

West Basin Water District

Water Conservation Lessons

Fourth Grade

All students will receive a lesson-specific water conservation lesson with their Fall planting, California Agriculture, and the general 3rd-5th Grade water conservation lesson with their Spring planting.

- ◆ Fall Lesson Points – California Agriculture Garden – Water conservation is fundamental to the success of California agriculture.
 - California, particularly Southern and Central, is an arid state—little or no rainfall from April to November, which is the primary growing season.
 - The primary agricultural areas, Central Valley, depend on the California Aqueduct, a series of dams and water channels, to bring water from the North and the mountains into these otherwise very dry valleys.
 - All the people and animals in California need to share this limited water – water taken from lakes and rivers to send to people in cities as well as on farms—so we must conserve to be sure there is enough for all people and so we do not need to take so much from the wilderness environment.
 - California Native Plants that require very little water because they evolved before irrigation. Using native plants in your garden is a great way to conserve water in the landscape.

- ◆ Spring Lesson Points
 - Water is a precious resource—conserve and preserve
 - ◆ Conserve everytime you use water—showers, dishes, toothbrushing, watering
 - ◆ School Gardens used Drip Irrigation and Smart Irrigation timers to water only when and how much is needed for the plants to grow
 - Water early in the day to minimize evaporation
 - Do not overwater—no water washing onto street or sidewalks
 - ◆ Preserve Watersheds—understand that all water is part of a local watershed.
 - The greater California watershed is the water that flows from the mountains down to the coast in our state rivers and creeks—this is the basis for all of our drinking water
 - With rain or irrigation or carwashing or other outdoor uses, water flows from streets, yards, etc. into creeks and oceans.
 - Pollution or poisons in our yards or streets become pollution in our water.
 - Keep our environment clean, especially don't dump pollutants down storm drains that flow straight to creeks and oceans.