

- 1. This morning you woke up and showered before coming to school.**
 - a. 1 step forward if it was a short shower
 - b. 2 steps forward if it was a mid-length shower
 - c. 3 steps forward if it was a long shower
- 2. You help out around the house by throwing a load of laundry in the washer.**
 - a. 1 step backward if you have new appliances
 - b. 1 step forward if you have old appliances
 - c. Stay put if you use the laundromat (no appliances)
- 3. You came to school this morning, excited to learn about your Water Footprint!**
 - a. 1 step forward if you rode a bike
 - b. 2 steps forward if you took the bus
 - c. 3 steps forward if you were driven
- 4. Time for lunch! The whole class went to the cafeteria to eat.**
 - a. 1 step forward if you are a vegetarian
 - b. 2 steps forward if you are a meat eater
- 5. Your backpack feels a little messy, you decide to clean it out and get rid of old assignments.**
 - a. 1 step forward if you recycle
 - b. 2 steps forward if you don't recycle
- 6. It's time to head home!**
 - a. 1 step forward if you rode a bike
 - b. 2 steps forward if you took the bus
 - c. 3 steps forward if you were picked up and driven
 - d. 1 step backward if you walked
- 7. Your parents or guardian decided you needed some new clothes with winter coming up.**
 - a. 1 step forward if you buy new clothes but also get some secondhand items
 - b. 2 steps forward if you only buy new clothes
 - c. 1 step backward if you go to the thrift store for secondhand clothes
- 8. All of that shopping made you hungry, time for dinner.**
 - a. 1 step forward if you are a vegetarian
 - b. 1 step forward if you only eat meat once a day
 - c. 2 steps forward if you eat meat twice or three times a day
- 9. You help clean up after eating.**
 - a. 1 step forward if you recycle at home
 - b. 2 steps forward if you don't recycle at home

Copy Page – Background Reading

Think about all the ways you use water in a day—like brushing your teeth, flushing the toilet, and cooking. All of these activities use up a lot of water. Your **water footprint** is like an invisible mark that shows how much water you use for all of these things.

It's not just the water you directly touch, but also the water needed to make the things you use, like growing the food you eat or making the clothes you wear.

Your water footprint has two parts: **direct** (the water you use for things like bathing and drinking) and **indirect** (the water used by others that benefits you, like watering the food you eat or making the things you buy). Everyone has a different water footprint based on how they use water.

Direct water use is easy to calculate based on your daily activities. The average person in the U.S. uses about 60-70 gallons (225-265 liters) of water indoors each day for washing, bathing, cooking, drinking, watering plants, and flushing the toilet. Indirect water use is harder to understand and calculate. Think about all the food we buy, the phones we use, the TVs we watch, and the cars, buses, and bikes we need. All of these things require water to make and use. When we add up all the gallons or liters of water we use for direct and indirect water use, we get our total water footprint. This number helps us understand how our actions can affect the amount of water available in the world.

Companies and schools also have their own water footprints. A company's water footprint includes all the water connected to a product—from growing to manufacturing to packaging.

For schools, the water footprint includes all the water students, teachers, and staff use for drinking, washing hands, flushing toilets, cooking, and cleaning. Indirect water use includes school supplies, furniture, computers, and the building itself.

Water footprints vary greatly around the world. Different countries and cultures have different ways of using water and therefore may have a different water footprint than yours or than the U.S.



Our water footprint is the combination of direct use (like brushing our teeth) and indirect use (like using our phones).



Career Connections

**PUBLIC UTILITIES MANAGER • WATER CONSERVATION SPECIALIST •
LANDSCAPING/IRRIGATION SPECIALIST • WATER SMART APPLIANCES
ENGINEER • WATER SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER FOR A BUSINESS • WATER
RESOURCE MANAGER • ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER • WATER AUDITOR**