Name: _____ Date: _____

Water for Hong Kong

Directions: Read each part of the story. When you see a **Stop and Think** box, stop. Answer the question. Use words from the story to show your answer is right.

Imagine living in a city with no lakes or big rivers. There is almost no water under the ground. That is real life in **Hong Kong**. It is a busy city. Millions of people need water every day. It is hard to find enough water for everyone.

Hong Kong's land makes it even harder. Much of its 1,104 square kilometers of land has many hills and bumps. This is called **undulating**. It is hard to collect and store rainwater on hilly land. This **scarcity** of water made Hong Kong think of a smart plan.



Hong Kong has many people and hills. It has no big lakes or rivers.

Stop and Think 1: Why is it hard to get rainwater in Hong Kong? Use a word from the story in your answer.

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Hong Kong fixed its water problem. It used a **3-part** water system. It was like a fork with three points. Each part is a different way to get water.

The three parts are:

- Rainwater from special places called **catchments**.
- Water from the Dongjiang River. This river is in a place called Guangdong.
- Ocean water used to flush toilets.



Rainwater is caught and kept on special land.

A **catchment** is a place that gathers water. Rainwater runs off the land there. Then it can be saved. About one third of Hong Kong's land is used this way. Most of these places are also part of Hong Kong's Country Parks. This helps keep nature safe.

Stop and Think 2: What is a catchment? How much of Hong Kong's land is a catchment?

Stop and Think 3: What are the three parts of Hong Kong's water system?

The first way to get water is not enough. In 2022, the rain water collected in Hong Kong only gave about 19% of the water people needed. The amount of rain water changes each year, so it is not always there.

So Hong Kong also gets water from another place. Since 1965, Hong Kong has bought water from the Dongjiang River. This river is in Guangdong Province. In 2022, about 58% of Hong Kong's water came from this river. The water travels more than 70 kilometers to get to Hong Kong.



Water goes over 70 km from Dongjiang to Hong Kong.

Stop and Think 4: How much water did Hong Kong get from Dongjiang in 2022? Find the sentence in the story that tells you and write it here.

The third idea might be the smartest. Most places use clean water to flush toilets. This is the same water people drink. But Hong Kong does something else. Since the 1950s, it has used ocean water for flushing. Hong Kong is one of the few places that uses ocean water this way a lot.

Ocean water is a **sustainable** resource. This means we can use it for a long time. It will not run out. In 2022, Hong Kong used about 320 million cubic meters of ocean water for flushing. Each drop of ocean water used saves the same amount of clean water for drinking and cooking.



Ocean water can be used to flush toilets. This saves clean drinking water.

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Stop and Think 5: Why is using ocean water to flush good? What does it save?

Stop and Think 6: Which part of the system do you think is most important for Hong Kong's future? Tell why you think so.

Source: https://www.waterconservation.gov.hk/en/why-save-water/water-resources/index.html

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The Water System Has 3 Parts

How to do it: Hong Kong gets its water from three places. This is called the **3-pronged** water system. Imagine a fork with three parts. Each part is a different way to get water. You will write facts from the story under each part. Then, you will write how much water each part gives. You will also write one good or bad thing about each part.



Put a fact about each prong in the empty boxes.

Now look closer. For each part, write how much water it gave Hong Kong in 2022. Also write one good or bad thing about it.

Source	How much we had in 2022	One good or hard thing
Rainwater from local places	.....	.....
Dongjiang water	.....	.....
Seawater for Flushing	.....	.....

Look at your chart. The three numbers should add up to more than 100%. Why do you think so?

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Water Checkup

Directions: This review has two parts. Part 1 has five questions. Pick the best answer for each one. Part 2 is a writing task. Write about Hong Kong's water.

Part 1: Pick the Best Answer

1. The word **undulating** tells about Hong Kong's land. What does **undulating** mean?

A) has many hills and bumps
B) is flat and even
C) has water all around it
D) has lakes and rivers

2. What is a **catchment**?

A) a park for swimming
B) a pipe that moves water from the Dongjiang River
C) a machine that makes fresh water from ocean water
D) a place where rain falls and water is gathered

3. In 2022, about how much water did Hong Kong get from the Dongjiang?

A) 32%
B) 70%
C) 19%
D) 58%

4. The story says the local **yield** is not steady. What does this mean?

A) People use too much water to flush.
B) The rain water collected changes a lot each year.
C) The Dongjiang sometimes stops sending water.
D) The land for collecting water is used for parks instead.

5. How much ocean water did Hong Kong use to flush toilets in 2022?

A) 70 million cubic meters
B) 320 million cubic meters
C) 200 million cubic meters
D) 1,385 million cubic meters

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Part 2: Write Here

Most places use fresh water to flush toilets. But Hong Kong uses ocean water.

Tell why using ocean water to flush toilets is a good idea for the Earth. Then think of one more way a city with no lakes can save water.

In your answer:

- Say what "good for the Earth" means to you.
- Tell how using ocean water saves fresh water.
- Think of one more way a city with no lakes can save water. Tell why it would help.

Source: https://www.waterconservation.gov.hk/en/why-save-water/water-resources/index.html

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Answer Key

Hong Kong's Water Supply — Stop and Think

1. Hong Kong's land is **undulating** — it has many hills and bumps — so it is hard to collect and store rainwater on hilly land. (Student answer should use the word *undulating* or describe hilly land.)

2. A **catchment** is a place that gathers water — rainwater runs off the land there and can be saved. About **one third** of Hong Kong's land is used this way.

3. The three parts are: (1) rainwater from **catchments**, (2) water from the **Dongjiang River** in Guangdong, and (3) **ocean water** used to flush toilets.

4. About **58%**. The sentence: "In 2022, about 58% of Hong Kong's water came from this river." (Also acceptable: "The water travels more than 70 kilometers to get to Hong Kong" as supporting detail, but the 58% sentence is the one that answers the question.)

5. Ocean water is a **sustainable** resource — it will not run out. Each drop used for flushing saves the same amount of clean water for drinking and cooking.

6. Answers will vary. Sample: The Dongjiang water is most important because it gave the most water in 2022 (about 58%), so Hong Kong could not have enough water without it. (Any part is acceptable if the reason is supported by the story.)

The 3-Part Water System — Tree Map

Prong 1: Local Rainwater (Catchments) — a catchment gathers rainwater that runs off the land; about one third of Hong Kong's land is used this way; most catchments are also part of the Country Parks, which keeps nature safe.

Prong 2: Dongjiang Water — bought from the Dongjiang River in Guangdong Province since 1965; the water travels more than 70 kilometers to reach Hong Kong.

Prong 3: Seawater for Flushing — used since the 1950s; Hong Kong is one of the few places that uses ocean water for flushing a lot; it saves clean water for drinking and cooking.

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Table (2022 amounts and one good or hard thing):

- **Rainwater from local places:** about **19%** — *Good:* it is free and catchments are also Country Parks. *Hard:* the amount changes each year, so it is not always there.
- **Dongjiang water:** about **58%** — *Good:* it is a steady, large supply. *Hard:* it must travel more than 70 kilometers and comes from outside Hong Kong.
- **Seawater for Flushing:** about **320 million cubic meters** used — *Good:* it is sustainable and saves clean water. (Accept any fact-based good/hard point.)

Why the numbers add to more than 100%: Answers will vary. Sample: Seawater is measured in cubic meters, not a percent of drinking water, and the rain and Dongjiang percents (19% + 58% = 77%) leave some water from other sources — so the three numbers together go over 100% because they measure different things or overlap. (Accept reasonable explanations.)

Water Review — Part 1: Pick the Best Answer

1. A. has many hills and bumps — the story says much of Hong Kong's land has many hills and bumps, which is called *undulating*.

2. D. a place where rain falls and water is gathered — a catchment gathers water that runs off the land so it can be saved.

3. D. 58% — "In 2022, about 58% of Hong Kong's water came from this river." *Common error:* choosing C (19%) — that is the local rainwater share, not the Dongjiang share.

4. B. The rain water collected changes a lot each year — the story says the amount of rain water changes each year, so it is not always there.

5. B. 320 million cubic meters — "In 2022, Hong Kong used about 320 million cubic meters of ocean water for flushing." *Common error:* choosing D (1,385 million) — that number is not in the story; students may guess a bigger-sounding number.

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Water Review — Part 2: Write Here

Answers will vary. A strong answer includes all three parts:

- **"Good for the Earth" means:** using resources in a way that lasts — we can keep doing it for a long time without running out or hurting nature.
- **How ocean water saves fresh water:** Each drop of ocean water used for flushing saves the same amount of clean water for drinking and cooking, so Hong Kong does not waste drinking water in toilets.
- **One more way a city with no lakes can save water (sample):** Collect rainwater in catchments on rooftops or hilly land and save it to use, or fix leaky pipes so no water is wasted. It would help because the city would need to buy or move less water from somewhere else. (Accept any reasonable, story-consistent idea.)

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