

Keep



Texas Wild

EVERY DROP COUNTS

Wildlife needs water, too, so don't waste it!

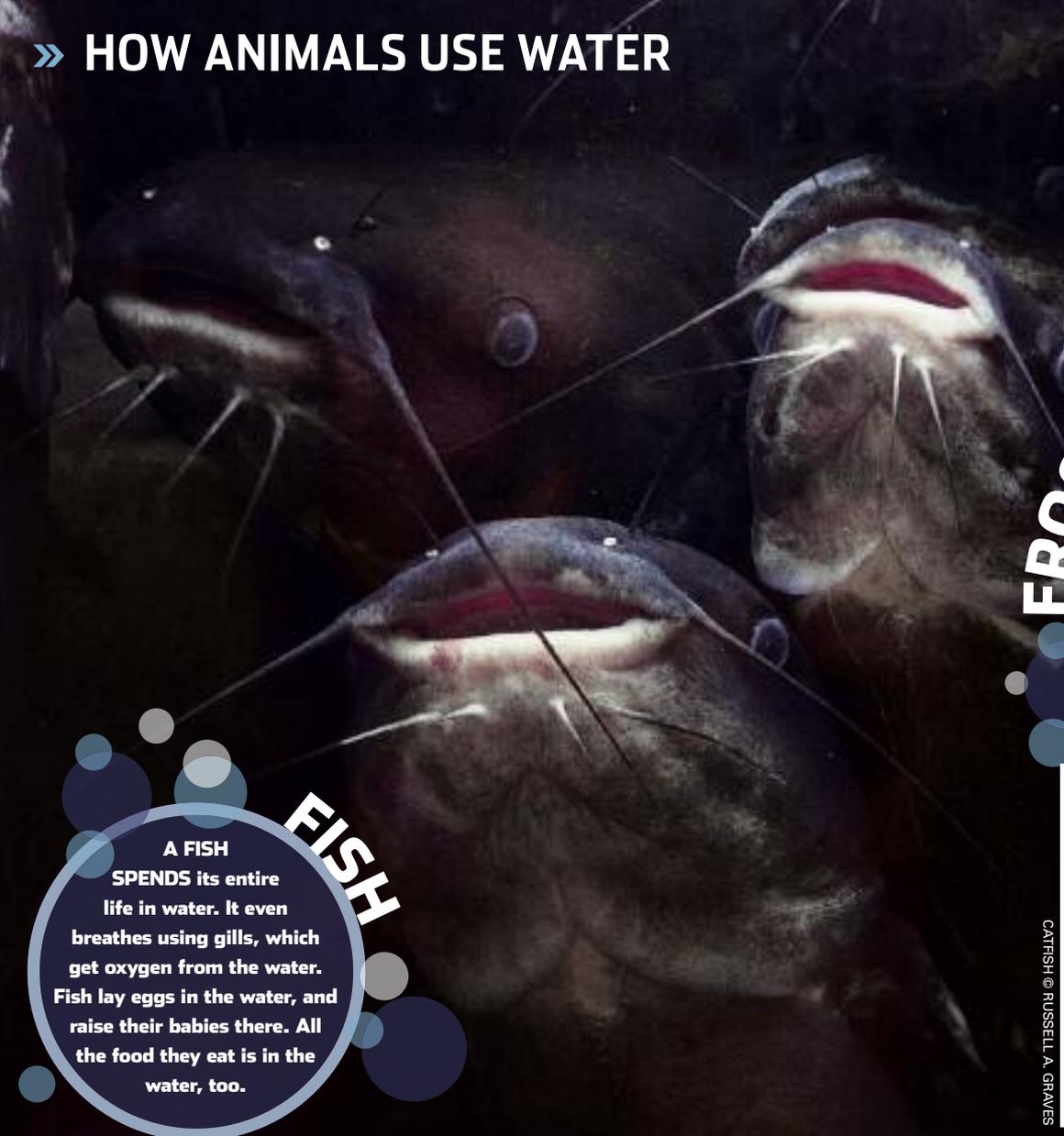
Leopard frog

» WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE?

ANIMALS (INCLUDING YOU!) DEPEND ON WATER to survive. Deer and raccoons, as well as many other animals, drink from streams and ponds. Some animals, like beavers and herons, find the food they need to eat in the water. Desert animals have little water on the ground, so their bodies have adapted to getting their water from the food they eat. Some animals, like fish, need water to breathe or to breed and raise babies. All you have to do is turn on the faucet to get a drink of water. Do you think there is plenty of clean water for all who need it? In some places there is, but in other places, the lack of clean water has become dangerous for the animals.

WWW.TPWMAGAZINE.COM

» HOW ANIMALS USE WATER



FISH

A FISH SPENDS its entire life in water. It even breathes using gills, which get oxygen from the water. Fish lay eggs in the water, and raise their babies there. All the food they eat is in the water, too.

BEAVERS USE WATER for many reasons besides drinking. They construct dams to make ponds. They slap the water with their flat tail to warn other beavers of danger. They enjoy eating the water lilies that grow in the water. The entrances to their home, called a lodge, are underwater for safety.

FROGS



FROG © DERRICK HAMFICK/ROBERTO

SINCE ALLIGATORS are reptiles, they live on the land, but they like to live near the water. One way they catch food is by hiding under the water. They can hold their breath for more than 30 minutes!

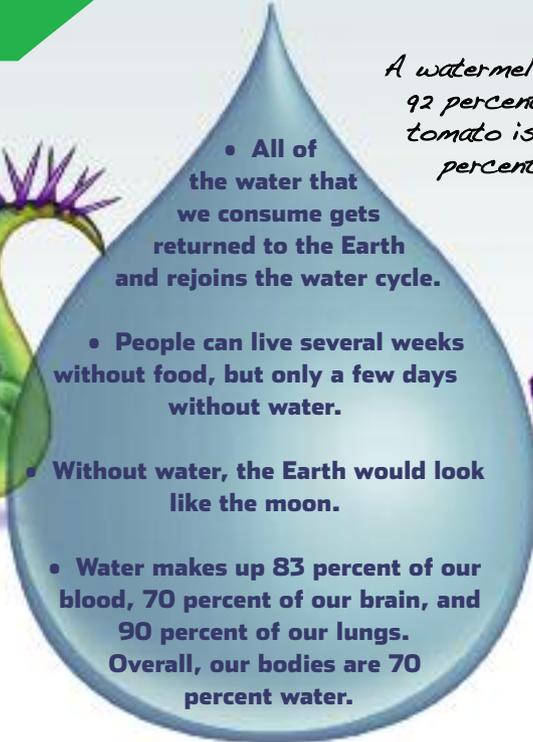


CATFISH © RUSSELL A. GRAVES

» FUN WATER FACTS



The water we use today is the same water the dinosaurs used. There is still the exact same amount of water on earth as there was back then.



- All of the water that we consume gets returned to the Earth and rejoins the water cycle.
- People can live several weeks without food, but only a few days without water.
- Without water, the Earth would look like the moon.
- Water makes up 83 percent of our blood, 70 percent of our brain, and 90 percent of our lungs. Overall, our bodies are 70 percent water.

A watermelon is about 92 percent water. A tomato is about 95 percent water.



BEAVERS



BEAVER © KATHY ADAMS CLARK/KAC PRODUCTIONS



RACCOONS

SOME PEOPLE say that raccoons wash their food before they eat it, but probably they are just playing with it in the water. Their diet consists of many different foods, but they will eat fish and shellfish. Like many mammals, they need lots of clean water to drink to stay healthy.

AMPHIBIANS LIKE FROGS live on both land and water. They lay eggs in the water, then the tadpoles that hatch from the eggs live in the water until they become frogs. Frogs also use water to stay cool, and will eat insects and tiny animals they find in or near the water.

RACCOON © DERRICK HAMRICK/ROLFNPCOM

ALLIGATORS



ALLIGATOR © DERRICK HAMRICK/ROLFNPCOM

An apple, a pineapple, and an ear of corn are each 80 percent water. A dog is 70 percent water and a frog is 78 percent water.

» HOW MUCH DO YOU USE EVERY DAY?

TOTAL = 200 GALLONS!

- Shower = 3 gallons per minute
- Brush teeth = 1/2 gallon
- Wash hands = 1 gallon
- Bath = 20 gallons
- Flush toilet = 5 gallons
- Wash dishes = 5 gallons
- Washing clothes = 35 gallons
- Water hose = 10 gallons per minute
- One small drip = 25 gallons per day
- Drinking = 2 1/2 quarts

» HOW CAN YOU SAVE WATER?

- Turn off water while brushing teeth – save 3 gallons a day.
- Cut 10 minutes off your shower – save 30 gallons a day
- Turn off a dripping faucet – save 25 gallons a day
- Run only full loads in washer and dishwasher – save 30 gallons a day

ILLUSTRATIONS © FIAN AROVO



Spike's Activity Page



>> KEEPING IT WILD

THERE'S NO BETTER TIME than the middle of summer to enjoy water outside with your friends. Here are a couple of sponge games that are cool, wet fun but don't waste a lot of water. All you need is a few small plastic buckets of water and an inexpensive pack of sponges. Have a sponge war by throwing wet sponges at each other like snowballs. Have a cool sponge race by soaking a sponge at one end, then squeezing it into an empty bucket at the other end. The winning player (or team) has the most water in the second bucket when time runs out.



>> WILD SCIENCE

THERE ARE LOTS of cool science activities that involve water. Perhaps you'd like to use water to try to make raisins dance. Fill a clear drinking glass with club soda (water with bubbles). Drop in a half a raisin and watch to see what happens. Why does the raisin rise and fall? (Hint: It's all about the bubbles!) Try this with other items, like paper clips, small dry pasta, beans or buttons.



NEXT MONTH: Ssssssssnakessss!



>> WILD MATH



SET A MEASURING CUP under a dripping faucet. Using a stopwatch or clock, see how long it takes to fill up the cup. How many cups would the drip fill in an hour or a day (24 hours)? A week? A month? A year?

TEACHER RESOURCE

Visit www.tpwmagazine.com to download a printable PDF, access lesson plans, find additional resources or order copies.

PHOTO © ROLF NUSSBAUMER