

Description of Water Users

In addition to the descriptions listed below, students may research a specific water user during the week prior to this activity.



Agriculture: Water is used to produce food and fiber for processing and consumption.



Sugar cane grower: Uses water to irrigate crops and transport chemicals (pesticides and fertilizers) to crops.



Cattle rancher: Uses water to grow food and provide drinking water for cattle, and to clean their areas for living and feeding, transporting waste to holding ponds.



Wheat farmer: Uses water to irrigate crops.



Dairy farmer: Uses water to grow food and provide drinking water for cows, and to sanitize milking equipment and stalls.



Mining: Water is used in the extraction process of raw materials (coal, iron, gold, copper, sand, gravel, gas, and oil).



Miner: Uses water to carry and wash rock material during the mineral removal processes.



Sand and gravel company: Uses water to wash fine soil and rock material out of sand and gravel formations. Sand and gravel are used in cement and road construction.



Petroleum company: Uses water in the process of fracturing rock layers to retrieve stored petroleum or natural gas.



Logging: Water is used to grow and harvest trees.



Forest manager: Uses water to support tree growth and control fires.



Logging company: Uses water to float rafts of logs (on rivers and lakes) to collection points.

Description of Water Users

FOR STUDENTS



Transporting/Shipping: Water (rivers, seas, oceans) is used to transport raw materials and finished products to points of distribution (ports).



Slurry pipeline owner: Uses water to transport crushed coal through pipelines to distant coal-fired power plants.



Ship's crew: Uses water to haul raw materials (e.g., logs, oil, gas, wheat) and finished products (e.g., automobiles, appliances, processed food) to points of transfer.



Wildlife: Water provides habitat for countless plant and animal species.



Mammals: Beavers, muskrats, and otters live in and near waterways.



Fish: Trout, salmon, and carp live in water and eat organisms that live in water.



Insects: Aquatic insects are a food source for many other organisms.



Vegetation: Trees and other plants use water in photosynthesis and to transport nutrients.



Business/Industry: Water is used in the processing and manufacturing of goods (cars, food, medical supplies, etc.).



Steel producer: Uses large volumes of water to process iron ore into steel.



Textile manufacturer: Uses water to wash and process raw materials (e.g., wool, cotton, mohair). Dye is mixed with water to color fabric.



Soft drink company: Uses water to produce soft drinks and to sanitize equipment.



Paper mill: Uses water to transport pulp fibers for paper making and to carry away waste.



Chemical manufacturer: Uses water in the production of pesticides and fertilizers.

Description of Water Users



Recreation: Water is used by people for exercise and enjoyment.



Cruise ship: People travel to many parts of the world on cruise ships.



Fishing: People catch fish in rivers, lakes, and oceans.



Water theme park: Uses water to transport people on exciting and fun rides.



Scuba diver: People enjoy exploring underwater environments.



Winter sports: Snow and ice provide fun for skaters, skiers, and sledders.



Power Generation: Water is used to generate electricity.



Hydropower plant: Water flowing in rivers is stored behind dams in reservoirs. As water is released by the dam, it turns turbines that generate electricity.



Nuclear power plant: Uses water in cooling towers to maintain safe operating temperatures.



Coal-fired power plant: Burning coal produces steam heat that turns turbines, creating electricity.



Community: Water is used by community members for domestic, maintenance, and recreational purposes.



Domestic users: Water is used in a multitude of ways in and around the home and lawn.



Fire department: Uses water to extinguish fires.



Restaurant owner: Uses water to cook meals, clean the kitchen, wash tables and floor, and water lawns.



City government: Uses water in fountains and reflecting ponds and for landscaping and maintenance needs.