**How Can We Conserve Water?**

**I. Introduction**

Every day in the United States people use billions of gallons of water while they are doing their daily activities: taking a shower or a bath, washing dishes, doing laundry, flushing the toilet, washing a car, or watering plants. Water is a precious, limited resource and people often use more than necessary. Finding ways to conserve water can help preserve our water resources and can also help reduce energy use.

In this Virtual Lab you will discover how much water a typical home might use and find ways to conserve on water usage.

**II. Procedure**

1. Start the activity by going to the following website :

<http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common_assets/science/virtual_labs/ES20/ES20.html> .

2. Click a water use area inside or outside the house to find out about water use in that area.

3. Select various options to see how water use is affected. Watch the readout change in the

House Water Meter box. Also watch the units in the Water Meter by Category box. Note:

g/p/d means gallons per person per day, g/wash means gallons per wash, and g/week means

gallons per week.

4. Open the Table. Record the option or options you chose in the appropriate places on the

Table. Record the water use for each area using the number in the Water Meter by Category

box. The number for the total water use in the house is found in the House Water Meter box.

5. Close the options window and select another area to explore.

**III. Data**

1. Record your data in the table.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Water Use Area** | **Options Selected** | **Water Use** |
| Shower / Bath |  |  |
| Toilet |  |  |
| Faucet |  |  |
| Kitchen Sink |  |  |
| Clothes Washer |  |  |
| Garden Hose |  |  |
| Car |  |  |
| House |  |  |

**IV. Analysis & Conclusions**

**1. Using the data you collected, evaluate in which part of the house or yard the most water**

**might be saved by conserving water.**

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**2. How much water will be used per year by a family of four living in this home, assuming**

**that they conserve water carefully?**

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**3. How much water will be used per year by a family of four living in this home, assuming**

**that they do not conserve water?**

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**4. What are some additional ways water might be conserved?**

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**5. Assume the base unit of water is 555 gallons and the cost per unit is $1.74. How much**

**money will be saved in a month by a family who conserves 8000 gallons of water per**

**month?**

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**6. If you were asked to create a list of the ten most effective water savers, what might you**

**include?**

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7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_