

8. Our Need for Water



Can you tell ?

This happens, doesn't it ?

- Sometimes, tears flow from our eyes.
- Our mouth waters when we see a tamarind pod.



- Our nose runs when we have a cold.
- When we get a cut, it bleeds.



What does this tell us ?

Tears, saliva, water running from the nose and blood are present in our body. They are substances that flow. They contain water.



Try this.

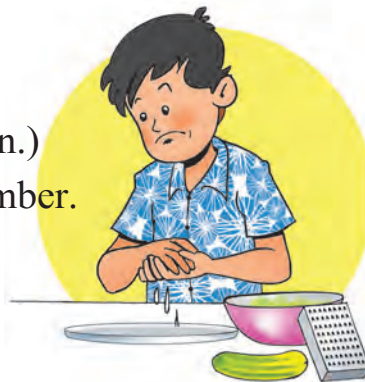
(Do this under adult supervision.)

Take a small piece of cucumber.

Grate it. Squeeze it hard.

Take a slice of lemon.

Squeeze it hard, too.



What do you see ?

Juice flows out of the grated cucumber and the lemon slice.

What does it tell us ?

There is water in a cucumber and a lemon.

● **Why do we feel thirsty ?**



We need water if our body has to function properly.

Water keeps our blood thin. Water helps to digest our food. Unwanted substances leave our body through urine.

We must have enough water in our body at all times. When there is a lack of water in our body, we get thirsty. Like us, other living things, too, need water.



Can you tell ?

- Which animals are drinking water at the river bank ?
- Who is playing in the river ?
- Some people are carrying water home. What will they use it for ?



• **A public source of water**

In many villages, cows, buffaloes and goats come to the river or pond to drink water. Grass and other bushes can be seen growing near the waterhole. Animals bathe themselves in it. Birds like the lapwing, kingfisher and egret can also be seen around the water source. People from the village wash their clothes in it. They carry water to use at home.



What's the solution ?

- The water in the public source has to be kept clean.



Do you know ?

People who keep animals provide drinking water to them without fail. We know that these animals, too, get thirsty. But there are thousands of other animals. We do not realize that they, too, need water.



Ant



Honey bee



Crab



Scorpion

Ants, honey bees, crabs, scorpions and all other animals need water.



Can you tell ?

- Why do we go near a waterhole in a jungle to see wild animals?



Wild animals also need water. They come to a waterhole in the forest when they are thirsty. So, people, too, go there in order to sight the wild animals.

● **The importance of water**



People need water not only for drinking but also for cooking and cleaning.
We need water for agriculture and industry as well.
Water is very important in our lives.





Try this.

- Take two potted plants of equal growth.
- Label them as 1 and 2.
- Every morning, for the next five days, water only Plant 1. Do not water Plant 2.



What do you see ?

- Plant 2, which was not watered, slowly dries up. Plant 1 looks fresh and green.



What does this tell us ?

- Plants need water to live.

• Plants need water.



We water our potted plants. Farmers water the crops in their fields.

Could these plants live without water ?

Thus, we see that plants, like animals, need water.



Use your brain power !

- The trees in the forests also need water to grow. From where do they get the water they need ?

- Rainwater seeps into the soil. Roots of plants spread deep into the soil. These roots absorb the water that has seeped into the soil.



Do you know ?



Some plants, like bulrushes, grow only in water.

We can try our best to grow them in soil, but they cannot survive there.

The lotus, water chestnut and hyacinth are also plants that grow in water.



Use your brain power !

- Why do we need to water a garden more often in summer ?
- Why is water in ponds and wells much reduced in summer ?



What we have learnt –

- * Living things need water.
- * There is water in the bodies of living things. That is why the body keeps working properly.
- * We get thirsty when there is a lack of water in our body.
- * Many villages have a common source of water from which water is taken for use at home. Certain birds and plants are commonly found near such sources.
- * We need water not only for drinking but also for cleaning, cooking, growing crops and for industry, too.
- * The roots of plants go deep into the soil and absorb water.



Always remember –

Everyone should take care to keep the public source of water clean. It is each one's responsibility to do so.



Exercises

A. What's the solution ?

- In summer, animals have to wander around in search of water. You have to provide water for these thirsty animals.

B. Think and tell !

- (1) In summer, why do we eat plenty of fruits like watermelons and cucumbers ?
- (2) Watch how a pumpkin is cooked. Where does all the water in which it cooks, come from ?

C. Answer in brief.

- (1) In which different forms is water present in our bodies ?
- (2) Why do we drink water ?
- (3) Why do cows, buffaloes and goats come to the source of water ?
- (4) How do we know that water is present in plants ?
- (5) Why is farming not possible without enough water ?
- (6) Why do big cities need more water ?
- (7) From where do the plants in forests get water ?



D. Fill in the blanks with words from the brackets.

(bathe, keep, important, thin, seeped, wild)

- (1) Water keeps the blood
- (2) Animals in water.
- (3) People take care to provide drinking water for the animals they
- (4) We go near a waterhole in a forest to see animals.
- (5) Water is very in the lives of people.
- (6) Roots of plants absorb the rainwater that has into the soil.

Activity

- Find out the reasons why the water of the common source in your town or village becomes unclean.

