

Name: _____

Date: _____

Course: _____

WATER CONSERVATION

This assignment will be an opportunity to assess your weekly water use. First, figure out the water that is used gallons per minute (gpm) for the following areas of your home.

Category	Shower	Bathroom Sink	Toilets	Dishes	Laundry	Drinking		
<i>GPM or gallons per use</i>								

Use the blanks to add any additional water categories you find yourself using during a typical week, i.e. lawn, garden, car wash, watering animals, hobbies, AI use, etc.

Figuring out gallons per minute: Take a measuring device (quart jar, gallon jug, 5-gallon bucket) and turn on the water for one minute. After a minute, see how much water has come out of the tap and make a note as to how much each area uses. The following is a rough breakdown of water uses in the home.

Shower: A non-water- saving showerhead uses 5 gpm. Water conserving showerheads use 2 gpm. A full tub uses 36 gallons.

Bathroom Sink: Figure out gpm. Are you leaving the water on while washing your hands? What about brushing your teeth?

Toilets: This will most likely be the main water user inside your home. Toilets range from using 1-7 gallons of water per flush. Lift the lid on the tank of your toilet to figure out what your toilet uses. There may be a stamp indicating the gallons per flush (gpf) or you can figure it out roughly by the year the toilet was produced. Here is a breakdown of typical residential toilet use by year:

- 5 to 7 gpf before 1982
- 3.5 gpf 1982 to 1992
- 1.6 gpf 1993 to present
- 1.28 gpf 2004 to present
- 1.1 gpf or less 2014 to present

Running toilets cause water emergencies! A running toilet can lose 200-4000 gallons in a single day.

Laundry: Washing machines use 10-40 gallons per use. A top-loading washer with an agitator uses 30-40 gallons, a top-loading impeller washer uses 15-20 gallons. A front-loading washer uses 15 gallons, and a high efficiently front-loading washer uses 10 gallons.

Dishes: Figure out how many gallons per minute come out of your tap. How long does the water run while doing dishes? Are you using a dish washer? The standard dishwasher uses 6-10 gallons of water per load where an energy efficient model uses 3-4.

Weekly Water Use

Now that we know the gallons used per minute, use this section to tally what you use in a week.

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Shower/bath							
Bathroom Sink							
Toilets							
Dishes							
Laundry							
Drinking							
Totals:							

Use the blanks to add any additional water categories you find yourself using in a typical week, i.e. lawn, garden, car wash, watering animals, hobbies, AI use, etc.

The average American uses 80 gallons of water per person per day. What is the average in your state or country? _____

Is it above or below average? What do you think impacts your area's water use? _____

Is your personal water use above or below average? What do you do differently than the average person? _____

What decisions do you make daily that impact water? _____

How does your use of resources impact natural environments? _____

Where does your water come from? _____

How can you alter your lifestyle to use water more wisely? _____

Did you intentionally or unintentionally use AI during the week? How much water did you personally use (every 100 AI answer equals a half liter of water)? What is the impact of AI on water use and the environment? _____

How does climate change influence water availability in your area, and what does that mean for future water use? _____

What local or state policies exist to encourage water conservation? Are they effective? _____

Set a personal water-saving goal for the next month. What specific actions will you take? _____

How can you encourage family or friends to conserve water? _____

What trade-offs might you face if you try to conserve more water, and how can you overcome them? _____

