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Day 4 – Greener

Although I know and have been told since I started school that humans need water to survive, I had no idea just how much we rely on water, in particular for products that are not necessary for life. I also was so surprised at the sheer volume of water required to produce such small and seemingly insignificant products when compared with such a volume of water. For example, it takes 19 gallons of water to grow ONE apple. That's roughly enough water for an 8-minute shower! That's not to mention its economic impact, where 1/5 of the US economy would completely stop without reliable access to clean water! This activity really forced me to stop and think about how we really need to ensure that our water usage remains restricted to when absolutely necessary, particularly since it is used up so rapidly.

This activity has made me much more appreciative of water and has inspired me to be much more mindful, especially when purchasing food and clothing because of the immense volume of water required to produce them. I will continue to educate myself on how much water is used to produce items and services that I interact with on a daily basis to encourage me to make mindful purchases and choices when I use water, whether directly or indirectly.

When asking my family members about their relationship with water, I asked them to list the things they use every day that they think contributes significantly to their water usage before showing them the 2 articles. Before showing them these articles, both of my family members mostly stated direct uses of water such as showers, washing the car, dishwasher and washing machine, but also mentioned food production. They were astounded when I told them about our household water footprint – my dad even said he would forgo his usual 2 showers per day instantly! They were surprised with how much water went into producing such small items that we take for granted, and both agreed that as a family we could be more mindful of water by reminding each other how much water we are using when one of us spends a little too long in the shower, and educating ourselves on the food products that use the most water so that we can attempt to reduce our purchases of them when we go grocery shopping.



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pgc_tahlia I couldn't believe how much I rely on water! I chose to represent my interaction with water through a timer in my drawing, because I discovered today, like time, I don't realise how much I've used until it is gone.

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