

The Well

Water on Earth

Water is found in countless places on Earth. There are oceans, rivers, lakes and reservoirs, but water is also found underground, in the clouds, and as ice at the North and South Poles.

Not all water is suitable for drinking, some is too salty, some is frozen, and some is trapped too far underground.

Did you know?

- Water is the most common substance found on earth.
- About 75 per cent of the Earth's surface is covered in water.
- Of all the water on Earth, 97 per cent of it is saltwater.
- 3 per cent is fresh water, but most of this is frozen or underground and too hard to get.
- Less than 1 per cent of fresh water is available for life on earth to use.
- If the entire world's water were fit into a 4 litre jug, the fresh water available for us would equal only about one tablespoon.
- In a 100-year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, about two weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the atmosphere.
- Water can be found in three different states: gas, liquid and solid.
- There is more fresh water in the atmosphere than in all of the rivers on the planet combined.
- A person can live without food for about one month, but only one week without water.
- At least 90 per cent of the water we use in our day is considered 'invisible water' or 'virtual' water and it comes in the food we eat.
- Water makes up about 66 per cent of the human body.
- It is estimated there is **1,260,000,000,000,000,000** litres of water on Earth. This is comparable to the numbers of stars in the entire universe.

