

# Grade 3 Water in the Community

**Environmental Education**  
**Website: [peelregion.ca/enviroed](http://peelregion.ca/enviroed)**



## **Teacher Note:**

- In this lesson, students will learn about water and wastewater treatment, the human water cycle, water efficiency and the importance of drinking tap water.
- Handouts for this lesson
  - Water is
  - All About Treatment



Town of Caledon  
City of Brampton  
City of Mississauga



#### Teacher Note:

- **(Click-1)** Ask students - What city or town do they live in?
  - Let students know the city or town they mentioned is part of a larger area that is called the Region of Peel
  - The Region of Peel includes the Town of Caledon and 2 cities – City of Brampton and City of Mississauga
- Some of the programs and services that the Region of Peel provides to our communities includes:
  - **(Click-2)** Garbage, recycling and organics collection;
  - **(Click-3)** Maintenance of regional roads, including snowploughing in the winter and paving in the summer;
  - **(Click-4)** Paramedics (ambulance)
  - **(Click-5)** Police
  - **(Click-6+7)** Peel Region also provides you with clean, safe drinking water and wastewater treatment

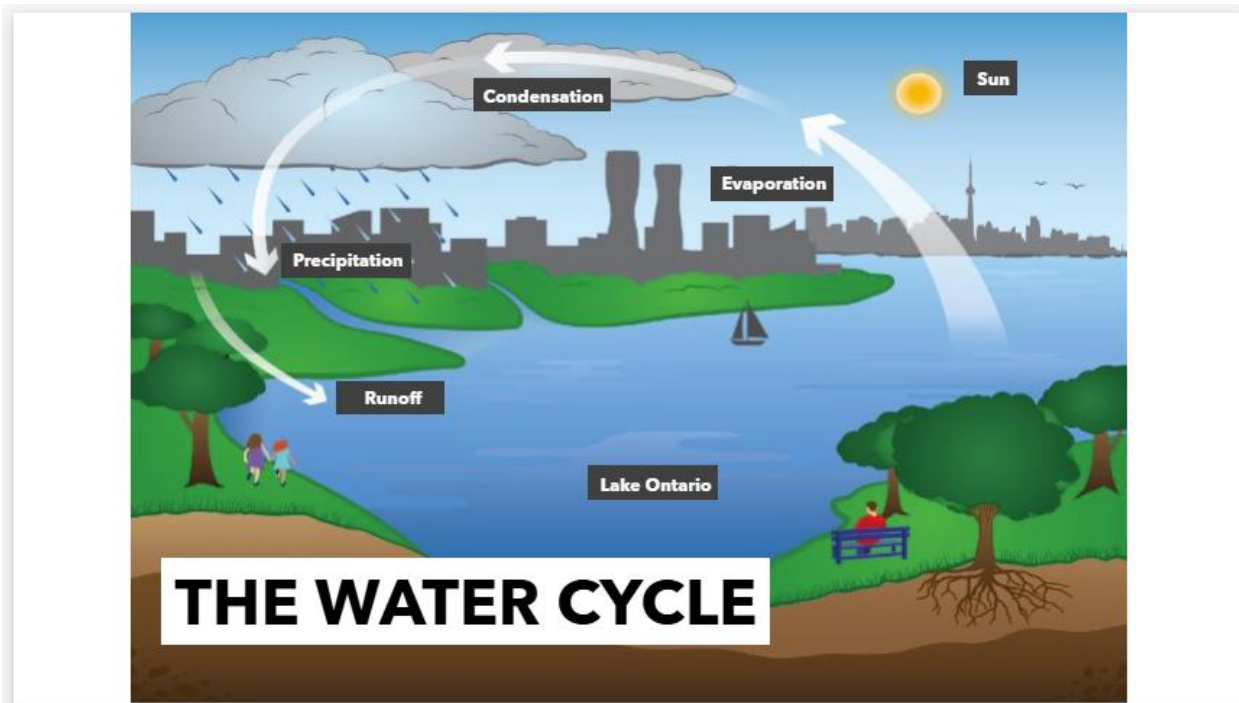
- Today, we are going to learn about how water is important to all living things, and how we use water everyday at school and at home.
  - Peel has a population of 1.51 million people, who live, work and play and a part of this community

## We use water for...



### Teacher Note:

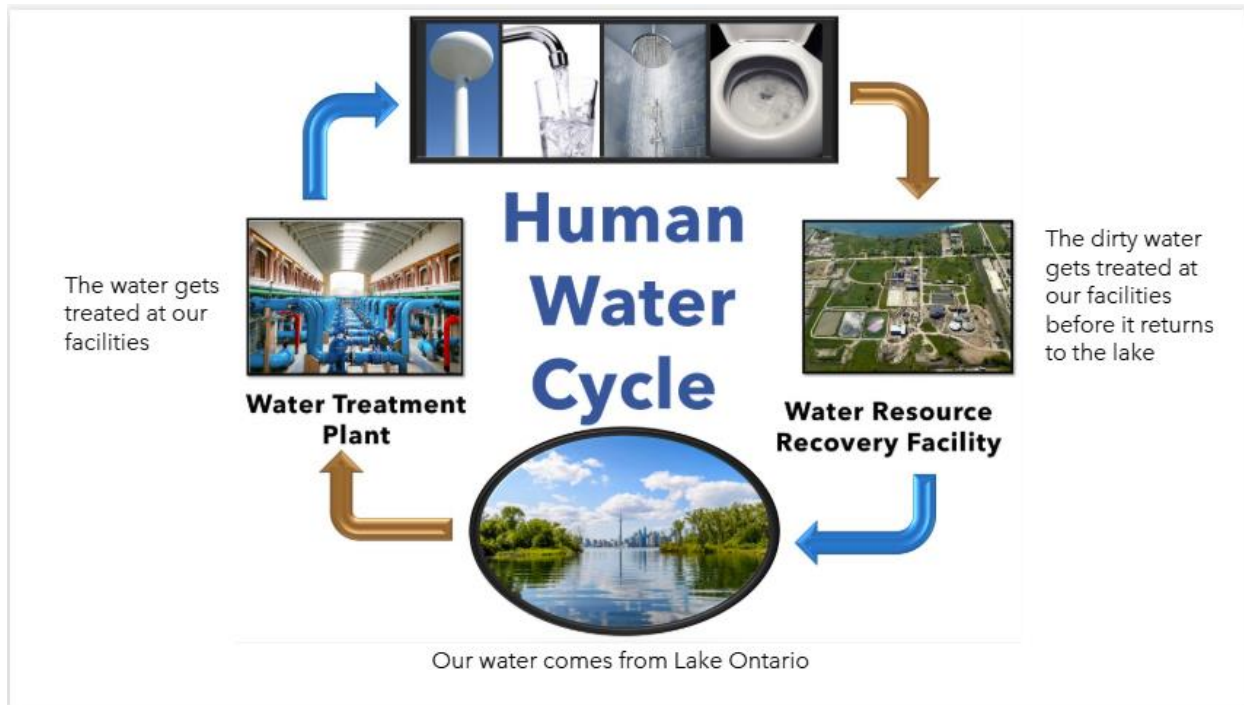
- Brainstorm with the class different ways they use water at home and at school. This can be done on chart paper or a board
  - 10-15 minutes to complete this activity
- **(Click-1)** show different ways people use water after students create their list
  - Look at all the ways we use water every day



**Teacher Note:**

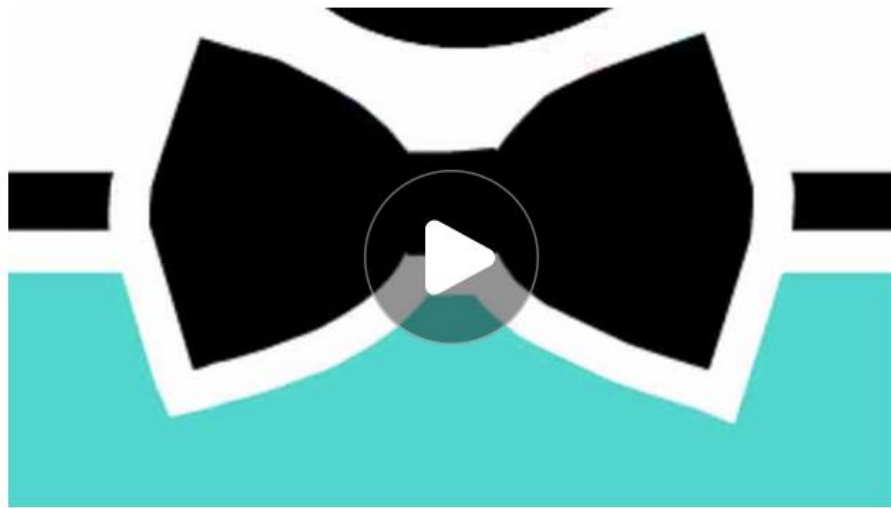
- **Ask:** why they think water is important to everyone?
  - **Answer:** All living things needs water to live (humans, animals, our pets, plants, flowers, trees, all the food that grows on farms)
  - **Ask:** Where do we in the Region of Peel get our water from? (Lake Ontario)
    - Brampton, Mississauga and Bolton get water from the Lake. Other people who live in Caledon get water from wells, either on their own property, or municipal wells that are owned by the Region
    - Water from Lake Ontario is fresh, which means that the water is not salty like the water in oceans and seas
- Review the water cycle with the students
- The water cycle is a continuous circulation of water from rivers, lakes and oceans into the atmosphere onto the land and back
  - **(CLICK-1) Sun:** the source of energy that drives the whole cycle
  - **(CLICK-2) Lake Ontario:** this is our water source
  - **(CLICK-3) Evaporation:** the sun heats up the water in lakes, rivers and oceans and turns it onto vapour

- **(CLICK-4) Condensation:** water vapour in the air gets cold and changes back into liquid form
- **(CLICK-5) Precipitation:** the clouds get heavy and water falls back to the earth in the form of rain, hail, sleet or snow
- **(CLICK-6) Runoff:** moves water across land and makes its way to the nearest body of water such as a lake
- **This process is called the natural water cycle. But humans also change the path of water**



**Teacher Note:**

- What happens when we use that water to brush our teeth, shower, go to the bathroom – where does it go?
- **Ask:** Do we send it directly to the Lake?
- **Answer:** NO
- **Ask:** If I was thirsty, can I go down to Lake Ontario and take a cup of water directly from the lake and drink it?
- **Answer:** NO
- Why not?
  - Have students share their responses (i.e. water is dirty, not treated, has pet waste, bacteria and germs)
  - The water in Lake Ontario might have bacteria, viruses, and germs in it. All those things could make us very sick if not treated. That is why we have to send the water to get treated so it can be cleaned and made safe for us to drink
- The next few slides will cover how we treat water and wastewater



**Teacher Note:**

- Go Noodle Water Cycle Video
- Click 'Play' on the actual slide
- Feel free to get the class up and dance/move along to the actions of the song
- Review the stages and terms of the water cycle
  - Evaporation, Condensation, Precipitation



# Dew's Water Adventure

<https://peelregion.vids.io/videos/ac9cd9b41d19e1c225/dews-water-adventure>



## Teacher Note:

- Animated slides that will cover and explain water treatment
- Please click on the link on the slide to get to the video
  - <https://peelregion.vids.io/videos/ac9cd9b41d19e1c225/dews-water-adventure>

## Discussion Questions

- Before playing the slides
  - Why does water have to be treated before we use it?
- All About Treatment worksheet: Have the students match the stages of water treatment while listening to the animated slides

## Dew's Wastewater Adventure

<https://peelregion.vids.io/videos/069cd6b81717e3c58f/dews-wastewater-adventure>



### Teacher Note:

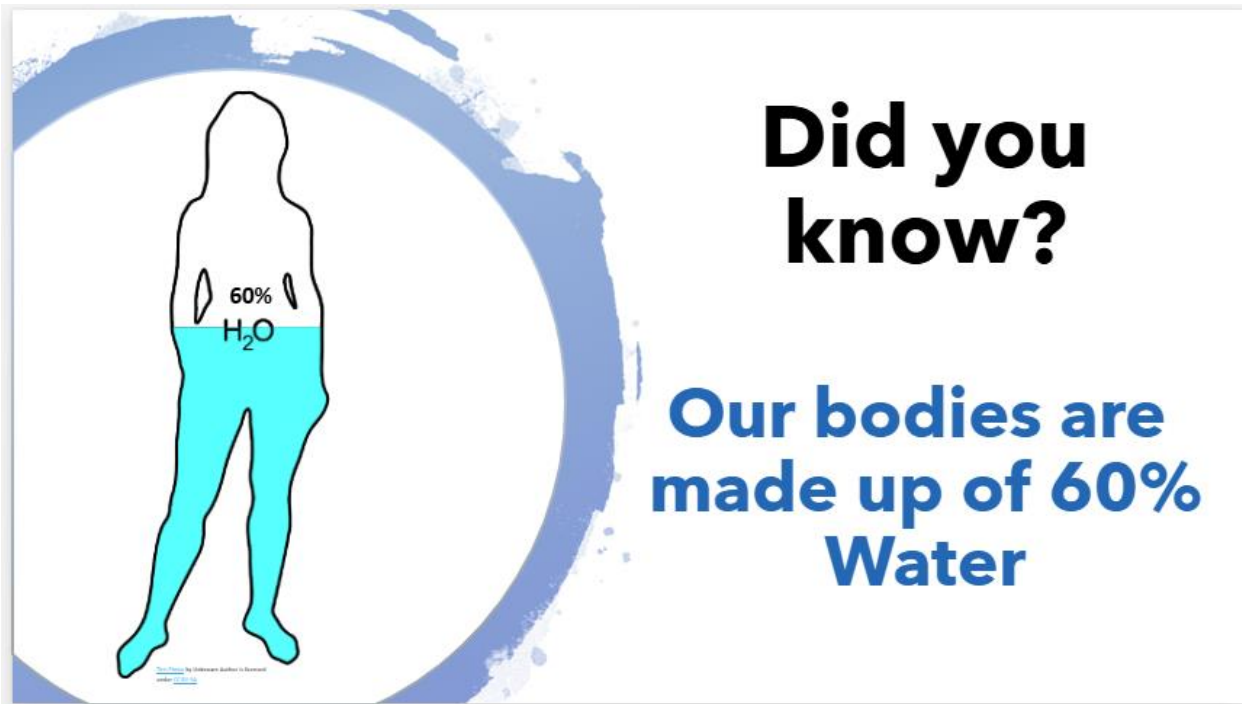
- Animated slides that will cover and explain wastewater treatment
- Please click on the link on the slide to get to the video
  - <https://peelregion.vids.io/videos/069cd6b81717e3c58f/dews-wastewater-adventure>
- Have the students match the stages of wastewater treatment while listening to the animated slides (see All about water treatment worksheet)

### Discussion Questions:

- What is the purpose of a wastewater plant?
  - Have students share their thoughts on what they know, or heard about wastewater treatment, before showing the animated slides
- Why is it important that we treat the water we use?
  - Think of all the animal life and plants that live or are near the Lake.
  - If wastewater that is used never got treated, would you go for a swim, enjoy a boat ride, go fishing in water that is full of stuff we poured or flushed down from our home?

**Did you know?**

- Did you know that we have over 200 staff in the Region of Peel who treat and maintain our water to make sure every time you turn on the tap, the water is fresh and healthy to drink?
- And every time you flush your toilets, or take a bath, staff also work to make sure that dirty water gets cleaned before putting it back to the lake
- All About Treatment worksheet: Have students complete the worksheet while listening to the animated slides about wastewater treatment
  - Take a few minutes to go over and cover the worksheet as a class



**Teacher Note:**

**Discussion Questions:**

- Did you know that our bodies are made up of 60% water? (some parts of our bodies like our brain is made of even more!)
- Can you remember the last time you were thirsty?
- What did it feel like?
  - Water is essential to everyone; we need it in order to stay healthy and hydrated

**Did you know?**

- That water is a healthy beverage choice than pop or juice and our bodies need water every day?
- Choosing a reusable bottle helps reduce waste and save money. Instead of buying single use beverages, a reusable water bottle can be filled with tap water about 770 times for only \$1.00



#### Teacher Note:

- 70% of the earth is covered with water, but only 3% is freshwater
- 97% if the world's water is salt water, that we can't drink
- 2% of the world's water is frozen in polar ice caps and glaciers
- 1% of the world's water is fresh water and of that most is unavailable (too far underground, polluted, or trapped in soil)
- Only **0.01% of the total water on earth is accessible for humans to consume**

That 3% is so important to protect, as we use that water every day for

- drinking, showering, farming, cooking food, brushing our teeth
- Could you imagine if we had water shortages – what would that feel or look like?
  - Have students share their thoughts
- In the past, the Region has had a water use advisory, what do you think that means?
  - Have students share their thoughts
  - **Answer:** it means that we all need to be mindful of the water we use during this time. It means that we should avoid watering our grass every day, not wash our cars. This could result from hot weather, lack of rain, or operational issues at the

plant, machines that treat our water break down. The plant cannot treat as much water as they would normally do

- Everyone including you has a part to play in protecting the 3% freshwater we have

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Why do you think water is so important to communities? Think of communities from the past and communities that we live in today?
  - Early settlers lived near lakes and waterways
  - Used water (lakes, rivers, oceans) as transportation from community to community
  - Attraction to live near water
  - Recreational activities near water
  - Scenic
- It was important in the past and even today to build communities near water. Region of Peel has 2 water treatment plants as well as 2 wastewater treatment plants. All these plants that treat and clean our water, and are near Lake Ontario, located in the City of Mississauga

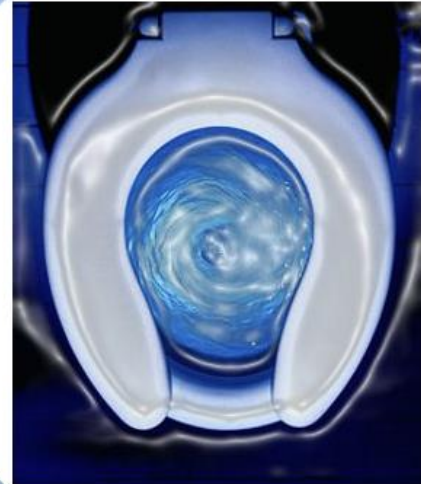
# Water Conservation

**How many litres of water do we flush per day?**

**What would the total number of flushes per day be for the entire class?**

**How many litres of water does your entire class flush per day?**

**Why is it important that we conserve water?**



## Teacher Note:

- Get students thinking about water use
- Show students what 1 litre looks like, can use any container that will hold 1 litre of water and a measuring cup
  - Example of 1 litre – small carton of milk

## Discussion Questions:

- Let's take a closer look at how much water we use every time we flush down our toilets
  - On average a person flushes the toilet 5 times a day
  - Toilets use 6 litres of water
  - How many litres of water do you flush per day?
  - What would the total number of flushes per day be for the entire class?
  - How many litres of water does the entire class flush per day ?
  - Have students share their thoughts on this exercise, do they think that was a lot of water being used just for toilets, what about other uses for water

- **Answer:**

- 1 student X 5 flushes x 6 litres/flush = 30 litres of water flushed per day
  - 30 students: 30 litres of water x 30 students = 900 litres
  - 900 litres of water get flushed from just 1 classroom per day. That's enough to fill 3,804 cups of water
  - <https://www.calculateme.com/volume/liters/to-cups/>
  - Total flushes = 5 flushes per day x 30 students = 150 flushes
- 
- Think of ways everyone can conserve water?
  - Why is it important that we conserve water?
    - Have students share their thoughts





**What have you learned  
today about water?**

**Remember:**

**Everyone plays a part in  
protecting and conserving  
our water!**

**Teacher Note:**

End of the lesson, ask students

- What have they learned today about water?
  - Have students share their findings
- Share with students that everyone including them, have a part in protecting and conserving water

**Worksheet:**

- To wrap up the lesson, have students come up with different words that describes water using, 'Water is' worksheet