



Poster Contest Fact Sheet

2024 Theme: *Magic of Water*

You can be part of this important cause by designing a poster to educate, inspire, or motivate people about drinking water and Vermont's water resources!

WATER IS MAGIC

- Water is essential for the magic of life to exist.
 - People (and all animals) need water for breathing, transporting nutrients to our cells, and regulating our body temperature.
 - Plants use water, carbon dioxide, and sunlight to create food through photosynthesis.
- Water is a powerful force of nature. It can transform the environment through erosion, flooding, precipitation, and drought.
- Water is as unique as you are.
 - Water is the **only** substance on Earth that can be found as a solid, a liquid, and a gas.
 - Water is called the “universal solvent” because it can dissolve more substances than **any** other liquid.



WATER AND EARTH

- The Earth contains about 326 million trillion gallons (326,000,000,000,000,000) of water.
- Less than **1 percent** of all the earth's water is available for human use. The rest is either salt water in the oceans, fresh water frozen in the polar ice caps, or groundwater in underground aquifers.
- Water is constantly recycling on the earth, through living creatures, and in the atmosphere through the water cycle.
- The ongoing challenge of climate change is affecting precipitation patterns, leading to more droughts and floods.
- Did you know that part of Vermont used to be covered by glaciers and ocean? Climate changes are a part of our reality on earth.

PEOPLE & WATER

- Humans need to consume about 8 glasses (two liters) of water per day. A person can only survive without water for about 3 days.
- Our bodies lose water when we breathe, sweat, cry, and go to the bathroom.
- Each American uses about 80-100 gallons of water per day.
- The largest household use of water is to flush the toilet. The second largest water use is for showers and baths.

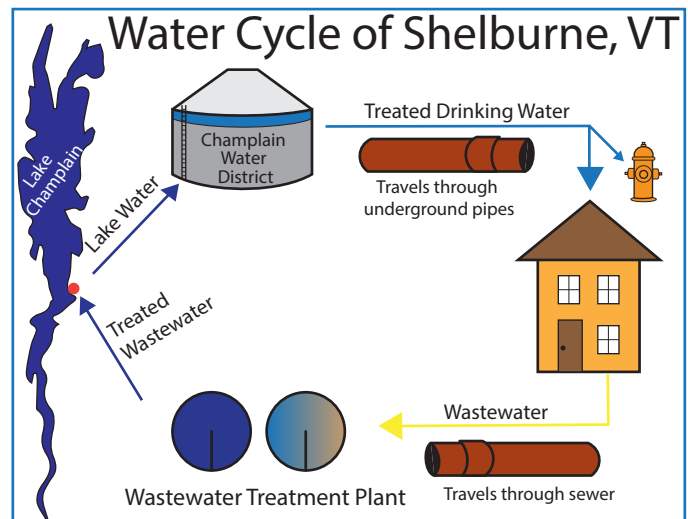
DRINKING WATER

- Drinking water can come from surface water (a river, lake, or reservoir) or groundwater (a well or spring).
- Vermont has a bountiful supply of drinking water. Not all places are so lucky!
- About one-third of homes in Vermont get their water from a private well or spring. The other two-thirds get their water from a public water system. There are 413 community water systems in Vermont.
- Approximately 785 million people around the world don't have safe drinking water.

WATER TREATMENT

The steps of water treatment are:

1. **Pump** the water from the source to the treatment plant.
2. **Treat** the water to remove bacteria and other pathogens, naturally occurring contaminants, and/or man-made pollutants if necessary.
3. **Store** the water in storage tanks until it is needed.
4. **Use** the water for drinking, cooking, or cleaning.
5. **Flush** used water down the drain.
6. **Treat** the used water at a wastewater treatment facility.
7. **Return** the clean water to a lake or river.
8. **Repeat** the cycle!



PROTECT & CONSERVE WATER



- Fill reusable water bottles. Tap water is cheaper and better for the environment than bottled water.
- Encourage your family to switch to water-saving showerheads and toilets. Look for items labeled "Water Sense" when replacing plumbing fixtures.
- Fix leaking pipes, sinks, and toilets.
- Become a drinking water operator or wastewater operator when you grow up!

Vermont Drinking Water Week's mission is to increase public awareness of the quality and importance of safe drinking water and water resources through education.