Description of Water Users

In addition to the descriptions listed below, students may research a specific water user during the week prior to this activity.

**Agriculture:** Water is used to produce food and fiber for processing and consumption.

**Sugar cane grower:** Uses water to irrigate crops and transport chemicals (pesticides and fertilizers) to crops.

**Cattle rancher:** Uses water to grow food and provide drinking water for cattle, and to clean their areas for living and feeding, transporting waste to holding ponds.

**Wheat farmer:** Uses water to irrigate crops.

**Dairy farmer:** Uses water to grow food and provide drinking water for cows, and to sanitize milking equipment and stalls.

**Mining:** Water is used in the extraction process of raw materials (coal, iron, gold, copper, sand, gravel, gas, and oil).

**Miner:** Uses water to carry and wash rock material during the mineral removal processes.

**Sand and gravel company:** Uses water to wash fine soil and rock material out of sand and gravel formations. Sand and gravel are used in cement and road construction.

**Petroleum company:** Uses water in the process of fracturing rock layers to retrieve stored petroleum or natural gas.

**Logging:** Water is used to grow and harvest trees.

**Forest manager:** Uses water to support tree growth and control fires.

**Logging company:** Uses water to float rafts of logs (on rivers and lakes) to collection points.
## Description of Water Users

### Transporting/Shipping:
Water (rivers, seas, oceans) is used to transport raw materials and finished products to points of distribution (ports).

- **Slurry pipeline owner:** Uses water to transport crushed coal through pipelines to distant coal-fired power plants.
- **Ship’s crew:** Uses water to haul raw materials (e.g., logs, oil, gas, wheat) and finished products (e.g., automobiles, appliances, processed food) to points of transfer.

### Wildlife:
Water provides habitat for countless plant and animal species.

- **Mammals:** Beavers, muskrats, and otters live in and near waterways.
- **Fish:** Trout, salmon, and carp live in water and eat organisms that live in water.
- **Insects:** Aquatic insects are a food source for many other organisms.
- **Vegetation:** Trees and other plants use water in photosynthesis and to transport nutrients.

### Business/Industry:
Water is used in the processing and manufacturing of goods (cars, food, medical supplies, etc.).

- **Steel producer:** Uses large volumes of water to process iron ore into steel.
- **Textile manufacturer:** Uses water to wash and process raw materials (e.g., wool, cotton, mohair). Dye is mixed with water to color fabric.
- **Soft drink company:** Uses water to produce soft drinks and to sanitize equipment.
- **Paper mill:** Uses water to transport pulp fibers for paper making and to carry away waste.
- **Chemical manufacturer:** Uses water in the production of pesticides and fertilizers.
Description of Water Users

**Recreation:** Water is used by people for exercise and enjoyment.

- **Cruise ship:** People travel to many parts of the world on cruise ships.
- **Fishing:** People catch fish in rivers, lakes, and oceans.
- **Water theme park:** Uses water to transport people on exciting and fun rides.
- **Scuba diver:** People enjoy exploring underwater environments.
- **Winter sports:** Snow and ice provide fun for skaters, skiers, and sledders.

**Power Generation:** Water is used to generate electricity.

- **Hydropower plant:** Water flowing in rivers is stored behind dams in reservoirs. As water is released by the dam, it turns turbines that generate electricity.
- **Nuclear power plant:** Uses water in cooling towers to maintain safe operating temperatures.
- **Coal-fired power plant:** Burning coal produces steam heat that turns turbines, creating electricity.

**Community:** Water is used by community members for domestic, maintenance, and recreational purposes.

- **Domestic users:** Water is used in a multitude of ways in and around the home and lawn.
- **Fire department:** Uses water to extinguish fires.
- **Restaurant owner:** Uses water to cook meals, clean the kitchen, wash tables and floor, and water lawns.
- **City government:** Uses water in fountains and reflecting ponds and for landscaping and maintenance needs.