

Form a HYPOTHESIS: When observing the surface of planet Earth, does water appear to be an abundant resource? Explain your answer below.

5 gallons = 1,280 tablespoons

Using the chart below, estimate the amount (percentage) of water that is available to living organisms for consumption.

Calculate the number of tablespoons that represent each water reservoir:

1. To convert a percent to a decimal, divide the percent number by 100 or move the decimal two spaces to the left.
2. To convert the decimal to tablespoons, multiply the decimal number by total tablespoons.

Water on Earth	
reservoir	percentage of total water (%)
oceans	96.5400
groundwater	
saline / brackish groundwater	0.9300
fresh groundwater	0.7600
surface water	
icecaps/glaciers	1.7400
freshwater lakes	0.0070
saltwater lakes	0.0060
rivers	0.0002
other	
permafrost (frozen in the ground)	0.0220
atmospheric water vapor (clouds)	0.0010
marshes / wetlands	0.0010
soil moisture	0.0010
organisms (living things)	0.0001

5 gallons of water	
reservoir	tablespoons
oceans	
groundwater	
saline / brackish groundwater	
fresh groundwater	
surface water	
icecaps/glaciers	
freshwater lakes	
saltwater lakes	
rivers	
other	
permafrost (frozen in the ground)	
atmospheric water vapor (clouds)	
marshes / wetlands	
soil moisture	
organisms (living things)	

TOTAL	100.0000
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TOTAL	
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

# How Wet is Our Planet?

What do all living things need to survive?

What kind of water is available for wildlife to consume?

What percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water?

What percent of the water on planet Earth is available for consumption by living things (wildlife and humans)?

How do you think pollution might affect the amount of water available to living things?

After completing this activity, do you think that water is an abundant resource? Explain your answer below.

In what ways do you use water?

What are some ways we can conserve freshwater resources?

brainstorming space

## ANSWER KEY

reservoir	tablespoons	ROUND 2 tbs	ROUND 3 tbs	ROUND 4 tbs
oceans	1,235.71			
groundwater				
saline / brackish groundwater	11.9040			
fresh groundwater	9.7280	9.7280	9.7280	
surface water				
icecaps/glaciers	22.2720	22.2720		
freshwater lakes	0.0896	0.0896	0.0896	0.0896
saltwater lakes	0.0768			
rivers	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026
other				
permafrost (frozen in the ground)	0.2816	0.2816	0.2816	
atmospheric water vapor (clouds)	0.0128	0.0128	0.0128	
marshes / wetlands	0.0128			
soil moisture	0.0128	0.0128	0.0128	
organisms (living things)	0.0013	0.0013	0.0013	0.0013
<b>TOTAL = 5 gallons</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>32.4007</b>	<b>10.1287</b>	<b>0.0935 = 25 drops</b>
		tablespoon → large cup	tablespoon → small cup	dropper → tablespoon

## ANSWER KEY

What percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water? **70%**

What do all living things need to survive? **Answer includes FRESHwater**

What kind of water is available for wildlife to consume? **fresh, liquid, surface**

What percent of the water on planet Earth is available for consumption by living things (wildlife and humans)? **Answers may vary, but should be less than 1%**