Check these words

- *saying* • *saltwater* • *groundwater*
- *glacier* • *mere* • *precipitation*
- *volume* • *pole* • *human consumption*
- *global supply* • *access to* • *severe*
- *water shortage* • *hose* • *bathtub*
- *wasteful* • *evaporate* • *absorb*

PRECIOUS WATER

As the old saying 'water, water, everywhere' suggests, there is water all over our planet. In fact, water covers a total of 70.9% of the Earth's surface. 95.5% of this is in the form of saltwater in the oceans, 1.7% is groundwater, 1.7% is frozen in glaciers and ice caps, and a mere 0.001% takes the form of clouds and precipitation. Despite the huge volumes of water present, the Earth actually has a limited supply of freshwater. In fact, only 2.5% of the water on the planet is fresh and most of this is frozen in glaciers at the poles or trapped deep underground, leaving less than 1% directly available for human consumption. Even though we only use about 30% of this total global supply, 40% of the planet's inhabitants do not have access to safe drinking water and it is estimated that in the next twenty years 66% of the world's population may face severe water shortage problems. Although it is true that water is everywhere, we need to remind ourselves just how precious freshwater is and use it conscientiously and with care.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Clever *Tips* for saving water

- Just by turning off the water when you brush your teeth you can save up to 30 litres of water. That's over 750 litres per month which is enough to fill a huge fish tank housing 6 small sharks!
- Washing your bike or car with a bucket and sponge instead of a hose saves water too. Using a hose can waste as much as 23 gallons per minute if you leave it running.
- When you take a shower you use much less water than filling up a bathtub. Taking a shower uses about 40 to 95 litres, while a bath uses up to 265 litres of water.
- The ideal time to water your plants and garden is either in the early morning or late evening. Watering the garden when it's hot is wasteful because water evaporates before the plants have a chance to absorb it.

1 **Which of these sentences are true about water? Decide in pairs. Read and check.**

1	Water covers over 90% of the Earth's surface.	T	F
2	1.7% of water is underground.	T	F
3	7.1% of water is frozen.	T	F
4	Only 2.5% of the water on Earth is fresh.	T	F
5	30% of the people on Earth do not have clean water to drink.	T	F
6	In the next twelve years the majority of Earth's population will face water shortages.	T	F
7	If you leave a hose running, it can waste 23 gallons per minute.	T	F
8	We use over 200 litres of water to take a shower.	T	F

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Culture Spot

1 **How are these words:** *Vancouver, Amsterdam, commercial whaling* **related to Greenpeace? Read to find out.**

Greenpeace is an environmental organisation that was founded in 1971 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. It has got offices in 40 countries and a coordinating body in Amsterdam. Its goal is to 'ensure the ability of the Earth to nurture life in all its diversity'. All the members work on environmental issues such as deforestation, global warming, overfishing, commercial whaling and anti-nuclear issues.



Complete the text with the words below. CHECK

problems | voluntary | governments | resources | waste
but | environmental | change | raises | puts

Many international **1)** _____ organisations operate in Spain such as Greenpeace and WWF, **2)** _____ there are also some other organisations that do good work, too. One of these is Friends of the Earth (Amigos de la Tierra) that has groups all over the country. Amigos de la Tierra **3)** _____ pressure on national and local **4)** _____ and companies to protect the environment and natural **5)** _____. It also **6)** _____ awareness of environmental **7)** _____ and offers opportunities for direct action through **8)** _____ youth programmes. Currently there are campaigns raising awareness of climate **9)** _____ and GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms). There are also campaigns promoting sustainable agriculture and **10)** _____ reduction.

LIVEWORKSHEETS