



San Jacinto River Authority KIDS PAGE

Clean, fresh, drinkable WATER is certainly something to be thankful for...

We are very fortunate in this country that we don't have to worry where our next glass of water is going to come from! But there are places around the world where young family members have to walk for miles every day to bring home a single container of water for everyone in their family to use. Places where the earth is parched and cracked... where people and animals go thirsty... and there's simply not a drop to waste.

Water is also essential for growing crops, and there are areas around the world where people must choose between growing more crops to feed a growing number of people or trying to stretch their already meager supply of water by preserving it.

Can you imagine what it would be like to have to make that choice? To turn on the faucet and have nothing come out? Unfortunately, there are water supply problems world-wide and, while there is little we can do to help Egypt or China or India...or other water-short countries resolve their supply issues, we can increase our efforts to use this country's water resources more efficiently. And part of this challenge is to understand where our water supplies come from and how much each of us really use every day.

It sounds strange, but water experts have recently begun calculating water usage for individuals, households, communities and even whole countries -- figuring their "water footprint" -- by considering how much water they directly or indirectly consume in any given time frame. This includes "*virtual water*" — the amount of water needed to produce everyday things we rely on like food, energy, clothing and shelter.

Most folks have no idea how much fresh water they consume in a day. Experts suggest that in addition to what we drink and bathe in, food and energy production account for nearly 90 percent of the world's fresh water consumption.

In the United States, it appears that the annual "*water footprint*" for each and every one of us is the amount of water it would take to fill one Olympic-sized swimming pool...and that's 660,430 gallons each!

In the future, when water is going to cost more, it will be important for us to reduce the amount of water we use every day. Using less will also save money!

Remember that the water we conserve today can serve us tomorrow!

