

# Helping the environment



Tutor Resources for the AMEP

Environment

Post-beginner

## **Tutor Resources for the AMEP**

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Theme: Environment

Topic: Helping the environment

Task	Language focus	Learning activities	Resources
<p>1. Can discuss ways of helping the environment</p> <p>Can understand spoken and written information on environmental issues</p> <p>Can interpret simple graphs</p>	<p><b>Vocabulary</b>                      population, populated, continent, usage, users, rules, restrictions, inland, increase, graph, average, percentage, household, tips, plug, load, low flow, trigger nozzle, install, dual flush, brochure, environmental problem, plastic, litter, harmful, recycle, refuse, reduce, reuse, recyclable, non-recyclable, non-transparent</p> <p><b>Structure</b>                      the most, the least, more, less</p>	<p>Answer questions about water in Australia</p> <p>Answer questions about a graph</p> <p>Discuss ways of saving water</p> <p>Match sentences to pictures</p> <p>Answer questions about a conversation</p> <p>Discuss plastic bag cycle</p> <p>Answer questions about an article</p>	<p>Worksheet 1: Australia’s water</p> <p>Worksheet 2: Household water usage graph</p> <p>Worksheet 3: Ways of saving water</p> <p>Worksheet 4: Environmental problem</p> <p>Worksheet 5: Where do plastic bags go?</p>

**Theme:** Environment

**Topic:** Helping the environment

**Task 1:** Can discuss ways of helping the environment  
 Can understand spoken and written information on environmental issues  
 Can interpret simple graphs

**Vocabulary:** population, populated, continent, usage, users, rules, restrictions, inland, increase, graph, average, percentage, household, tips, plug, load, low flow, trigger nozzle, install, dual flush, brochure, environmental problem, plastic, litter, harmful, recycle, refuse, reduce, reuse, recyclable, non-recyclable, non-transparent

**Language structure:** the most, the least, more, less

**Activity instructions**

*Answer questions about water in Australia*

📄 Worksheet 1: Australia’s water

A. Learner reads the statements and discusses what the answers may be.

B. Read the script (up to three times).

**Script**

Australia is the driest continent, yet we are one of the highest users of water in the world. Australia compared to the other continents gets the smallest amount of rain. In Australia, most people live on the coast because it rains more on the coast than inland. The two biggest cities are Melbourne and Sydney which are on the east coast. All Australian cities are getting bigger as more people are coming to live in the cities and towns. So with the increase in population there is an increase in water usage. The government has stated that we need to be wise with the water and not waste it. We can check how much water we use on our water bills. In some states of Australia, there are rules and restrictions on how much water we can use to help save water. There are ways of saving water that every Australian can do, in and around their home.

Learner answers ‘true’ or ‘false’ to the statements.

**Answers**

1 – True, 2 – False, 3 – False, 4 – True, 5 – True, 6 – False, 6 – False, 8 – False, 9 – True, 10 – True, 11 – True

Ask learner to correct the false statements and make them true.

C. Learner completes the text with words from the box.

**Answers**

1 – Australia is one of the highest users of water in the world. Compared to the other continents we get the smallest amount of rain.  
 2 – Most people live on the coast because it rains more on the coast then inland. The two biggest cities are Melbourne and Sydney.  
 3 – All Australian cities are getting bigger as more people are coming to live in the cities and towns. So with the increase in population there is an increase in water usage.

D. Learner reads the text and corrects their work.

*Answer questions about graph*

📄 Worksheet 2: Household water usage graph

- A. Read the worksheet title and ask learner what they think it means.  
 Ask questions: What rooms or areas in your home use water?  
 Which room or area do you think uses the most water? Why?  
 Which room do you think uses the least water? Why?

Look at the graph together.

Point to the numbers on the side of the graph and explain percentages.

Ask learner to read the percentages then the areas of the house.

Ask questions: How much water does the \_\_\_ (shower, laundry etc) use?

Learner reads and answers the questions.

Correct their work together.

**Answers**

1 – shower

2 – 5 using the kitchen, 6 having a bath, 4 using the toilet, 2 watering the garden, 3 using the laundry, 1 taking a shower

3a – about 12%, 3b – garden, 3c – kitchen, 3d – shower, 3e – bath/tap

*Discuss ways of saving water*

📄 Worksheet 2: Household water usage graph

- B. Learner reads the water saving tips  
 Learner writes the tips next where in the home they apply.

**Answers**

In the bathroom: Turn off the tap when you're cleaning your teeth.  
 Use a low flow shower head.

In the laundry: Set your washing machine for the size of the load.

In the kitchen: Use a plug in the sink when you wash vegetables. Don't wash them under running water.

In the garden: Sweep paths and driveways. Don't hose them clean.  
 Water the roots and soil around the plants. Don't spray the leaves and flowers.

- C. Learner discusses the ways they save water in their home then writes them.  
 D. Learner discusses how they used water in their home country.  
 Read the questions together and discuss.

*Match sentences to pictures*

📄 Worksheet 3: Ways of saving water

- A. Learner reads the water saving tips and writes them next to the corresponding pictures.  
 B. Learner ticks what they do to save water at home.

*Answers questions about a conversation*

📄 Worksheet 4: Environmental problem

A. Ask learner to read the questions before listening to the dialogue.

Read the script twice.

**Script**

**Mum:** Bella, I'm going shopping now.

**Bella:** Don't forget your basket, Mum.

**Mum:** Oh yes, we don't want to get any more plastic bags, do we?

**Bella:** No, the cupboard's full of them. And remember what they said on TV? It takes so much energy to produce the bags, then we throw them away.

**Mum:** Yeah, that's right. Most of them go to the rubbish tips but a lot of them end up as litter in our streets and parks and even our waterways! And plastic bags can be so harmful to animals and fish life.

**Bella:** How do plastic bags hurt animals and fish, Mum?

**Mum:** Well, I heard on the radio the other day that plastic bags kill more than 100,000 birds, fish and animals every year. They die because the bags stay in their stomachs and don't break down. There was one story about a whale that died on a beach in Queensland after eating about 25 different plastic things, including plastic bags!

**Bella:** Oh Mum, that's terrible! So what can we do to help?

**Mum:** Well, we have to start recycling. Umm... maybe I'll take some bags and put them in the recycle bin at the supermarket. And... I'll take a cardboard box for my fruit and vegies.

**Bella:** Good idea Mum. I'll get you some bags.

**Mum:** Thanks Bella. Now, while I'm away don't forget to tidy your room. Oh... and you can reuse some of the old plastic bags and put all your rubbish into them.

**Bella:** Right Mum. I'll do that.

**Mum:** Good. OK, so I'll see you in about an hour.

**Bella:** OK. See you later Mum and please don't forget my mangoes.

Learner answers the questions.

**Answers**

1 – Plastic bags

2 – A lot of energy is used to make them, they fill up our rubbish tips and some end up as litter in our streets, parks and waterways.

3 – Animals, fish, birds eat the bags and can die, because the bags stay in their stomachs and do not break down.

4 – We can use less, recycle and reuse plastic bags.

5 – Boxes, green bags or paper bags.

Read script again and ask learner to correct their work.

B. Learner reads the dialogue and underlines any unfamiliar words.

Encourage learner to look up the meanings in their dictionary.

### *Discuss plastic bag cycle*

- 📄 Worksheet 5: Where do plastic bags go?
- A. Look at the diagram together and discuss each stage of the cycle.  
Encourage learner to write down any new vocabulary that arises from the discussion.
- B. Learner writes a sentence to describe each picture in part A. (May need tutor assistance).

### *Answer questions about an article*

- 📄 Worksheet 5: Where do plastic bags go?
- C. Learner reads the article.  
Encourage learner to underline any unfamiliar vocabulary and look up the meanings in their dictionary.

Learner reads and answers the questions.  
Correct their work.

### **Answers**

- 1 – Use fewer plastic bags.
- 2 – 6.7 billion
- 3 – Recycle, refuse, reduce and reuse.
- 4 – Paper bags, green bags and boxes.
- 5 – Any two of the following: freeze food, pack lunches, line bins, store clothes and other things.
- 6 – Using old bags to make new bags.
- 7 – Thick, heavier style plastic and usually non-transparent (used by some retail shops).
- 8 – Local supermarkets that have recycling bins for plastic bags.

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## Worksheet 1: Australia's water

- A. Discuss these statements with your tutor.  
 B. Listen to the text and answer **True** or **False**.

	True/False
1. Australia is the driest continent in the world.	
2. Australia is one of the lowest users of water in the world.	
3. There is a lot of water in Australia so Australians do not have to worry about water.	
4. Most people live on the coast of Australia.	
5. It rains more on the coast than inland.	
6. The two biggest cities are Sydney and Adelaide.	
7. The population of Australia is decreasing therefore the water usage in cities is decreasing.	
8. Water in Australia is free.	
9. In some states of Australia, there are rules about water usage.	
10. Water needs to be used wisely, not wasted.	
11. Every person in Australia can help to save water in and around their home.	

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C. Complete the sentences with words from the box.

increase	highest	smallest	increase
most	biggest	more	bigger

1. Australia is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ users of water in the world.  
Compared to the other continents we get the \_\_\_\_\_ amount of rain.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ people live on the coast because it rains \_\_\_\_\_ on the coast then inland. The two \_\_\_\_\_ cities are Melbourne and Sydney.
3. All Australian cities are getting \_\_\_\_\_ as more people are coming to live in the cities and towns. So with the \_\_\_\_\_ in population there is an \_\_\_\_\_ in water usage.

**D. Read the text and correct your work.**

Australia is the driest continent, yet we are one of the highest users of water in the world. Australia compared to the other continents gets the smallest amount of rain.

In Australia, most people live on the coast because it rains more on the coast than inland. The two biggest cities are Melbourne and Sydney which are on the east coast.

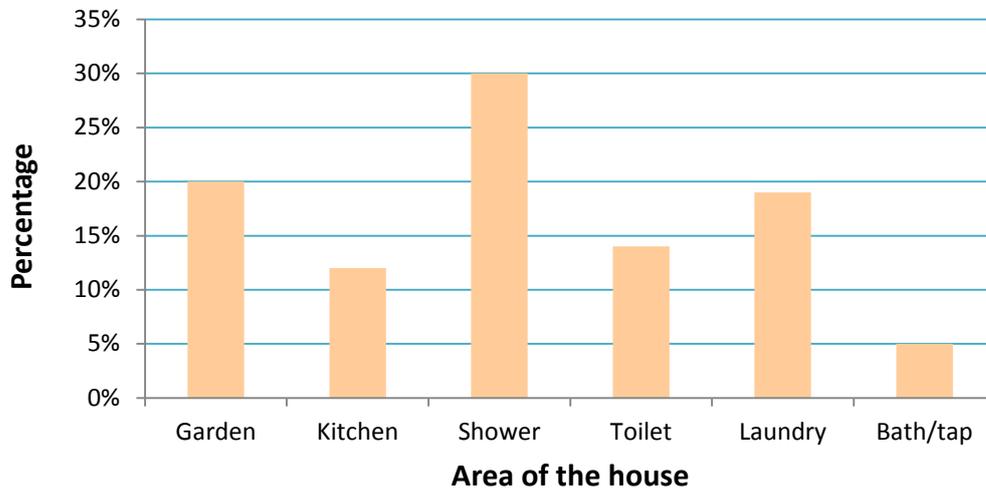
All Australian cities are getting bigger as more people are coming to live in the cities and towns. So with the increase in population there is an increase in water usage.

The government has stated that we need to be wise with the water and not waste it. We can check how much water we use on our water bills.

In some states of Australia, there are rules and restrictions on how much water we can use to help save water. There are ways of saving water that every Australian can do, in and around their home.

## Worksheet 2: Household water usage graph

A. The graph shows the average water use in Melbourne homes. Read the graph and answer the questions.



1. In which area of the home do people use the most water? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Which of these activities uses the most water? Number them from 1 (most) to 6 (least).
  - using the kitchen
  - having a bath
  - using the toilet
  - watering the garden
  - using the laundry
  - taking a shower
  
3.
  - a. How much water do we use in the kitchen? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Do we use more water in the laundry or in the garden? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Do we use less water in the toilet or the kitchen? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Where do we use the most water? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Where do we use the least water? \_\_\_\_\_

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*B. How can we save water around the home?  
Write the water saving tips next to where they happen in the home.*



- Turn off the tap when you're cleaning your teeth.
- Use a plug in the sink when you wash vegetables. Don't wash them under running water.
- Sweep paths and driveways. Don't hose them clean.
- Set your washing machine for the size of the load.
- Water the roots and soil around the plants. Don't spray the leaves and flowers.
- Use a low flow shower head.

**In the bathroom:**

**In the laundry:**

**In the kitchen:**

**In the garden:**

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*C. How do you save water at home?*

*Discuss with your tutor, then write the ways you save water.*

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*D. Discuss how you used water in your country.*

1. Did you have a lot of water where you lived?
2. How did you get water into your home?
3. Was water a problem?
4. Is the water free in your country?
5. What area of the home used the most water?
6. Do you have to save water in your country?



## Worksheet 3: Ways of saving water

A. Match the ways of saving water with their pictures.

B. How do you save water at home? Tick the things you do.

- Have a three minute shower.
- Turn off dripping taps. Fix dripping taps if they can not be turned off.
- Don't leave the water running when you clean your teeth.
- Always use a trigger nozzle on your hose when you water the garden.
- Don't hose windows, any outside part of the house, the lawn, paths or driveways.
- Fill washing machines with a full load of washing. Don't wash one or two things in the washing machine.
- Install a dual flush toilet.
- Don't leave water running when you wash the dishes. Put a plug in the sink when you wash dishes.
- Read the brochures on how to save water in the home.

1.




2.




3.




4.




5.



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6.



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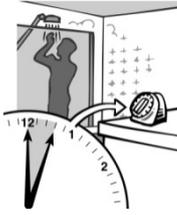
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8.



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9.



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## Worksheet 4: Environmental problem

A. Listen to the conversation between Bella and her Mum and answer the questions.



1. What environmental problem are they talking about?

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2. Why are plastic bags a problem for our environment?

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3. How can plastic bags be harmful to animals, fish and birds?

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4. How can we help with this plastic bag problem?

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5. What can we use to carry our shopping, instead of plastic bags?

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6. What do you use to carry your shopping in?

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## Environment: Helping the environment

*B. Read the dialogue and underline any words you don't know.*

**Mum:** Bella, I'm going shopping now.

**Bella:** Don't forget your basket, Mum.

**Mum:** Oh yes, we don't want to get any more plastic bags, do we?

**Bella:** No, the cupboard's full of them. And remember what they said on TV? It takes so much energy to produce the bags, then we throw them away.

**Mum:** Yeah, that's right. Most of them go to the rubbish tips but a lot of them end up as litter in our streets and parks and even our waterways! And plastic bags can be so harmful to animals and fish life.

**Bella:** How do plastic bags hurt animals and fish, Mum?

**Mum:** Well, I heard on the radio the other day that plastic bags kill more than 100,000 birds, fish and animals every year. They die because the bags stay in their stomachs and don't break down. There was one story about a whale that died on a beach in Queensland after eating about 25 different plastic things, including plastic bags!

**Bella:** Oh Mum, that's terrible! So what can we do to help?

**Mum:** Well, we have to start recycling. Umm... maybe I'll take some bags and put them in the recycle bin at the supermarket. And... I'll take a cardboard box for my fruit and vegies.

**Bella:** Good idea Mum. I'll get you some bags.

**Mum:** Thanks Bella. Now, while I'm away don't forget to tidy your room. Oh... and you can reuse some of the old plastic bags and put all your rubbish into them.

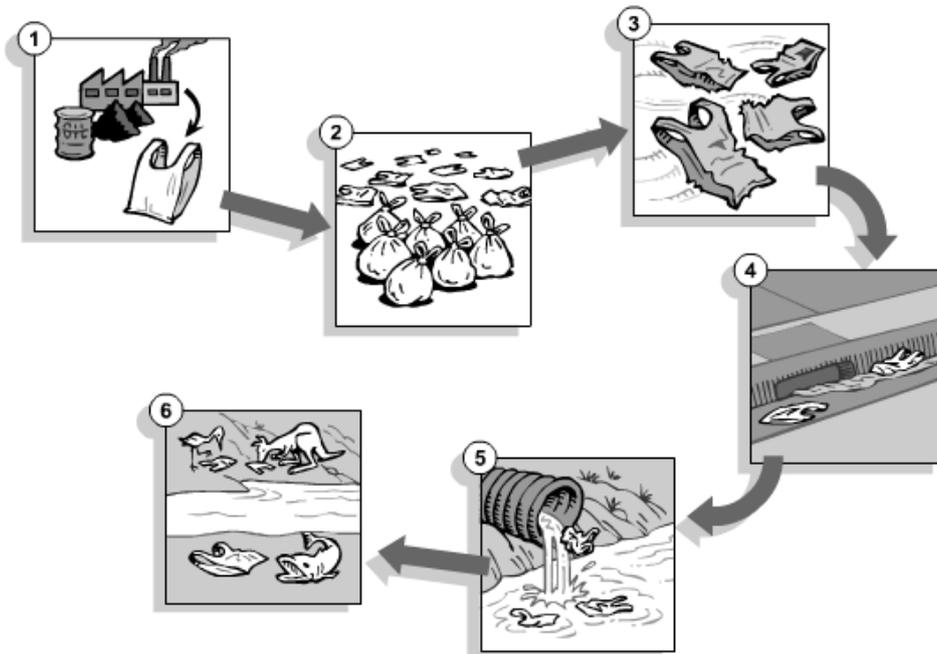
**Bella:** Right Mum. I'll do that.

**Mum:** Good. OK, so I'll see you in about an hour.

**Bella:** OK. See you later Mum and please don't forget my mangoes.

## Worksheet 5: Where do plastic bags go?

A. Why are plastic bags a problem for the environment?  
Look at the diagram and discuss the cycle.



B. Write a sentence to describe each picture in part A.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. Read the article and answer the questions.

### An environmental problem

Every year Australians use about 6.7 billion plastic bags from supermarkets and other shops. That is about 335 plastic bags for every person in Australia each year.



Count the number of plastic bags you use every week and see how many of these you can recycle, refuse, reduce, or reuse during the next month. Here are some suggestions on how you can do this.

#### Recycle

Find a local supermarket that has recycling bins for plastic bags. Take back your plastic bags for recycling the next time you go shopping.

Some plastic bags can be recycled but some cannot.

- Recyclable plastic bags are used by most supermarkets as checkout bags.
- Non-recyclable plastic bags are used by some retail shops. They are easily identified as they are a thick, heavier style plastic and usually non-transparent.



#### Refuse

Refuse plastic bags and use paper bags, green bags or boxes instead.



#### Reduce

Reduce your plastic bag usage by:

- Carrying the items if you bought only one or two things at the supermarket.
- Ensuring that each plastic bag you use is full of the shopping items.



#### Reuse

Reuse your plastic bags to freeze food, pack lunches, line bins and store clothes and other things.



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1. What is the article telling you to do?
  - a. Use strong plastic bags.
  - b. Use fewer plastic bags.
  - c. Use more plastic bags

2. How many plastic bags do Australians use every year?

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3. What are the four main things you should do to help solve the plastic bag problem?

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4. What should you use to carry your shopping instead of plastic bags?

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5. Name two ways you can use the same bag a second time.

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6. What does recycling mean?
  - a. Using other kinds of bags instead of plastic bags.
  - b. Using the same bag twice.
  - c. Using old bags to make new bags.

7. What type of plastic cannot be recycled?

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8. Where should you take plastic bags for recycling?

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