

# The Well

## Enjoy. Explore. Preserve our reservoir reserves

We invite you to discover your local reservoir reserve and use this workbook to support student learning.



# Welcome



Niina Marni,

Today I am visiting \_\_\_\_\_ reservoir reserve, which is on \_\_\_\_\_ land.

**SA Water acknowledges and respects the unique connection of the traditional custodians of the land and waters and thank them for their custodianship and leadership in the past, present, and future.**

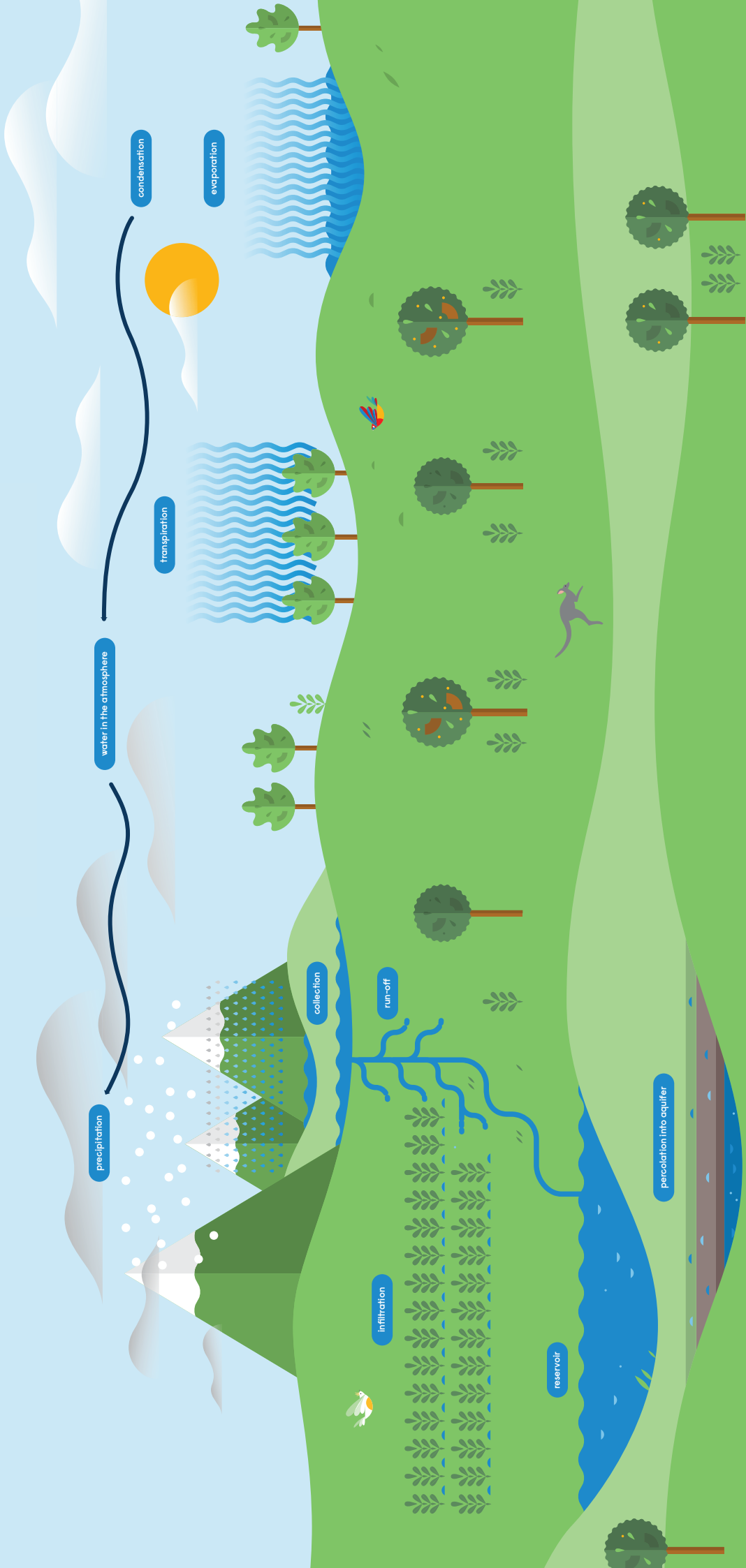
We need your help to preserve these special places and protect the quality of our drinking water. Here are some important things to remember, to protect the environment and stay safe during your visit:

- Wear sunscreen and a hat, closed-in shoes, and bring plenty of water to drink, especially on warm days.
- Explore the reserve by safely by sticking to the walking paths and watching your step.
- Enjoy spotting birds and wildlife and be mindful of snakes.
- Leave only footprints – take all rubbish with you.
- Keep our drinking water safe do not swim or enter the water.
- Pets are not allowed to visit the reservoir. Assistance dogs are accepted.
- Be responsible and considerate of others using the reserve.
- Have fun and take plenty of photos.



Share your experience at the reservoir today by tagging SA Water and Reservoirs South Australia on social media posts, or email our education team: [thewell@sawater.com.au](mailto:thewell@sawater.com.au)

# The water cycle



# What is a reservoir?



A reservoir is a large natural or artificial lake used to store fresh water from the surrounding catchment. A catchment is an area where water is collected by the natural landscape.

Imagine cupping your hands on a rainy day and catching water in them. The water runs down the creases of your hand and collects at the bottom just like rainfall runs through creeks and collects at the bottom of a hill.

In South Australia there are 16 reservoirs managed carefully by SA Water, that are used to collect and store fresh water before it is delivered to our taps.

1. Look at the image of the Water Cycle above and find the reservoir.
2. How does a reservoir fill up with water? Trace the catchment area with your finger.
3. What happens to the water in between the reservoir and your home?

**SA Water manages more than 20,000 hectares of reservoir reserve land over 16 major sites. That's approximately the size of 10,000 Aussie Rules Football Ovals!**



**Draw a map or picture of the reservoir reserve you are visiting today.**

Ask an adult to look up reservoir data on the SA Water website. Here you will find up-to-date information about how much water is in each reservoir. Use the data online to fill in the gaps below.

I am visiting \_\_\_\_\_ reservoir reserve.  
This reservoir can store up to \_\_\_\_\_ (GL) of water.  
Today, there is \_\_\_\_\_ (GL) of water in the reservoir.  
That means, the reservoir is \_\_\_\_\_ % full.

**Write down three words to describe the environment you see in the reservoir reserve today:**

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**Write a creative metaphor or simile to describe your environment:**

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Our reservoir reserves are comprised mainly of remnant native vegetation, which means it has been there for a long time.

Native vegetation provides an ideal land use in reservoir reserves as it:

- produces surface water with fewer contaminants such as pesticides, nutrients, and bacteria, compared to surface water that runs off farmed and urban land
- is more resilient as it recovers quickly from natural events such as bushfire
- limits erosion
- supports native fauna
- reduces water treatment costs.

**What native vegetation have you seen at the reservoir? Find at least one native plant to draw and label in the box below.**

**What kind of issues with vegetation do you think Reservoir Rangers might have to manage on this site?**

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**How high or low do you think the risk of bushfires would be in this area? Identify reasons to explain your answer.**

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South Australia's reservoir reserves are special places of natural beauty, brimming with native flora and fauna that help nurture a range of diverse ecosystems.

**What is 'biodiversity'?**

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**Why is biodiversity important?**

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**You will probably see some wildlife while on the reservoir reserve. Keep an eye out for the native animals below and tick the circles if you see them.**





Have you seen any other birds, animals or insects at the reservoir? Write a list or draw any other creatures not listed above.

What structures or buildings do you see on the reserve?

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Some reservoir reserves have a water treatment plant on site. This is where water from the reservoir is filtered and disinfected before being sent through our pipeline network to surrounding homes and businesses.

Other buildings on site may include offices or workshops for Reservoir Rangers.

Another common site at a reservoir reserve is a dam. A dam is a wall constructed to block a waterway, allowing water to collect and create a reservoir. These structures are impressive feats of engineering, constructed to be sturdy and strong enough to hold back thousands or millions of litres of water.



# Back in the classroom...

Have a go at constructing your own model dam. What kind of shape and materials would be most effective? What other special features might a dam wall need?

For example, the Myponga dam wall pictured here features a spillway, to carefully release water when the reservoir gets very full.



# The Well

## Explore. Interact. Learn

SA Water education program meets curriculum links for students of all ages.

For more information about any of our education programs please visit [sawater.com.au/thewell](http://sawater.com.au/thewell).

