

## 8. There is a finite amount of water on earth ...

### Discussion topics and information

#### Is there a limited amount of water?

The water currently on earth is the same water that has always been here. The amount never changes as it cannot escape beyond the Earth's atmosphere. Water is continuously cycled between different states (see below). The water we drink today could be the same water that was drunk by a dinosaur!

#### Where does water travel?

Water travels all over the world. Water that falls as rain in Sweden will run into a river, then into the sea and slowly move with the currents around Africa, into the Indian Ocean and towards Australia. This journey takes hundreds of years. It will evaporate and fall as rain again many times along the way, becoming drinking water for Australians before continuing on its way again.

#### Where else can water be found?

Water is found not just in waterways but also in all living things. 75% of the human brain is water and 75% of a living tree is water.

#### Water facts!

Water covers two-thirds of the Earth's surface. Of the water on Earth, 97% is salt water, stored in seas and oceans. That means only 3% of water is fresh! Of this, most is locked up in icebergs and glaciers and inaccessible for human use. That leaves less than 1% for people, plants and animals to use.

### Lesson ideas

List all the things in the classroom that contain water. How did the water get there?

- Look at a map or globe of the world, how much of the earth's surface is water?
- Take part in 'every drop counts'. Contact Onkaparinga Waterwatch for details.

Try this demonstration:

1. Start with a container filled with 1 litre of water. This represents the earth's total water.
2. Using that water, measure 30 ml and empty into another container. This represents the proportion that is freshwater
3. Take 10 ml from the second container and empty into a third. This represents the water available for us to use.
4. Container 1 = salt water; container 2 = inaccessible freshwater; container 3 = water available to us.
5. What is the message?  
We have to use the little portion of water we have very wisely!