

Where do you get your H2O?

Presented by the
Ontario Ministry of the Environment

Ah, water, it's always there when you need it! Like when you're thirsty, need to brush your teeth, flush the toilet, take a shower, wash the car, go for a swim, have a bath, cook something, make ice cubes. The list goes on and on. If you actually think about it, you probably use water more times in a day than you can count on both of your hands! But have you ever stopped to think about where it comes from? And I'm not just talking about out of the tap, Captain Obvious.

Did you know... 26 per cent of Canadians don't have any idea where their tap water comes from!

Water 101

It's so easy to get our hands on water, we rarely think about where exactly it comes from. So, where does our water come from?

In Canada our water comes from three main sources:

- The Great Lakes (that'd be: Huron, Ontario, Erie and Superior)
- Groundwater
- Rivers and streams

The Great Lakes store a whopping 95 per cent of the freshwater for all of North America! That's about one-fifth of the entire world's supply of fresh surface water, and only 1 per cent of this water is renewed every year by rain and snowfall.

Then there's groundwater (the stuff you can't see because it's hidden in layers underground). In Canada, 25 per cent of people get their water this way, from private and municipal wells. Even though it might seem like water is super easy to come by, that's not always the case. Canada has experienced droughts before, with lakes and rivers drying up. And there are other threats to our water supplies as well, including:

- Climate change
- Pollution (e.g. pesticides, fertilizers and road salt washed off fields and roads into waterways)
- Chemical or industrial spills (e.g. oil)
- Animal and human waste
- Loss of native plants and animals that help keep our water clean by acting as natural filters
- Introduction of non-native (or invasive) species that reduce water quality

In Ontario, the province works with the municipalities to protect our drinking water.



Help the Ministry of the Environment and Earth Rangers protect our natural world.
Together we can make a difference.



<http://www.ontario.ca/protectingourwater>

<http://www.ontario.ca/protegetnotreeau>

www.earthrangers.com

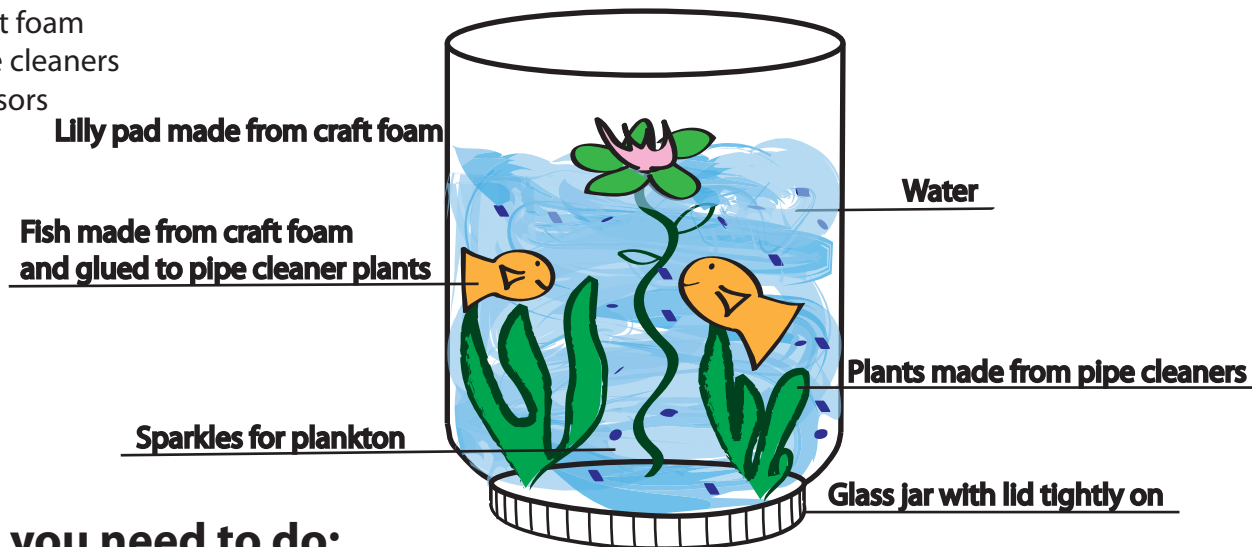
Water Globe

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Passport Please! Have you ever seen the travel documents from your water? You wouldn't believe how much those currents get around. In Ontario, our drinking water comes from the Great Lakes, ground water, or rivers and streams. You can create your own amazing aquatic world by making a water globe.

What you need:

- Clear glass jar (ones with a shorter and wider lid work the best)
- Hot glue-gun and glue (get an adult to help)
- Sparkles or small beads
- Craft foam
- Pipe cleaners
- Scissors



What you need to do:

Make a Great Lakes ecosystem!

What lives in this underwater world? Go down to your local watering hole and explore the lakes and rivers of Ontario to find out.

Ideas:

- **Lily pad:** Cut out teardrop shapes from the foam and hot glue them to a green pipe cleaner. Glue a flower shape to the top of the pipe cleaner, then attach the whole thing to the lid of the jar. Make sure the pipe cleaner is long enough so that when you add water your lily pad will float on the top.
- **Pond Weed:** Take a green pipe cleaner and make long loops with it, then wrap its base with a brown pipe cleaner and glue it inside the lid of the glass jar.
- **Fish:** Cut out a teardrop shape and two small circles. Glue the circles onto either side of the teardrop to make eyes. Cut out two triangles and glue them to either side of your fish for fins. Glue your fish to a plant to keep them from floating on the surface of the water.
- **Plankton:** Add sparkles to represent tiny organisms in your freshwater globe.

Just Add water: Once you have all your creatures in place, fill your jar with tap water (get an adult to make sure the lid is on tight enough). Now tilt your ecosystem back and forth and get inspired to protect Canada's many lakes, rivers, and streams.