
04. The invisible water in stuff

BACKGROUND

How much water is embedded in every day stuff? All the processes to obtain paper, devices, clothes and all the things we use every day use a big amount of water. Every industrial process uses an important amount of water. That means that to make all the things we use everyday water is required at nearly every step.

For this reason we can speak about the water footprint.

AIMS

1. This activity tries to get students think about the industrial use of water.
2. Students will be conscious about the amount of water embedded in things, objects and stuff we use every day.

PROCEDURE

1. Students complete the list in the “The invisible water worksheet: Embedding water in stuff” by adding things, objects, devices, they use every day.
2. Using internet pages or articles, they find out the amount of water that is needed to make these different listed items.
3. Students work in a case study, they select one item from the worksheet and trace in which steps of the production chain water is used. They reflect their findings in a picture, poster or other artistic support.
4. Student groups share the information and complete their lists. Final discussion among the groups

Resources

1. <http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2015/04/09/daily-life-takes-how-much-water/>
2. <http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/freshwater/embedded-water/>
3. <http://www.treehugger.com/green-food/from-lettuce-to-beef-whats-the-water-footprint-of-your-food.html>
4. <http://www.treehugger.com/clean-technology/how-many-gallons-of-water-does-it-take-to-make.html>
5. <http://www.gracelinks.org/285/the-hidden-water-in-everyday-products>
6. <http://www.gracelinks.org/1361/the-water-footprint-of-food>
7. <http://www.gracelinks.org/825/water-footprints>



