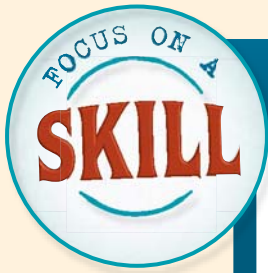


Water, Water Everywhere

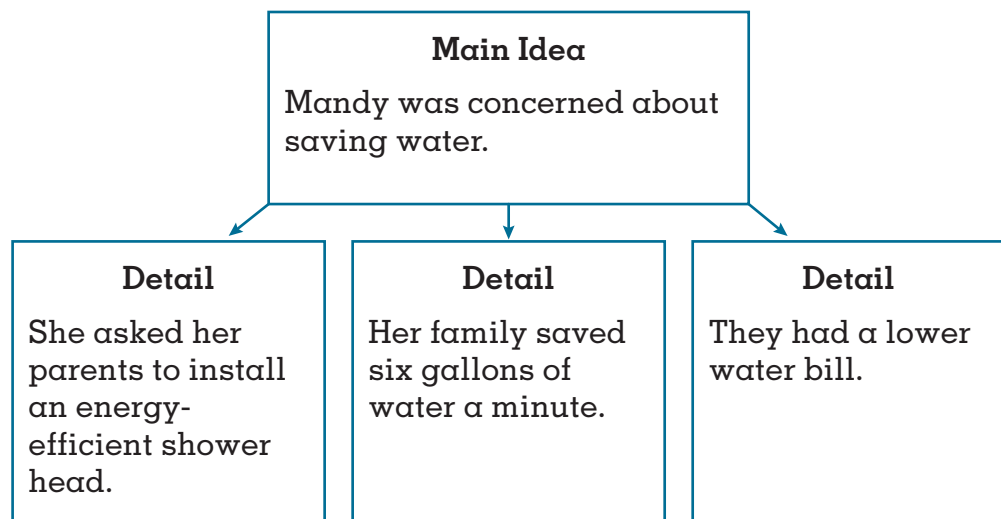
Americans are the world's largest consumers of water. As a group, they use 26 billion gallons of water every day. Luckily, there are many simple things that you can do around your house to conserve water. Things like turning off the water while you brush your teeth can add up to big savings over time.



Recalling Details

When you read about a topic, the **details** the author provides help you understand the most important ideas. Details give more specific information. Sometimes they help you better picture the main idea. Other times they give more information about the steps in a process.

Mandy was concerned about saving water. She asked her parents to install an energy-efficient shower head. As a result, her family saved six gallons of water a minute. Her parents were happy because they also saved money on their water bill.



To better recall details, try picturing the information they provide. For example, imagine yourself turning off a faucet. Then use your mental images to help you remember the most important information.



Read these words and definitions.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| conserve | v. to prevent waste or loss of |
| efficiency | n. the ability to accomplish a job with minimal time and effort |
| estimates | v. calculates approximately |
| gallons | n. units of volume equal to four quarts |
| glaciers | n. huge masses of ice |
| native | adj. originating naturally in a particular place |

Use one of the words from above to complete each of these sentences about water.

1. Fresh water is frozen in giant _____.
2. The landscaper planted cacti that were _____ to Arizona.
3. The scientist _____ that by next year the town will only have enough water to cover half its needs.
4. Brian's family keeps several _____ of water in case of emergency.
5. Using new equipment can increase your _____.
6. To _____ water, turn off the tap while you are brushing your teeth.





More water is used in the bathroom than any other place in the home.

Turn Off that Tap!

The famous poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge once wrote “Water, water, everywhere, but not a drop to drink.” Looking around you, you might wonder how this could possibly be. After all, Earth’s nickname is “the watery planet.” Earth is covered with oceans, streams, lakes, and rivers. However, appearances can be misleading. Nearly 97% of the world’s water is salty or undrinkable. Another 2% is in glaciers and ice caps. That leaves just 1% for all the world’s water needs.

The amount of water on Earth is actually fairly stable. In fact, there is the same amount of water now as there was 3 billion years ago. So, what’s the problem? People are using more water than ever before, but they can’t make more water. Therefore, if people on Earth don’t take steps to conserve water, the demand for it will soon exceed the supply. As the demand for water grows, conserving it will be more important than ever before. In fact, the state of Texas estimates that by 2050 it will only have enough water to cover 75% of its needs.

Conserving Water in the Bathroom

To conserve water, there are many things you can do to help. One of the easiest places to start is the bathroom. When you brush your teeth in the morning and the evening, don’t keep the water running. Turn it off while you brush and then turn it back on only to rinse. Ask your parents to replace your showerhead with a water-efficient model. This can save as much as 6 gallons of water per minute! Instead of taking baths, take a shower. Showers typically use less water, especially if you get in as soon as the water is hot enough.

You can even make your toilet more efficient. Fill a gallon plastic bottle with water and place it in your toilet tank. It will take up the same space that water usually does, but in a year it will keep 5,000 gallons of water from going down the drain.

An American family of four uses up to 260 gallons of water in the home per day.

Conserving Water in the Kitchen

The kitchen offers many opportunities for water savings. Keep a container of water in your refrigerator and use ice cubes when you get a drink. Filling a glass from the tap can be wasteful if you wait for the water to get cold. When you wash dishes, soak them first rather than scrubbing them while the water is running. If you use a dishwasher, make sure you run it only with a full load of dishes. If the dishes aren't very dirty, use the shortest wash cycle. It may even be labeled as "energy saver" on your dishwasher. You can even save water by asking your parents to steam vegetables instead of boiling them. An added bonus is that steamed vegetables keep more of their nutrients.

Conserving Water in the Laundry Room

There will be times when your favorite shirt is dirty and you feel like you have to do a load of laundry to get it clean. It's best to wash full loads, but if you must wash a partial load, adjust the setting on your washing machine to match the load. Use the shortest wash cycle that you think will get your clothes clean. If possible, use a high-efficiency washer. They use 40% less energy and water than traditional washing machines. Over the course of a year, you could save almost 5,000 gallons of water.

Conserving Water Outdoors

There also are many ways to save water outside. Start by planting native shrubs, trees, and grass. These plants are adapted to your climate and will require less additional watering than other varieties. A list of native plants is available from many cities. Water your plants early in the day or late in the evening to prevent water loss through **evaporation**. Set up a barrel to collect rain water. This can be used to water your plants.

Although none of these efforts may seem like a big savings at first, little changes add up. Try to do one thing each day to save water, and remember that every drop counts.

evaporation

n. the process by which water changes to vapor

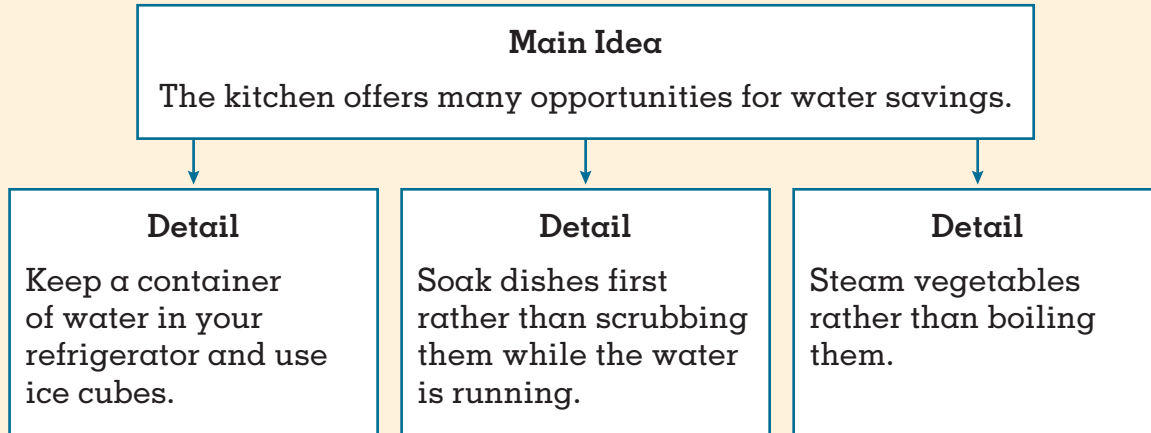


Xeriscaping is landscaping that minimizes the use of water.

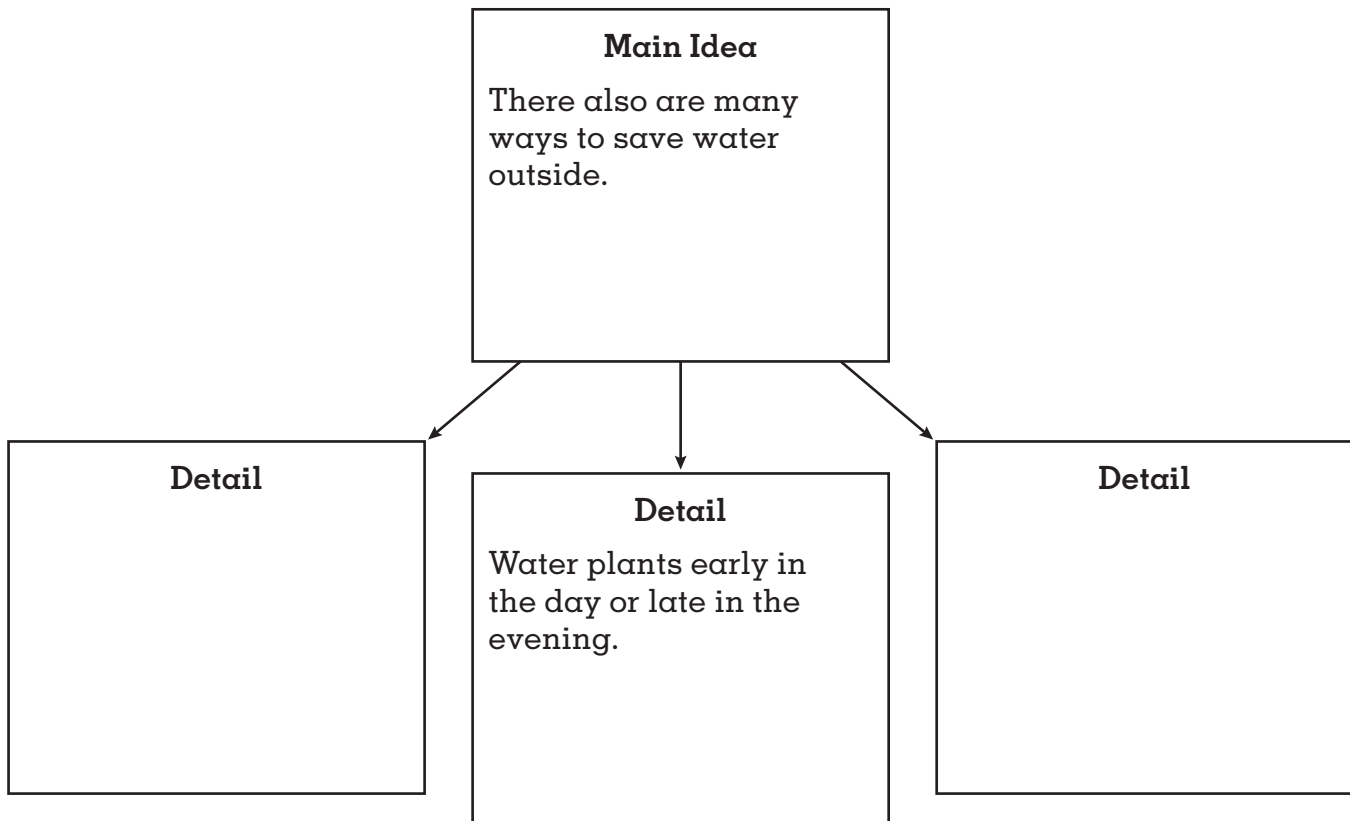
STRATEGY: Details Chart

Keeping track of **details** in a **details chart** can help you understand and remember important information from what you read. You can use your completed details chart to help you restate the most important ideas in a section of text or an entire article.

Here is a details chart that shows details to consider about conserving water in the kitchen.



Complete the details chart below about conserving water outdoors.



Think about what you learned from the article about water conservation. Then circle the letter of the correct answer.

Recalling
Details

1. How much of the world's water is salty or undrinkable?

- A 1%
- B 2%
- C 75%
- D 97%

Using
Context Clues

2. Which word in the article means "able or likely to continue or last"?

- A favorite
- B stable
- C refreshing
- D efficient

Determining
the Sequence
of Events

3. What should you do first when washing dishes?

- A scrub them
- B soak them
- C put them in the dishwasher
- D rinse them under tap water

Identifying
Cause-and-Effect
Relationships

4. What is the effect of steaming vegetables?

- A You save water but lose nutrients.
- B You save water and preserve nutrients.
- C You use more water and lose nutrients.
- D You use more water but preserve nutrients.

Making Inferences
and Drawing
Conclusions

5. You can decide from the article that saving water is _____.

- A easy to do
- B not possible
- C is difficult but worth it
- D challenging and ineffective

Writing a
Response



6. Write a plan for your family to start saving more water. Include persuasive reasons and details to convince everyone to follow your instructions.

WORD STUDY: Synonyms

Synonyms are words that have the same or almost the same meaning. *Saving* and *conserving* are synonyms.

Read each sentence below. Choose a word from the box that has the same meaning as the underlined word and write the word on the line.

begin constant gather unsoiled
impede complete loading identical

1. The amount of water on Earth is fairly stable. _____
2. Filling a glass from the sink can be wasteful. _____
3. There is the same amount of water now as there was years ago. _____
4. It's best to wash full loads of laundry. _____
5. Watering early in the day can prevent water loss. _____
6. Use the shortest setting that will still get your clothes clean. _____
7. Set up a barrel to collect rainwater. _____
8. Start by conserving water in your home. _____

Now use a thesaurus to find additional synonyms for each underlined word. Rewrite each sentence with one of the synonyms you find.