AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

TOOL KIT

WATER USES AND CONSERVATION

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- *How do people use water?*
- *What role do different water bodies play in ecosystems?*
- *What can individuals do to conserve water and be watershed stewards?*

INTRODUCTION

Water is an essential part of all life on earth.

In station 6 we learned about the values aquatic ecosystems have for the environment. People need water too. We use water to meet our basic needs, we enjoy boating and other recreational activities, water supports our industries such as energy and agriculture and we also use water to manufacture goods and services.

Water is also finite. There is a limited amount in the environment, especially safe, clean and accessible freshwater. It is important that we understand, how we are connected to our aquatic ecosystems and what we can do to conserve and protect them.

INSTRUCTIONS

Part 1 | Watershed I Spy:

1. Think about the entire watershed that surrounds this aquatic ecosystem. How many of the following are found near your community?

 Hydroelectricity   **Agriculture**   **Fishing**   **Ranching**   **Cities & Towns**   **Oil & Gas**

Part 2 | Play Water Conservation BINGO - How many squares do you get?

W	A	T	E	R
I pick up litter to keep my watershed clean	I like to learn about local plants and animals	I have visited a water treatment plant	My family checks our faucets at home to ensure they don't have leaks	My home has a rain barrel
I have tracked how much water I use in a day	My family only waters the lawn when it's needed and during the coolest part of the day	I turn off the tap when I brush my teeth	I share what I know about water conservation with others	My home has low flush toilets
I never pour harmful chemicals down the drain	My family only runs the dishwasher when it's full	My family eats vegetarian at least 1 night a week	I know which watershed I live in	I use a reusable water bottle
I can name a local water stewardship / conservation group	I have researched how much water goes into my favourite meal	I have visited a lake, stream or wetland with my family	I can identify different fish species	I have seen an irrigation canal

Inside education

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