

Water Week

Even if you and your family are at home, that doesn't mean you can't have fun with water! The Cumberland River Compact encourages you to make this week your Water Week! Each day we have a fun and easy water activity to do with your kids. These activities are for elementary aged kids and their families.

Day 1: Does it float or sink?



Fill a bucket or bowl with water. Then find 10 items from around your house (that are okay to get wet!). For each item, write a prediction about whether it will float or sink. Now it's time to test it out! Place each item in the water and record your data of whether it floats or sinks.

Want to add more to the activity? Compare and contrast all the items that floated. Try to determine what physical properties (material, size, shape, etc) made it so they floated on water. Based on your prediction of the materials, size, and shape that float, try to find another object that you think will float.

Day 2: Outdoor Scavenger Hunt!

It's time to head outside to see what you can find! Download our premade Scavenger Hunt Card [here](#). Print off the card and head outside. (No printer? Mark the items off on your smartphone). Try to find ALL of the items on the scavenger hunt.

Or, you can make your own scavenger hunt! Brainstorm some things you may see outside and try to find them! Here are some suggestions: a plant with yellow on it, an animal that flies, an animal with 8 legs, water, evidence of an animal, and trash. What else can you add?

Extra! Today you will also get started on your water audit!

We use water everyday. But do you really know how much you use? Take a 3-day water audit of your direct and indirect household water use. You will start today and finish on the last day of the week. You can find the water audit instructions [here](#) (No printer? You can make your own chart on a piece of paper or chalkboard to track your water!)

Day 3: What happens when it rains?

Where does water go when it rains? Does it flow uphill or downhill? In this activity, you will find out! You will need the following materials: wax paper, water, and a spray bottle (your hand will also work!)



Take a piece of wax paper and crumple it up. Then, slowly uncrumple the paper. You want there to be some small peaks and valleys, so don't flatten it all the way (take a look at the picture to the left). Imagine your piece of wax paper is the land. Ask yourself, what do the peaks represent? What do the low parts represent?

Now, let's see what happens when it rains on your land. First, make a prediction and write it down! Where do you think the water will go? Will it flow up or down the peaks? Now, if you have a spray bottle available, gently spray water onto your wax paper. If you don't have a spray bottle, you can gently drop water on the paper using your hands. Make your observations! Where did the water go? Was your prediction correct?

Want to do more? Head outside with your spray bottle and water. Spray the water on a few parts of the sidewalk, grass, or driveway. Where does the water go now?

**Remember to do your water audit for today!

Day 4: Where does the water go?

Yesterday we learned about where water flows when it rains. Downhill! But what happens when water falls on different types of materials? Will it soak in or will it run-off? Let's test it out! First, collect 5-10 materials from around your house that you want to test. We recommend a paper towel, a penny, a piece of cardboard, and maybe even some plant material from outside. Remember, all of these materials should be okay to get wet!

Once you gather all your materials, write a prediction for each material. Will the water soak-in or will it run-off? Now test each one out to see if water dropped on to it soaks in or if it runs off. Add a few drops of water and make your observations! Were your predictions correct?

Some materials may soak in and we call these permeable. Others may have the water sit on the surface or run-off. We call these impermeable.

Now, head outside! Take a look around your home. Do you see other examples of permeable or impermeable areas? Test out different areas by adding a bit of water to each spot.

You should see that grass is permeable and areas like the sidewalk or your driveway are impermeable. This means that when it rains, the water that falls on your sidewalk or driveway has nowhere to sink-in and instead runs-off. Think back to yesterday's activity. Where do you think that water goes? It ends up in our streams and rivers carrying any pollution with it as it goes.

**Remember to do your water audit for today!

Day 5: Collect your final data and fill in the chart for your three days of the water audit! Let's look at how you used water and answer these questions. You can write them down or tell a friend or family member your answers.

- What activity did you do that used the most water?
- What activity used the least water?
- Were you surprised by how much water you used?
- How can you change what you do so that next week you use less water?
- Why is water important to you?

Share your Water Week!

We would love to see your photos during Water Week? Tag us on social media for a chance to be re-shared!

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