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Activities

Where Does the Water Go?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Taking showers. Brushing teeth. Washing cars. Watering lawns. It all adds up. Our nation uses more than 400 billion gallons of "liquid gold" each day! Where does it all go? You'll find out in this Planet Diary activity.

Directions

- Go to USGS Water Science Trends in Water Use. Look at the water use graph at the top of the page, then read the explanation below it. Use the information to answer Workspace questions 1 through 5.
- Scroll to the next graph comparing total water use and population. Notice the relationship between the dark blue bars (total use) and the purple line (population). Answer the last question.
- That's just a trickle of info on Water Use in the U.S. at USGS. Explore the rest of this site. You can also check out this colorful view of the Water Cycle.

Workspace

1. Between 1950 and 2000, which category of water use increased the most? By how much?

2. Which category had the second biggest increase between 1950 and 2000? Explain why it increased so much.

3. In what year did total water use (withdrawals) hit a peak? What was the total that year?

4. What happened to total withdrawals after the peak year? Give a hypothesis explaining why.

5. Estimate how much public supply use (purple bars) increased between 1950 and 2000.

6. Between 1965 and 1985, the blue bars are above the purple line. Between 1990 and 2000, the blue bars are below it. Explain what this shows.

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