

## SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY KID'S PAGE



### COMPETITION IS GREAT!

Isn't it fun to get out on the playing field -- any kind of athletic field -- and play hard to try to win the game? We compete for many things as we grow older, but fortunately, here in this country, we haven't had to compete for the items that sustain life...like food and water.

There are some important changes ahead in where we'll get our drinking water...and what it will cost. Did you know that today we rely on groundwater from aquifers below the surface for our drinking water? We have been using this water so much and so fast that there isn't time for the critical resource to be "recharged" by rainfall that seeps into the ground. Sadly, we waste a lot of water.

This water usage pattern has to stop, so the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District has required that we reduce our reliance on precious groundwater and obtain more of our drinking water supplies from

surface water.

Beginning in 2016 -- which isn't that far away when you think about it -- we will only be able to use 70% of the amount of groundwater we use today. That should begin to help protect our aquifers.

Water is also going to cost more in the future. To bring surface water from Lake Conroe to neighborhoods in Montgomery County, an expensive new system of water lines and water plants must be built. By the time today's 5th graders have families of their own, they will be paying significantly more for the water that will come to their homes. The good news is that with careful planning, we will have an adequate supply of water for coming generations.

And, of significant importance, we all need to be good stewards of this valuable natural resource. It is up to each of us!

The water we conserve today, can serve us tomorrow.