

Activity 5: Bodies of Water

Give your child a blank piece of paper and ask him to draw the bodies of water that can be found on planet Earth: oceans, lakes, ponds, streams, ice caps, glaciers, and rivers. Discuss why each body of water is important. Review the fact that less than one percent of Earth's water is available for drinking and using in our homes. Follow these instructions to demonstrate this principle:

1. Measure 10 ten cups of water into a large bowl. Explain to your child that the water in the bowl represents all the water on the planet.
2. Take $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water from the bowl and explain that this $\frac{1}{4}$ cup represents all the fresh water on the planet. (Do not pour out the $\frac{1}{4}$ cup.) Add salt to the remaining water in the bowl to represent salt water and tell your child that all of this water represents the amount of salt water on the planet.
3. Take out $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon of water from the $\frac{1}{4}$ cup and carefully set it aside or put it in a small cup. Now take out $3\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons of water from the $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of fresh water and put it in another small cup. Pour the rest of the $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water (approximately 8 teaspoons) into another small cup.
4. Review the fact that most of the fresh water on the planet is frozen in glaciers and icecaps or stored in the ground. Have your child place the cup with 8 teaspoons of water into the freezer to represent the water frozen in glaciers and icecaps.
5. Give your child the cup with $3\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons of water and let him pour it outside in the dirt to represent the fresh water stored beneath the ground.
6. The last $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon is the remaining fresh water on the surface of the Earth! Let your child drink this.