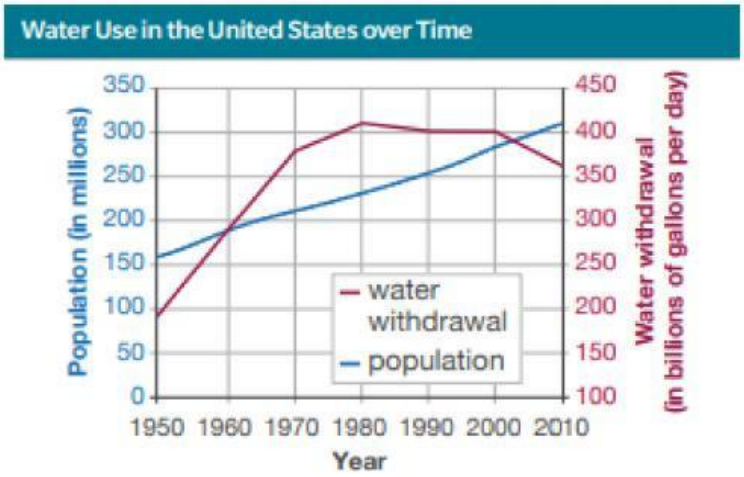
Human Population and Resource Use: Water Use in the United States

As the human population grows, our use of natural resources like water changes. In the United States, people use water for many things, such as drinking, farming, and industry. Scientists and government agencies, like the US Geological Survey (USGS), study how much water is used and where it goes. Over time, the amount of water used in the U.S. has changed due to population growth, new technology, and ways to save water. Understanding how people use water helps us make better choices to protect our resources for the future.



Source: USGS, "Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2010," 2014; *Credit:* Adapted from "World Population Prospects" by UN Population Division. Copyright ©2015 by United Nations. Reprinted with the permission of the United Nations.

Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blank with the correct words.

1. As the number of people in the United States increases, the demand for ___ also increases.
2. Water is used in homes, on farms, and in __ to make products.
3. The USGS studies water use to help people make ___ about how to protect resources.
4. Using water-saving technology can help ____ the amount of water people need.
5. If people use too much water, it can affect the environment and other ____.

Word Bank: industries, decisions, reduce, resources, water___

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Multiple Choice Questions: Choose the correct answer from the choices for each question.

1. What is one main reason water use changes over time in the United States?
    - A) More rainfall every year
    - B) Changes in human population
    - C) The ocean getting bigger
    - D) Fewer farms
2. Which group studies water use in the United States?
    - A) USGS
    - B) NASA
    - C) The United Nations
    - D) The Library of Congress
3. Which of the following is NOT a way people use water?
    - A) Drinking
    - B) Washing clothes
    - C) Making electricity
    - D) Flying airplanes
4. Why is it important to track how much water people use?
    - A) To make better decisions about saving resources
    - B) To build more swimming pools
    - C) To make water taste better
    - D) To help plants grow faster than normal
5. What might happen if too many people use too much water?
    - A) There will be more clean water for everyone
    - B) The water might run out or harm the environment
    - C) Water will be easier to find

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- D) Water will taste sweeter

Open-Ended Questions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Why does the United States need to keep track of how much water people use?
2. Give one example of how people can reduce the amount of water they use at home.
3. How does human population growth affect the use of water and other natural resources?

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