

THEME ALLOCATED:	Water Management – core level
PARTNER ORGANISATION:	Promimpresa
TITLE OF THE WEBQUEST:	Water: Sustainable Use and Stewardship

INTRODUCTION:

More than 70% of the earth's surface is water, which makes it a precious and valuable commodity for the survival of the earth. Of this, almost 97% is salt water and therefore not drinkable, the remaining 2% is found in glaciers and at the poles, leaving 1% of water "useful" and valid for consumption. As we can see, there is very little water available for the survival of living beings, so it is important to keep it clean and uncontaminated in order to be able to use it.

In recent years there has been an alarming increase in waste generated by humans, which means that many of them end up in seas, rivers and oceans, polluting them, and thereby endangering the species that inhabit them. Water conservation is vital for the sustainability of precious water sources and for current systems across the globe.

The tourism industry heavily relies on water sources in order to run operations and generate income from tourists. This is why it is vital for the hospitality sector to promote sustainable water management, thus promoting the sustainable use and stewardship of water.

TASKS

Water is an important element for the conservation of ecosystems and for human wellbeing. Recently, there has been a loss of awareness about the value of this resource, which requires scientific and practical action to encourage the rise of a new cultural attitude regarding water.

Tourism gives water resources great potential, because it facilitates the development of such attractive resources, combining their protection with respectful use.

Water is really essential for all life on Earth and our use of water affects the environment in many ways.

Your task is to research the effect of the unsustainable use of water and to learn about what actions we can take to reduce it in our community. You will develop a stewardship plan to help address unsustainable use of water caused by our community.

How might you implement what you have learned about a sustainable use of water to become a good stewards of water in your community and improve your local environment?

Through this webquest you will explore and learn about water use in the tourism industry.

You will develop an action plan for our community to improve our impact on our local water in the environment.

PROCESS

Step 1: Research Sustainable Water Use here and Record your findings on the provided chart:

- [How Do We Meet the Growing Need for Water? | California Academy of Sciences](#)
- [Saving water, the first step towards sustainable tourism](#)
- [Saving water](#)
- [Take a Green Step \(EN\)](#)
- [How to Take Care of the Environment - 10 Ways to Take Care of the Environment](#)

Chart:

	Causes	Effects	How to prevent/How to Repair Damage
Using Too Much Water			

Step 2: Using your findings, develop a list of ways our community could improve how we take care of the environment, especially in the tourism sector:

- [Why Water Conservation Matters for the Hospitality Industry](#)
- [7 Tips for saving water in hotels | Biosphere Responsible Tourism](#)
- [6 Ways to Reduce Water Consumption in Hotels](#)
- [Water Conservation Facts and Tips](#)

Step 3: Choose ONE thing we could do and develop an action plan to address our community's impact on water use in the tourism sector. Explain your idea through a presentation.

For more information on how to develop an action plan, click on the following links:

- [Developing a Water Management Plan](#)
- [Water Management Plan - Sustainability Roadmap](#)

For more information on how to deliver your presentation, click on the following links:

- [How to Create a PowerPoint Presentation : 8 Steps](#)
- [7 Tips for Designing and Delivering PowerPoint Presentations](#)

Well done! Now that you have created your sustainable water management action plan, it's time to get sharing with the staff and the tourists that visit your hotel.

We could say that there are two main reasons why we must save water, the first, as mentioned above, is that water is scarce and the second is that there are many of us who inhabit the planet and we need water to live. With the development of your action plan, you can become an agent of change for water sustainability and better management. This means that you are playing your part as a steward in sustainable tourism!

EVALUATION

Quiz Questions:

1. To save water while showering, it's best to:

- a) take the longest, hottest shower possible every few hours
- b) just leave your shower running all day and jump in it every now and then
- c) take a short "sailor's shower": rinse, turn off the water, lather up, turn on the water again and rinse off**
- d) just not shower

2. With landscaping, the best ways you can save water are by:

- a) keeping your sprinklers running all day
- b) using plants that don't need a lot of water and watering them sparingly during early morning or evening hours**
- c) uprooting all the flowers and plants from your garden
- d) not watering anything and lighting a lot of fires on your lawn

3. When washing the dishes, the best way to save water is to:

a) fill the sink with water if washing by hand and only run a dishwasher when full

b) run water continuously if washing by hand and just use a dishwasher to wash your forks

c) only wash your dishes in a public pool

d) just use paper plates and plastic forks all the time

CONCLUSION

The tourism industry is aware of its incalculable potential as a tool for the creation of a sustainability culture. Even before lockdown, sustainable and environmentally-friendly tourism was key to improving a fair distribution of wealth; now it is even more important.

It is everyone's responsibility to actively manage and conserve water in the interest of sustainability both for us as individuals and the health of ecosystems in which all biodiversity and human industries depend on. Let's make a difference!