



Activity: Home Water Use Inventory

Background

Water use at home is an essential part of life. It's used for cooking, cleaning, and drinking. However, we often don't realize how much water we are using during everyday tasks. The average American uses between 80-100 gallons of water per day. This can cause us to be wasteful with our water, something that people will have to be more conscious of as clean, fresh water becomes scarcer due to increasing human population.

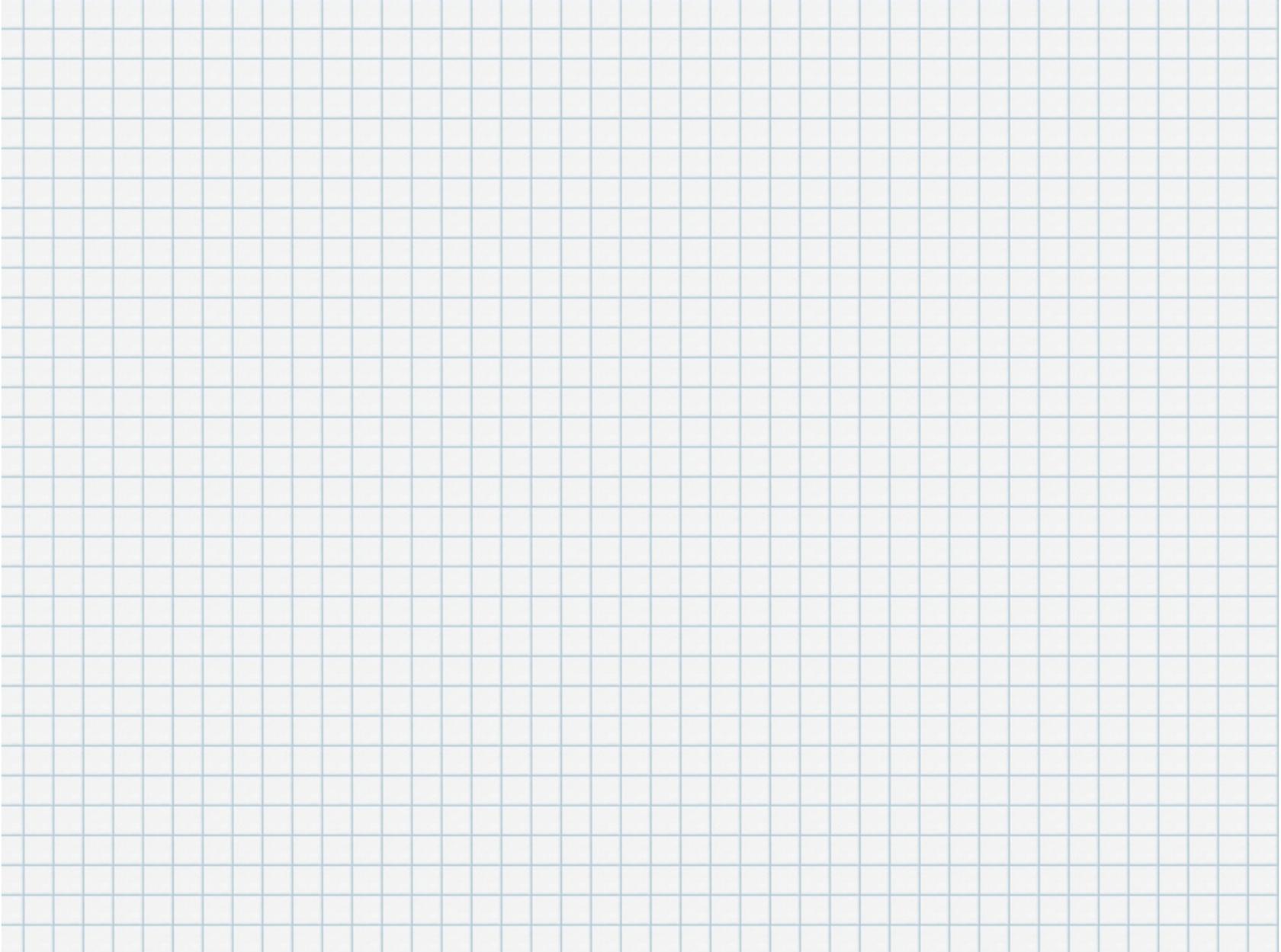
Data

Take an inventory of your water use at home. Record how long or often you do the following activities for a single day. Then calculate how much water you used that day for each activity by using the averages provided. You can then estimate how much water you use each week by multiplying each day's total by 7. Finally, add up the total amount of water used each day and week.

Activity	Average Water Used	Number of uses or minutes/day	Total water used/day (multiply average by how much or long you did activity)	Estimate of water used/week (multiply each day's total by 7)
Shower	5 gallons/minute			
Bath	36 gallons/use			
Brushing teeth (with water running)	1 gallon/minute			
Washing hands or face	1 gallon/minute			
Dishwasher	10 gallons/load			
Hand washing dishes	2 gallons/minute			
Laundry	40 gallons/load for older models, 27 gallons for newer models			
Flushing toilet	3 gallons/flush			
Watering the lawn	10 gallons/minute			
Glass of water	0.625 gallons/glass			
			Total water use/day:	Total water use/week:

Analysis

Graph your findings of each Which activities caused you to use the most water? Which activities did you use the least amount of water?



Extension Questions

1. Which activities caused you to use the most water? Which activities did you use the least amount of water?

2. What activities surprised you with the amount of water used?

3. Compare your water usage with that of a friend. Did your home use more or less water? Why?

4. What are some ways that you could reduce your water usage?

5. If you were to engineer an everyday solution for conserving water, which activity do you think would be the most impactful? Explain your reasoning.
