

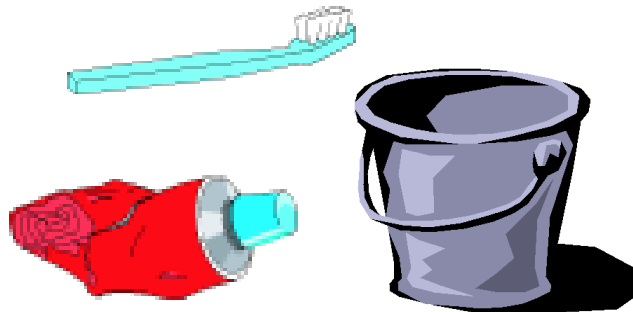
The Human Faucet

Objectives:

- Learn to conserve water.
- Learn to conduct a research project.

Materials Needed:

- 5 gallon bucket
- 5 – 1 gallon emptied and washed milk jugs
- Tap water
- 2 new toothbrushes (unopened)
- Toothpaste (optional)



Introduction

Ask the group to answer these questions, having them raise their hands as you record their answers on a board.

- How many of you brush your teeth every day? *Record their answers.*
- How many of you brush your teeth in the morning? *Record their answers.*
- How many of you brush your teeth at night? *Record their answers.*
- When you brush your teeth, how many of you turn the water on and start brushing your teeth with the water running? *Record their answers.*
- When you brush your teeth, how many of you turn the water off while you brush your teeth? *Record their answers.*

Group Research

1. Choose five volunteers to be faucets. (Give each of them a 1 gallon milk jug full of water.)
2. Choose one volunteer to brush his or her teeth. (*If a sink is available, the volunteer may prefer to brush his or her teeth at the sink, while the human faucets pour the water in the bucket.*)
3. When the volunteer needs to turn the water on, one of the “faucets” will begin to pour water into the 5 gallon bucket. Only one “faucet” should pour at a time. When the first “faucet” is empty, a second “faucet” should take over, and so on. The “faucets” should pour at a smooth, even pace, like running water in a sink.



4. Remind the volunteer to brush normally and not try to go faster than the “faucets.”
5. When the brushing volunteer is finished, the “faucet” volunteers will turn off the “faucet” and stop pouring the water.
6. Have the group observe how much water is in the bucket. How many gallons of water were used? *Record the answer.*
7. Repeat the above procedure with a new group of volunteers. This time have the volunteer who is brushing his or her teeth turn off the water in the middle while brushing and turn it on again when they need to rinse.
8. Have the group observe the amount of water that was used. *Record the answer.*
9. Compare the difference in amount of water used in the two methods.
10. What were the conclusions?

Citizenship Activity

Use the water that was part of the experiment to water house plants or shrubs, etc.

Character Activity

An individual will practice water conservation when brushing their teeth, even when no one is watching. Turn the water off when brushing your teeth. Do not allow the water to run.

References:

<http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us>

<http://www.ciese.org/curriculum/drainproj/gallon.html>

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