

# WATER WOW! : AN INFOGRAPHIC EXPLORATION

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**Genre:** nonfiction

**Themes:** environment, energy, biodiversity, renewable and non-renewable resources

**Suitable for:** Grades 4–7

**Guided Reading Level:** V

**Common Core standards :** W.5.4,7,8,9,9b,10  
SL.5.1,1c,1d,2,3,4,5,6  
L.5.3,3a,3b,4,4a,4c,5,5a,5c,6  
RI.5.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

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## ABOUT INFOGRAPHICS

*Water Wow!* uses a mixture of artwork, photography, and infographics (charts, graphs, etc.) to present key points visually. The text is brief, to convey the basic concepts quickly. Each infographic illustrates a larger idea, and so can be the starting point for longer discussions. A reading list and a detailed bibliography are provided for students or teachers who are interested in looking deeper into a topic.

## IDEAS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

### ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

1. Why is water so important for living things? (See p 16–17)
2. Can you name three different types of water ecosystems? (See p 20–21)
3. What is a wetland, and why are they important? (See p 20–21)
4. What is an estuary? (See p 20–21)
5. What happens to an ecosystem when there is not enough water? (p 14–15)

## **ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES**

1. How do you use water in your everyday life? In the home? Can you think of four categories of personal water use? (See p 24–25)
2. What is the difference between direct water use and indirect water use? (See p 24–25 and 26–27)
3. The water you use in the home is an example of direct water use (ie. your answer to question #1). What other ways do we use water? (See p 26–27 and 32–33 and 34–35)
4. Where does the water in your community come from? How does it get to you? (See p 40–41)  
Your local water authority will have information on the water source for your community. As well, here are a couple of useful resources for locating your local watershed:
  - [watershedreports.wwf.ca](http://watershedreports.wwf.ca)
  - [www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geography/atlas-canada/selected-thematic-maps/16888](http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geography/atlas-canada/selected-thematic-maps/16888)
  - [flowergarden.noaa.gov/image\\_library/regionmaps.html](http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/image_library/regionmaps.html)
  - [americaswatershed.org/reportcard/](http://americaswatershed.org/reportcard/)
  - [water.usgs.gov/wsc/map\\_index.html](http://water.usgs.gov/wsc/map_index.html)
5. How does pollution get into our sources of water? (See p 46–47)
6. Can you think of ways to reduce water pollution? Try to think of at least one thing you can do personally to reduce pollution. (See p 48–49 and 50–51)
7. Draw a map of your home. (Include your yard and garage if you have one.) Write down one way you use water in each room. Write a “D” beside every direct use, and an “I” beside every indirect use. Write down one way you could use less water in each room.  
*This is a way for students to create their own infographic. Students can either write in point form, or draw a picture or icon to represent different water uses (ie. a tap, a light bulb, etc.).*

## **WATER AND ENERGY**

1. What is hydropower? (See p 30–31)
2. Besides hydroelectric power, how is water used to make energy? What forms of energy are the “thirstiest”? The least “thirsty”? (See p 32–33)
3. How are food, water, and energy connected? (See p 34–35)
4. Can you think of some ways to use less energy?

## **WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

1. How does water affect the weather? (See p 12–13)
2. How do changes to water affect the climate? (See p 12–13)
3. What are some ways to reduce your impact on water? (see p 12–13 and 50–51)