \_\_\_\_\_

ogincok \_\_\_\_\_

insamla \_\_\_\_\_

# Drought Conditions



What happens when there's not enough rain and our rivers run dry? What words would you use to describe *drought* conditions? Write your description here, then color the picture!

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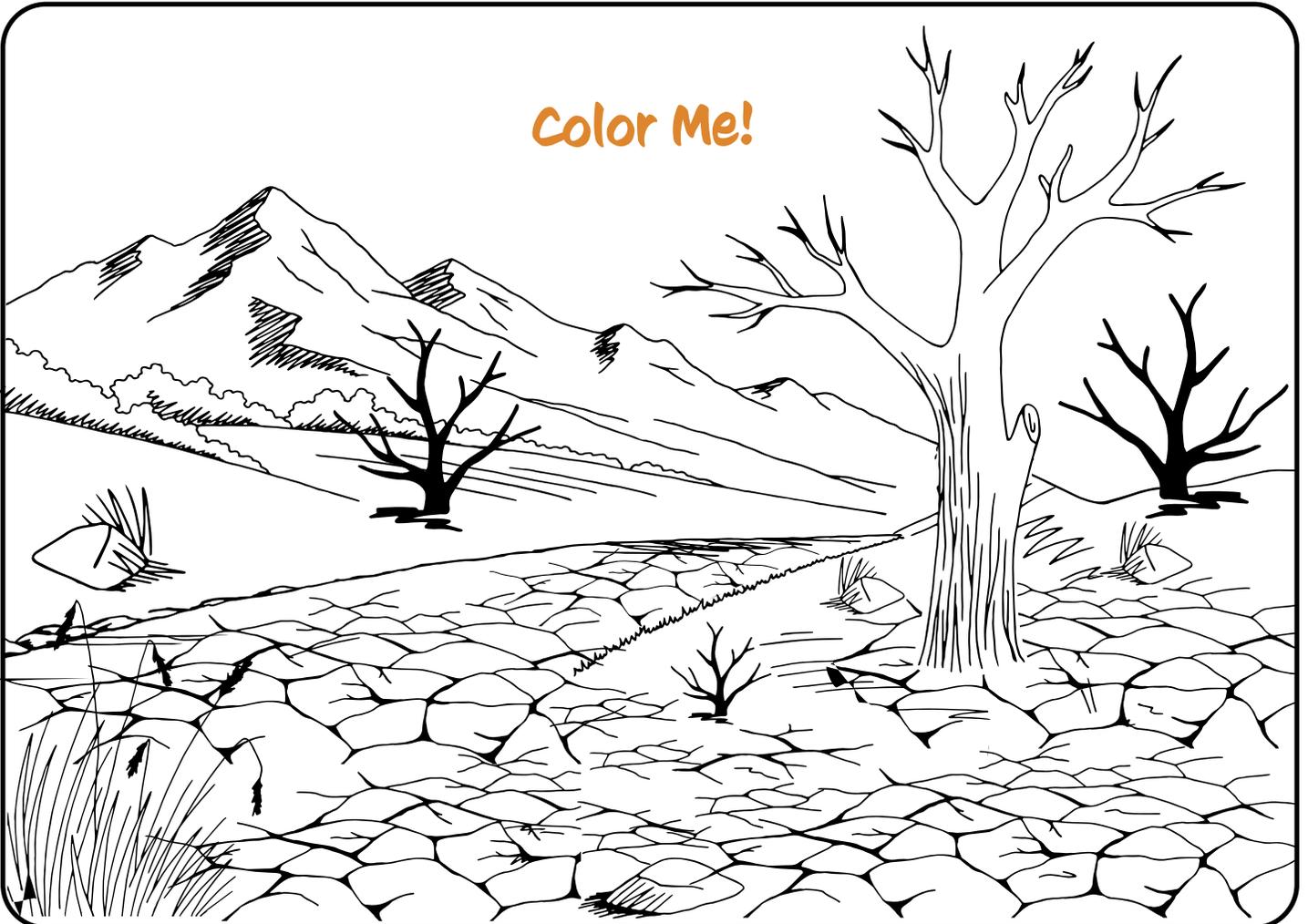
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Color Me!



# Drought

## Word Search

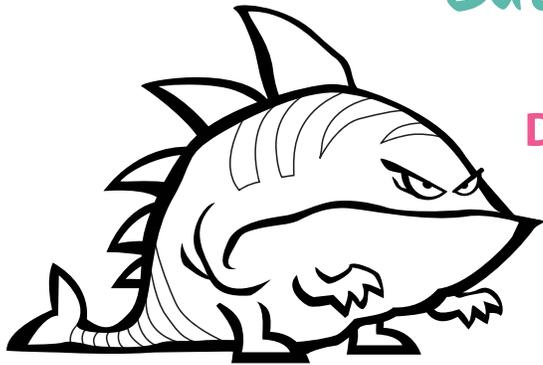
Find the words listed at the bottom of the page in the puzzle below. Draw a line around each word (words can run horizontally, vertically and diagonally). You can find the answers in the answer key at the end of this Activity Book!



S J I Q I T C G D R O U G H T  
 V T Q J A D R Y S E A S O N S  
 X S O E U I D C Q O P V D G C  
 Y F R R M O U O R L P D R Y R  
 F N L E A X O N A O A K L L J  
 V L A Y S G O S B H P K D V R  
 P R N O S E E E J O R S E R I  
 R W D W N J R R J T T A U S V  
 A O A N O E C V E P H D U B E  
 I J H T W D L A O S Q I Y C R  
 N U E O E E I T W I E Q R G S  
 H H A O C R M I I K R R B S D  
 P O T Q X A A O O N K S V S T  
 J T B O Y I T N O H W O H E B  
 P W E A T H E R P T K D Y A S

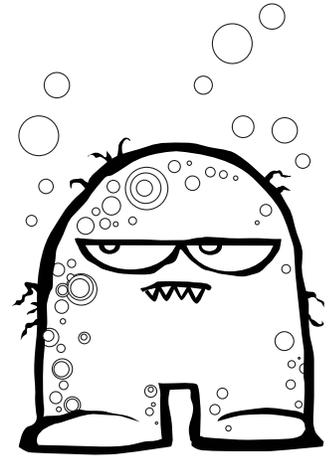
- 
- |                  |              |             |            |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| STORAGE RESERVES | CONSERVATION | DRY SEASONS | RESERVOIRS |
| CLIMATE          | THIRST       | CROPS       | LAKES      |
| WEATHER          | WATER        | RAIN        | RIVERS     |
| DRY              | DROUGHT      | LAND        | SNOW       |
| HEAT             | HOT          |             |            |

# Color These Water Wasters But Don't Be One!



## Drainiac

Drainiac loves to run the tap. She rinses her dishes before putting them in the dishwasher and leaves the water running while brushing her teeth.

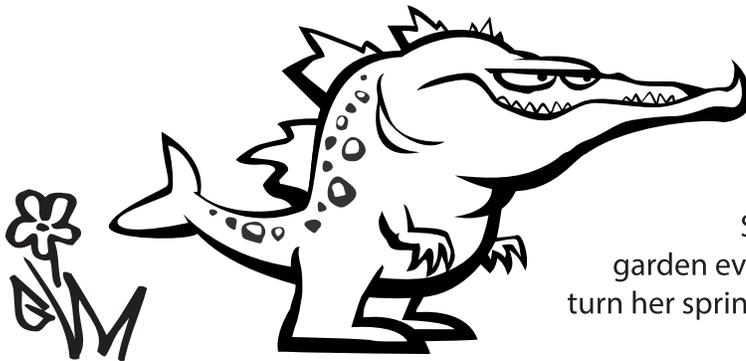


## Swirly

Swirly likes to watch toilet bowls swirl, leak, and run constantly. Swirly even uses his toilet as a garbage can, flushing down tissues.

## Drip Drip

Drip Drip lets his sink drip all day and all night. He doesn't care that leaky faucets waste hundreds of gallons a week!



## Sogosaurus

Sogosaurus waters her lawn and garden every day. Sometimes she even forgets to turn her sprinkler off and sprays onto the sidewalk!

## Fun Fill-In

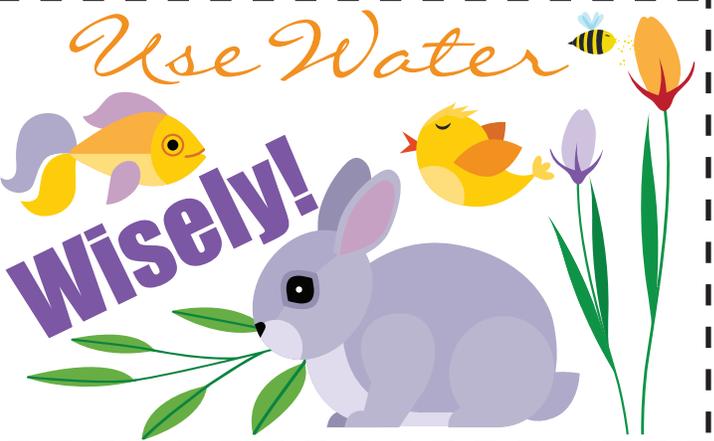
Figure out the missing words. Then put together the letters in the oval to reveal the mystery word.

1. If your \_\_\_\_\_ has a leak, you might hear a drip. Hint: You get clean in this.
2. Water is measured in \_\_\_\_\_. Hint: Milk comes in these too.
3. Toilets sometimes have \_\_\_\_\_ leaks, which means you can't hear them.
4. Use your \_\_\_\_\_ and ears to help find leaks at home.
5. Be sure to turn off the faucet when you \_\_\_\_\_ your teeth.



## Mystery Word

\_\_\_\_\_



**INSTRUCTIONS:** Pets, insects and plants need water too! Do your part to use water wisely so there's enough water for them. Cut along the dotted lines and hand out a card to each friend. Tell them why it's important to use water wisely!

# Ways Kids Can Save Water

## Word Scramble

### Directions

You can help conserve water. Below are some ways you can save water in and outside your home. Fill-in-the-blanks by unscrambling the words at the bottom of this page and placing them correctly in the sentences.

### Messages

1. Take shorter \_\_\_\_\_. A \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ shower uses 25 \_\_\_\_\_ of water.
2. Turn off the water while \_\_\_\_\_ your teeth.
3. Don't use the \_\_\_\_\_ as a trash can—\_\_\_\_\_ only when necessary.
4. Tell your parents if you see a leaking \_\_\_\_\_ or if the toilet "runs" after flushing. These \_\_\_\_\_ can waste \_\_\_\_\_ of gallons of water a year and that is \_\_\_\_\_ down the drain.
5. It also takes a lot of water to wash \_\_\_\_\_ and to do the \_\_\_\_\_. If you help with these household chores, only run these appliances with full \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Collect \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Wash your bike with a \_\_\_\_\_ and rag, not a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Water the yard, not the \_\_\_\_\_ or concrete. Tell your parents if any of the \_\_\_\_\_ heads are not \_\_\_\_\_ properly.

### Scrambled Words:

erohssw \_\_\_\_\_

uifevetnim- \_\_\_\_\_

Inlagso \_\_\_\_\_

bnrhigus \_\_\_\_\_

eltoit \_\_\_\_\_

suflh \_\_\_\_\_

dsesih \_\_\_\_\_

ydnalur \_\_\_\_\_

saldo \_\_\_\_\_

itarnawer \_\_\_\_\_

utbcke \_\_\_\_\_

oehs \_\_\_\_\_

cutf \_\_\_\_\_

aeksl \_\_\_\_\_

ushsandto \_\_\_\_\_

mnyeo \_\_\_\_\_

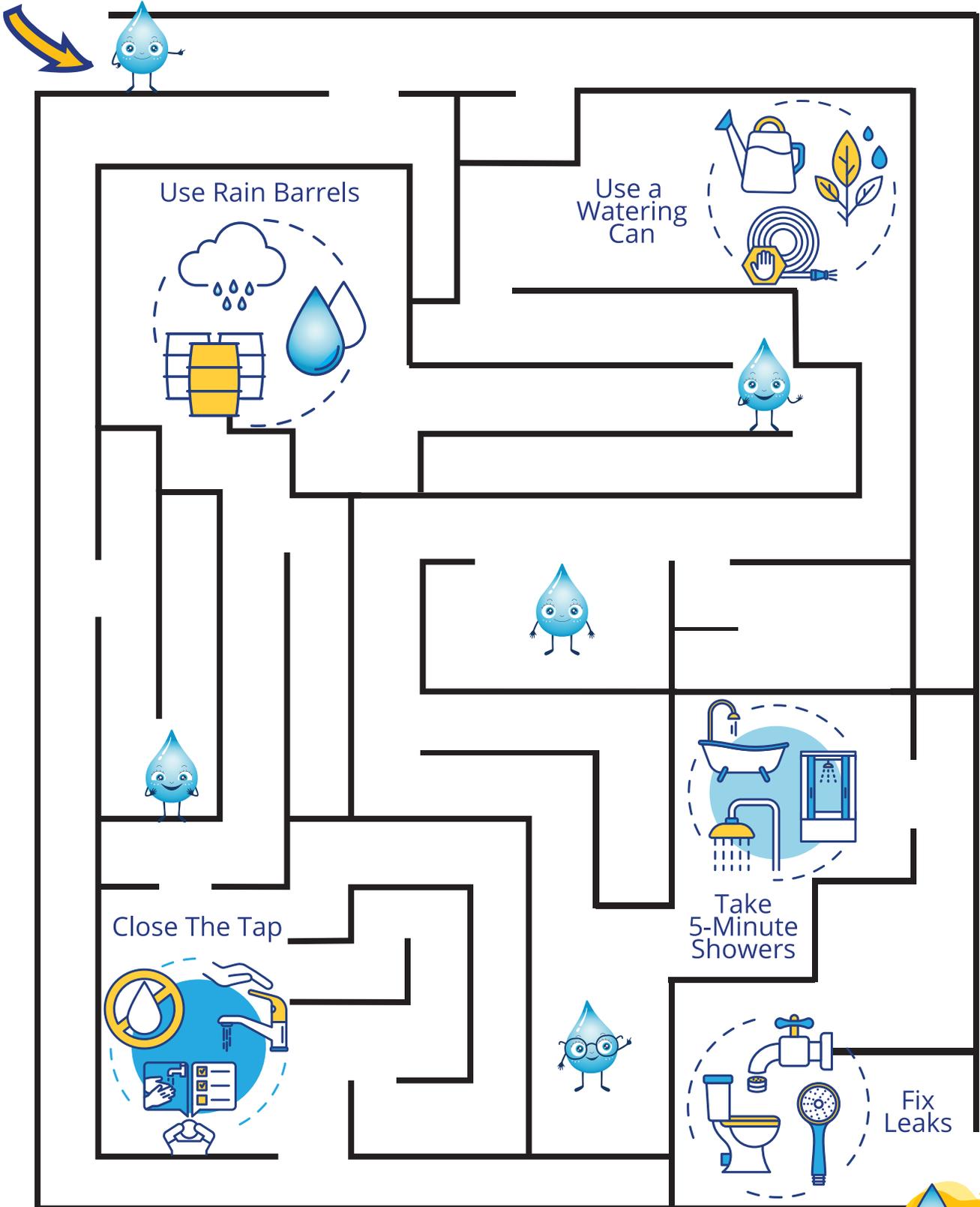
alkesdiw \_\_\_\_\_

psnriekrl \_\_\_\_\_

innftugcnio \_\_\_\_\_

Start here

# Water Saving Maze



Did you know that less than 1% of all the water on Earth can be used by people? The rest is salt water (the kind you find in the ocean) or is always frozen and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants. That's why it's important to not waste it. Make our planet happy by being water-wise and visiting each way you can save every drop!



# Water Is Life!

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Color in one item of the tree each time you use water wisely. Look at some examples below. When the tree is fully colored in, look at the beauty in nature that water helps create!

- I took a 5 minute shower.
- I turned off the tap when brushing my teeth.
- I used a bucket and sponge to wash my bike.
- I loaded the dishwasher full before turning it on.



# Test Your Water Smarts!

Circle your answer for questions 1-12.

See the answer key at the end of this book to find out how many answers you got right!

- When is the best time of day to water your lawn?  
**A.** Early morning or evening **B.** In the afternoon  
**C.** All day long
- Where does the average home use the most water during the hotter months?  
**A.** Dishwasher **B.** Outdoor Watering  
**C.** Shower/Bath **D.** Washing Machine
- Which way to wash a car saves the most water?  
**A.** Wash it in the driveway with the garden hose  
**B.** Drive it into the lake  
**C.** Take it through a car wash that recycles water
- How much water does a family of 4 use every day?  
**A.** 40 gallons **B.** 80 gallons **C.** 240 gallons  
**D.** 320 gallons
- True or False: It isn't important to save water because there is so much of it on Earth.  
**A.** True **B.** False
- What should you do if you see or hear a leaky faucet in your house?  
**A.** Ignore it—drips are no big deal  
**B.** Do nothing—there is no way to fix a drippy faucet **C.** Tell an adult
- Which method of washing dishes uses less water?  
**A.** Washing dishes under a running tap  
**B.** Washing dishes in a fully loaded dishwasher
- True or False: Keeping the water running when you brush your teeth wastes a lot of water.  
**A.** True **B.** False
- When you clean off after playing outside, which uses less water?  
**A.** Taking a 5 minute shower **B.** Taking a bath
- Which of these objects is a water-saving tool?  
**A.** A bucket **B.** A clock **C.** A broom  
**D.** All of the above
- Which of these activities wastes the MOST water per day in the average home?  
**A.** Running the tap while washing dishes  
**B.** Using a garbage disposal **C.** A leaky toilet  
**D.** Long showers
- True or False: It is okay to flush some trash down the toilet like wipes, and tissues.  
**A.** True **B.** False

## Take The Pledge!

Sit down with your family and share what you have learned. Then, as a group, go through the tips below for helping you use water more efficiently, and check each one that you are willing to pledge to do. When you are finished, sign the pledge at the bottom and record the date. Congratulations and good luck!

- Take shorter showers/use less water in the bathtub.
- Turn the water off while you brush your teeth or wash your hands.
- Use a broom to clean your driveway instead of a hose.
- Install EPA's WaterSense-approved aerators on your faucets and low-flow showerheads.
- Check all water fixtures for leaks and fix/replace those that are leaky.
- Perform a dye test to see if your toilets are leaking: To check if a toilet is leaking, remove the cover from the tank, add food coloring until the water in the tank is a dark color. Wait 30 minutes (without using the toilet). If any of the dye has entered the bowl in that time, your toilet is leaking.
- Water your lawn between 6 pm-9 am, rather than during the day, to help reduce loss of water due to evaporation.

**By signing our names below, we pledge to use water more efficiently  
by conducting the activities checked above.**

Signature

Date

color me!



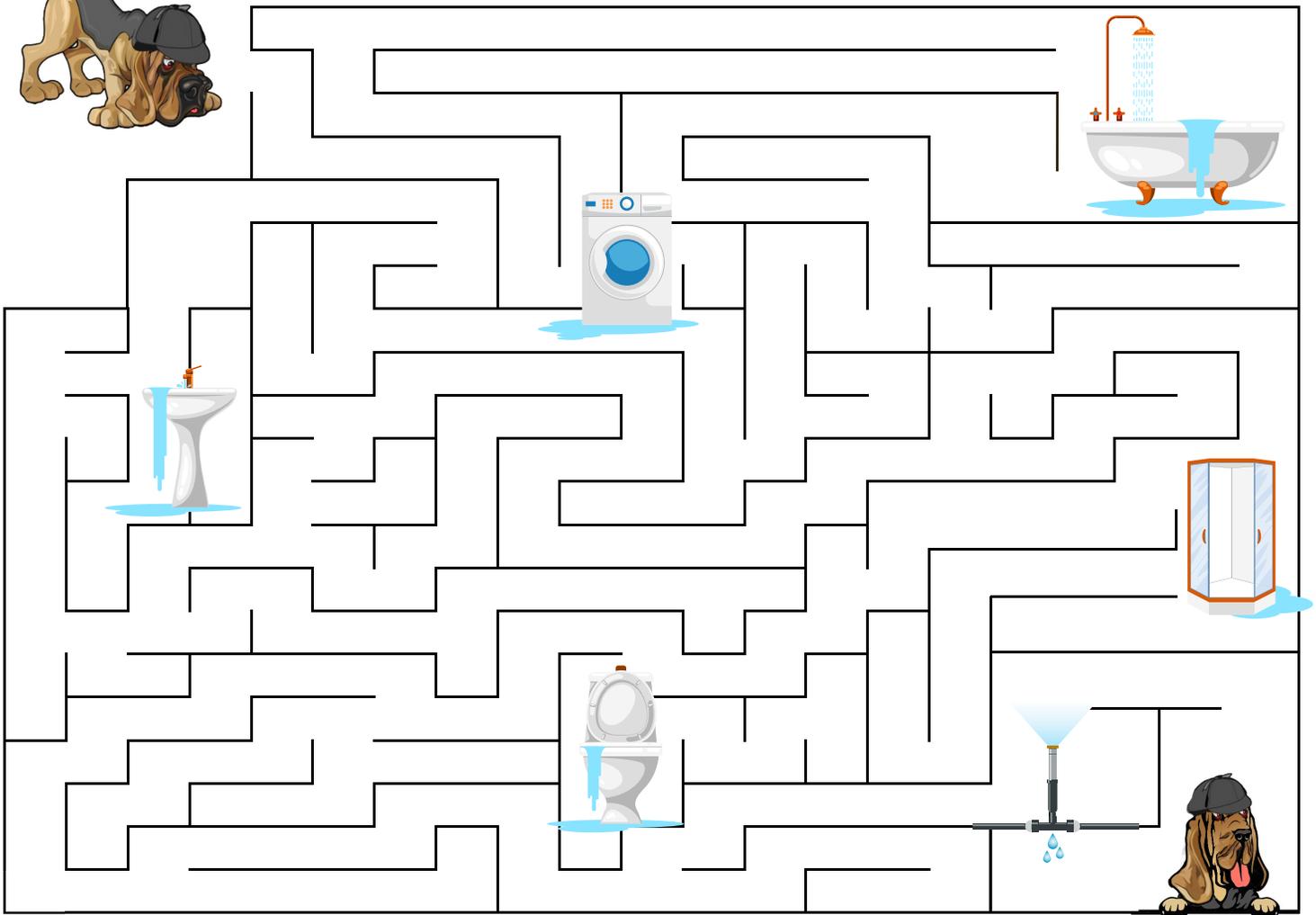
## Hidden Water Wasters

Did you know that, in the United States, leaks in our homes waste enough water for every kid to take a bath every day? The absolute **best** way to save water is to find and **fix leaks** in your house.

Check under the **sink** to see if you see any water dripping from the **pipes**. When you turn off the **shower**, make sure that there is no water dripping from the **shower head**. After you flush the **toilet**, make sure there is no water around the toilet on the floor or that there is no water running in the toilet. Be sure to let your parents know if you have found a leak. You will save them money on their water bill!



## The Leak Detective Maze



# Be A Leak Detective

## Word Search

Find the words listed at the bottom of the page in the puzzle below. Draw a line around each word (words can run horizontally, vertically and diagonally). You can find the answers in the answer key at the end of this Activity Book!



D P D J F C F Y E S L J C A W  
 L W Z I Q V H Q A A O Q J U S  
 U T C H S X L X U B Y F Z D T  
 D Q H S S H O W E R H E A D C  
 A I E W X M W T I G H T E N K  
 N C C P Y A D A T F B M Z O D  
 A F K F N E P P S O A H T C F  
 W I C S I L E N T H I U D F H  
 A X W J R J B T H P E L C U Z  
 S S W A D G A L L O N R E E U  
 T I B R T R D H V Y C W F T T  
 E N L Y E E I S H K V E I Y W  
 K K E O V N R P P G X V N P I  
 I O A E Y Y C H P I P E D H S  
 P W K C M U B H J N Y F I H T

DISHWASHER

SHOWERHEAD

TIGHTEN

SILENT

FAUCET

TOILET

WRENCH

GALLON

WATER

TWIST

CHECK

PIPE

FIND

DRIP

SINK

WASTE

LEAK

FIX

# Answer Key

## Word Scramble: Stuff About Droughts

### Directions:

Below are statements about droughts. Fill-in-the-blanks by unscrambling the words at the bottom of this page and placing them correctly in the sentences.

1. A drought occurs when there is very little **rainfall** or **snowfall** over an extended period of time.
2. When this happens, **rivers** and **lakes** sometimes dry up. **Groundwater** in wells can go away too if we use it up.
3. Droughts can be triggered by people as well. **Deforestation** (people cutting down **trees** in forests and not replanting more trees), **diverting** (redirecting) rivers, and emptying lakes are ways that man interferes with nature and can cause drought.
4. In some parts of the world, hot, dry **temperatures** mean the area is almost always in a state of **drought**.
5. In the U.S., the western states are the **driest**. These states, like **California**, have experienced drought for several years.
6. During a drought, **farmers** can't keep plants **irrigated**. Crops **shrivel** and dry.
7. People might not have the water they need for **drinking**, washing, **bathing**, and **cooking**. Droughts affect **animals** too.

### Scrambled Words:

nafrail      **rainfall**

flosnwal      **snowfall**

eirrvs      **rivers**

eakls      **lakes**

eurwdartong      **groundwater**

dnfoeiaorstte      **deforestation**

reset      **trees**

eitigvdrn      **diverting**

epseemurtatr      **temperatures**

hrdgotu      **drought**

sirdte      **driest**

anfciarloi      **California**

arrsemf      **farmers**

ridiegrrta      **irrigated**

lservhi      **shrivel**

ininkdrg      **drinking**

intbagh      **bathing**

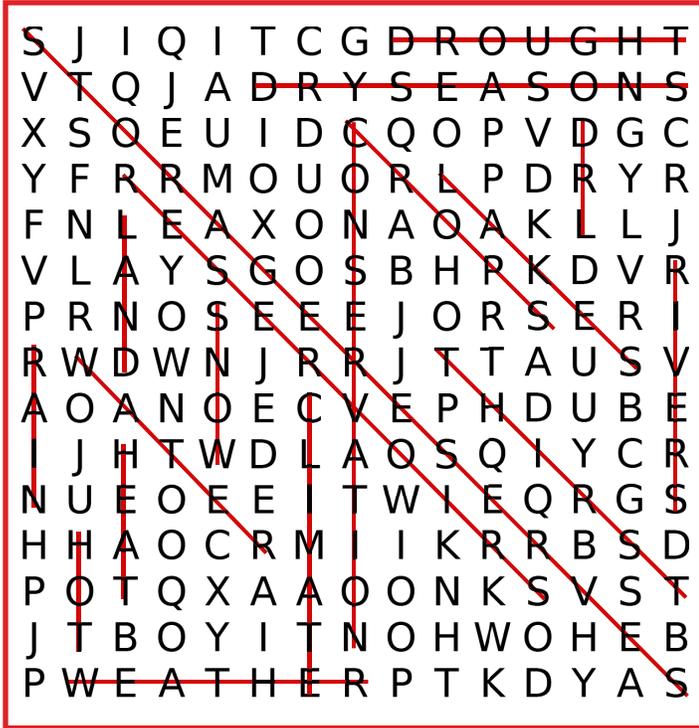
ogincok      **cooking**

insamla      **animals**

# Answer Key

## Word Searches

### Drought



### Be A Leak Detective



# Answer Key

## Fun Fill-In

Figure out the missing words. Then put together the letters in the oval to reveal the mystery word.

1. If your s h o w e r has a leak, you might hear a drip. Hint: You get clean in this.

2. Water is measured in g a l l o n s. Hint: Milk comes in these too.

3. Toilets sometimes have s i l e n t leaks, which means you can't hear them.

4. Use your e y e s and ears to help find leaks at home.

5. Be sure to turn off the faucet when you b r u s h your teeth.

### Mystery Word

w a t e r

# Answer Key

## Word Scramble: Ways Kids Can Save Water

### Directions

You can help conserve water. Below are some ways you can save water in and outside your home. Fill-in-the-blanks by unscrambling the words at the bottom of this page and placing them correctly in the sentences.

### Messages

1. Take shorter **showers**. A **five-minute** shower uses 25 **gallons** of water.
2. Turn off the water while **brushing** your teeth.
3. Don't use the **toilet** as a trash can—**flush** only when necessary.
4. Tell your parents if you see a leaking **faucet** or if the toilet "runs" after flushing. These **leaks** can waste **thousands** of gallons of water a year and that is **money** down the drain.
5. It also takes a lot of water to wash **dishes** and to do the **laundry**. If you help with these household chores, only run these appliances with full **loads**.
6. Collect **rainwater**.
7. Wash your bike with a **bucket** and rag, not a **hose**.
8. Water the yard, not the **sidewalk** or concrete. Tell your parents if any of the **sprinkler** heads are not **functioning** properly.

### Scrambled Words:

erohssw      **showers**

uifevetnim-      **five-minute**

lnlagso      **gallons**

bnrhigus      **brushing**

eltoit      **toilet**

suflh      **flush**

dsesih      **dishes**

ydnalur      **laundry**

saldo      **loads**

itarnawer      **rainwater**

utbcke      **bucket**

oehs      **hose**

aecutf      **faucet**

aeksl      **leaks**

ushsandto      **thousands**

mnyeo      **money**

alkesdiw      **sidewalk**

psnriekrl      **sprinkler**

innftugcnio      **functioning**

# Answer Key

## Test Your Water Smarts

### 1. Answer: A

Although it is fun to run through the sprinklers at the hottest time of day, your lawn should only be watered in the evening when it's cooler. Watering when it's really hot causes the water to evaporate before the plants have time to drink it.

### 2. Answer: B

Just like you get thirsty when you are hot, plants are thirstier during hot and dry months. Some plants that are native to your area may not need as much extra water beyond what they get from rainfall alone.

### 3. Answer: C

Many car washes save more water than if you wash your car at home. They do this by recycling the water that they use instead of letting it run down sewer drains. If you do wash it at home use a bucket, not a hose!

### 4. Answer: D

It may seem hard to believe, but the average American uses more than 80 gallons of water each day – to do things like flush toilets, run the faucet, and water plants. That's enough to fill +1,200 glasses of water!

### 5. Answer: B

Although there is a lot of water on earth (75 percent of the earth's surface!), most of it is salt water so you can't drink it. It is very important to save the water we use every day because less than 1 percent of the earth's water can be used by people!

### 6. Answer: B

To save the most amount of water in the kitchen, use your dishwasher only when it's filled full with dirty dishes. You could also fill the sink with water instead of running the tap.

### 7. Answer: A

You can waste up to 8 gallons of water by leaving the faucet on when you brush your teeth in the morning and before bedtime. Turn off the tap and save water!

### 8. Answer: A

While it might be more fun to splash in a warm bath, it takes 70 gallons of water to fill a tub but only 10 to 13 gallons for a five minute shower.

### 9. Answer: D

Put a bucket under the tap while you make the water the right temperature. The water collected can be used to water plants or fill up your pet's water bowl. Use a clock to keep your showers under five minutes. Use a broom instead of the hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk.

### 10. Answer: C

A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day! Ask to help your parents test your toilets for leaks. Place a drop of food coloring in the tank, wait 10 minutes, and if the color shows in the bowl before flushing, you have a leak.

### 11. Answer: B

Flushing the toilet for silly reasons wastes a lot of water. Only flush the 3 P's down the toilet – pee, poop, and (toilet) paper!

### 12. Answer: C

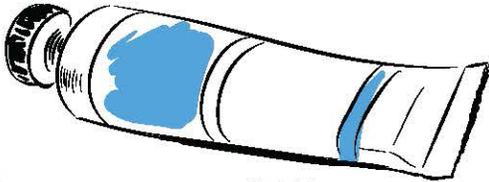
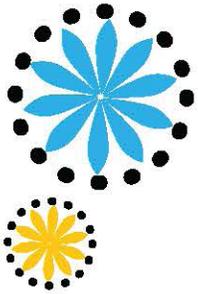
Leaky faucets are big water wasters. If you see or hear a leaky faucet, tell your parents or an adult about it so they can get it fixed. If you don't, those drips and drops can waste up to 2,700 gallons of water in one year!

## How did you do?

**10 to 12 correct** = You're a water wizard! By using water wisely you'll help your family save 10,000 gallons each year!

**6 to 9 correct** = You're a water wonder! You barely let a drip get by you.

**0 to 5 correct** = Good job. Keep working on your water smarts to get even better!



This Activity Book is brought to you by the City of Santa Ana, Water Resources Division.



Presented by  
[www.santaanaccr.org](http://www.santaanaccr.org)  
714.647.3500

