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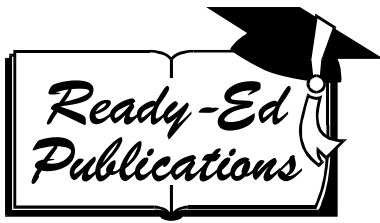
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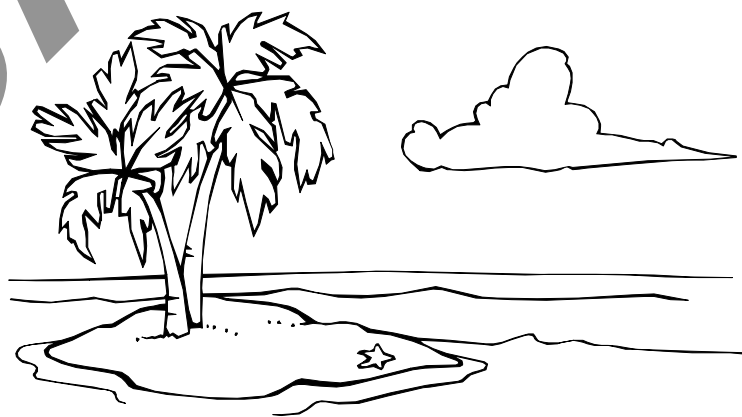


# Our Environment

## Book 2: Water and Air

This series explores various environmental aspects with a strong emphasis on school environmental concerns with a community focus. Activities aimed at Intermediate/Challenging Levels.

For grades 5-7



Written by Sharon Szczecinski. Illustrated by Melinda Brezmen.

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Published by Ready-Ed Publications (2004) P.O. Box 276, Greenwood, W.A. 6024

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ISBN 1 86397 537 3

# Introduction

The **Our Environment Series** is a set of photocopiable activities that has been created to assist teachers in the implementation of an outcomes-based approach to the teaching of Society and Environment.

This series deals with the five elements that make up the environment:

- ◆ **Land (Book 1)**
- ◆ **Water and Air (Book 2)**
- ◆ **Waste and Energy (Book 3)**

Environmental problems have been a hot topic in classrooms for several years and students have become familiar with the issues that are of greatest concern. It is necessary to educate students about the ways in which some environmental problems can be minimised and/or managed. This series endeavours to equip students with the knowledge and skills for acting locally; implementing environmental management practices at school level that care for our natural resources.

Students need to realise the importance of the need to preserve the environment for future generations.

## Series Objectives

- to promote effective school environmental management strategies;
- to identify areas of need in the school environment;
- to determine ways in which the amount of pollution can be reduced in the local area;
- to foster an understanding of how people working together can make a difference on the greater environment.

## Use of Internet References

This is not an introductory book on using the Internet and users will need to have some understanding of how to navigate the World Wide Web and how to open various Internet addresses prior to attempting the Internet-related activities on some of the pages in this series.

Activity pages displaying this computer logo in the top right hand corner are pages that ask students to access a given web site.

From time to time, websites change or move to a new location. At the time of publication (2004), all websites used herein were available.



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# Teachers' Notes: Water

## About Water

Water is our most precious resource and makes up approximately 71% of the Earth's surface. It is vital to all forms of plant and animal life. The two main sources of drinking water – groundwater and surface water – are becoming increasingly scarce for a number of reasons.

## Environmental Impact

The environmental concerns with water include salinity, water pollution, water erosion, algal blooms in local areas, water wastage and the destruction of ecosystems.

## Conserving Water

Water is used for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes. To minimise water waste, students should be aware of the unnecessary waste that occurs around the school as a result of leaking taps and irresponsible use of water fountains, etc.

Students need to be educated in the ways in which water use can be minimized. For water conservation to work, everyone needs to follow the guidelines and maintain efficient water usage. Good habits and positive actions need to be reinforced at school before students can be expected to practise water saving strategies at home and in the community.

## Extension Ideas

- Whole class activity: Students construct a chart of the water cycle explaining each stage of the process.
- Examine the different states of water: ice, steam, liquid form.
- Students design posters to be displayed around the school which promote and encourage water conservation.
- Students gather brochures about the Great Barrier Reef. Using the brochures students create their own tourist guide to this World Heritage site. Ask students to explain what the reef is all about and what people can see there.
- Students could devise ways to minimize watering costs around the school grounds. They could devise a list of plants and grasses which require minimal watering over summer periods.
- Clouds: Discuss the different types of clouds and observe their formation over a number of weeks.
- Measure the amount of rainfall that occurs in a five day period.
- Excursion: Take a visit to a water storage facility such as a weir or dam.
- Guest speaker: Invite a speaker from the local water authority.
- Internet: Check out the list of useful educational web sites at the end of this book.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Water - The Essential Fluid!

More than 70% of the earth is covered by water. Water is essential to life – we use it to drink, to cook with, to brush our teeth and shower with and many other uses. Unfortunately, water in some countries is in short supply so it is important for people to conserve the water they have.

- Make a list of all of the things you have used water for today (be sure to think about both school and home). For each use try to estimate or guess how much water this would have used.

Use	Amount Used
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- Using your list, try to sort the uses into the categories listed below.

<b>Drinking</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Washing</b>	<b>Playing</b>	<b>Rinsing</b>	<b>Cooling</b>

- Imagine a world in which water is very severely restricted. For each category above, write down an alternative to using water.

<b>Drinking</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Washing</b>	<b>Playing</b>	<b>Rinsing</b>	<b>Cooling</b>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Water Bodies in the United States

- Gather a selection of magazines and travel brochures and cut out pictures of water bodies in America. Water bodies can include rivers, lakes, oceans, seas and wetlands.

In the space below create a collage using the pictures you have collected.

