



How Does WATER Get to Our Taps?



Water is an extremely precious resource that all living things need to survive. Plants and trees need water to grow. Animals and humans need water to keep their bodies healthy and working correctly. Humans also use water for cooking, washing, cleaning and farming.

We rely on water for so many things, but how does it get to our taps?

Water is collected from two main sources. Dams, rivers and lakes are all examples of 'surface water'. 'Groundwater' sits underground in the cracks between soil and rock. The water is pumped from these locations to the next step in the process.

Before the water is ready to be used, it needs to be cleaned. This happens at a treatment plant. Here the water is



pumped through filters that remove dirt and other solids. Any germs in the water are then killed by using chlorine or ultraviolet light.

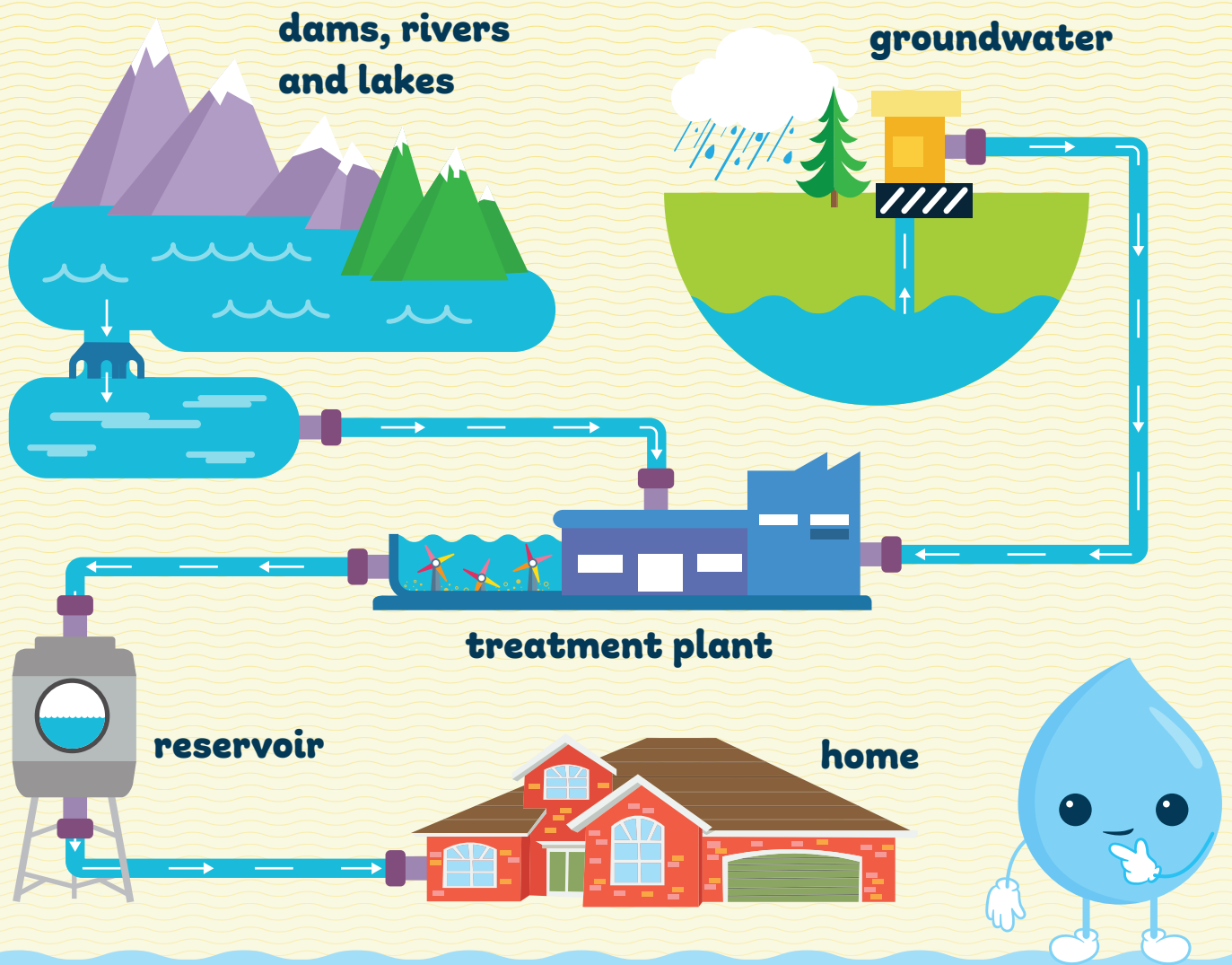
Now that the water is safe to drink, it is stored in a reservoir ready for people to use.

Reservoirs are big tanks that are usually placed on top of hills or tall stands. Raising the tanks high helps the water flow through the pipes with strong pressure.

Finally, the water is all set and ready to be used. When a tap is turned on, the water flows from the reservoir, through pipes and out of the spout. It is ready to be used as a drink, in a bath, watering plants or cooking dinner.

It might be easy to forget that this process is happening all the time! Let's not take it for granted.

We must monitor how we use water and make sure we don't let any go to waste.



Desalination

Some countries also source water from the ocean or sea. This salt water is treated at a desalination plant where the water is pushed through a special filter that traps the salt but lets the fresh water pass through.

Tanks for the Rainwater

Some people have rainwater tanks connected to their house. When it rains, the water flows into the tank where it is stored until it needs to be used.

Walking for Water

Not everyone is lucky enough to have clean drinking water available so easily. Some people must walk for over half an hour every day to collect clean water and carry it back to their families.

Water-Saving Tips

- Turn off the tap when brushing teeth or soaping hands.
- Check taps and hoses for leaks.
- Use a watering can to water plants.
- Take shorter showers.

Name: _____

Date: _____

How Does Water Get to Our Taps?

1. Write the following steps of the process in the correct order.

Reservoir

Water Source

Home

Treatment
Plant

1.

2.

3.

4.

2. How is the water treated for germs?

3. Write a list of the ways humans use water.

4. What is the purpose of a desalination plant?

5. Why is it important to save water?

Answers

1. Write the following steps of the process in the correct order.

Reservoir

Water Source

Home

Treatment
Plant

1. Water
Source

2. Treatment
Plant

3. Reservoir

4. Home

2. How is the water treated for germs?

Water is treated for germs using chlorine and ultraviolet light.

3. Write a list of the ways humans use water.

Humans use water for drinking, bathing, washing, cooking, cleaning, farming, etc.

4. What is the purpose of a desalination plant?

A desalination plant treats saltwater by pushing water through a special filter that traps the salt but lets the fresh water pass through.

5. Why is it important to save water?

Answers will vary.