

## How is Water Used?

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As a group, brainstorm the many ways we use water every day. Think of places you go, items you buy and what others around you do. Once you have your list of ideas, think about the positive and negative impacts of each activity, and if they are important to our health, safety and overall happiness.

Here is an example to get you started:

- **Agriculture** – fruits, vegetables and other crops are watered to help them grow
  - **Pro** – provides food and nutrients for us
  - **Con** – runoff and chemicals from fertilizers used in the fields may end up in our rivers, creeks, groundwater sources and lakes

Once you have a few ideas on different ways that water is used, pick one and design a poster or poem about that use of water. Here is an example:

- *Water, water everywhere, used to wash my hands and my hair. Water feeds the fields, water feeds the trees, water for the animals and water for me!*



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- **Travel** – pleasure crafts and cruise ships can take us many places
  - o **Pro:** offers transportation, builds appreciation for environment, creates jobs
  - o **Con:** burns fossil fuels, contributes to polluting the water and interrupts aquatic habitats
- **Transport** – cargo ships carry large loads of goods long distances
  - o **Pro:** can carry a lot at once, helps us get items from all over the world that we can't make in Canada
  - o **Con:** burns fossil fuels, contributes to water pollution, impacts aquatic habitats
- **Hydropower** – construct dams to hold back water which can be released in a controlled way to turn turbines and generate power
  - o **Pro:** doesn't pollute the water, and provides us with electricity for our homes and schools
  - o **Con:** dams can cause flooding and can disrupt aquatic habitats
- **Experience** – often water sounds and looks nice
  - o **Pro:** can be soothing, peaceful and calm
  - o **Con:** None
- **Recreation** – many people like to play, fish and swim in around or near water/water features
  - o **Pro:** healthy exercise, social interaction, fun
  - o **Con:** water can be unsafe if not properly monitored
- **Drinking** – hydration
  - o **Pro:** regulates body temperature, clears toxins, maintains our body's systems
  - o **Con:** None
- **Irrigation** – fruits and veggies, trees and plants all need a drink too – irrigation is how we make sure plants get the water they need to grow
  - o **Pro:** food, nutrients, habitat, shade
  - o **Con:** agricultural runoff contains sediment and excess nutrients
- **Industry** – many factories and big buildings use water for cleaning and cooling pipes and systems
  - o **Pro:** needed to maintain many industrial systems and processes
  - o **Con:** can become contaminated and require management and treatment
- **Habitat** – Welcome home! For many animals like fish, birds, turtles and insects, water is where they live
  - o **Pro:** place to live, have babies, feed, find safety, socialize
  - o **Con:** None
- **Firefighting and emergency management** – we need water to put out fires
  - o **Pro:** save people, homes, schools, businesses
  - o **Con:** in extreme cases, to be prepared this means less water to use for other activities