

# CONSERVE WATER

ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
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WHEN LESS  
IS BEST

YOU'RE ALL  
WET

ATTITUDES  
& LATITUDES

YOU SAVED  
WATER

SOAK UP  
THESE FACTS

HARVESTING  
WATER

BE A WATER  
DETECTIVE

Project  
**wet**



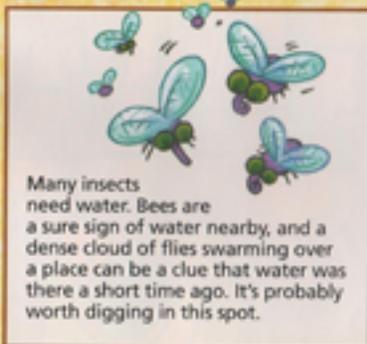
# Soak Up These Facts



The water-holding frog lives in the hot, dry interior of Australia. It spends most of its time buried underground sealed in a cocoon made of discarded skin. When it rains—sometimes not for two or three years—the frog leaves its burrow and comes to the surface where it absorbs and stores lots of water in its bladder. When the rain stops, the frog burrows underground again.

**Aborigines** (abba-RIJ-uh-neeZ)—native people of Australia know how to find these frogs. They sometimes dig them up and squeeze water from them to drink. (This does not harm the frogs.)

The kangaroo rat of the American Southwest never drinks water. It gets all it needs from the seeds it harvests.



Many insects need water. Bees are a sure sign of water nearby, and a dense cloud of flies swarming over a place can be a clue that water was there a short time ago. It's probably worth digging in this spot.

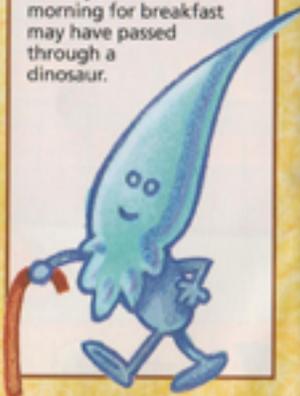
Explorers have saved their own lives by tying rags to their ankles and walking through desert grass before sunrise to collect water. The rags soak up dew from the surface of the grass, which is then squeezed into the mouth.



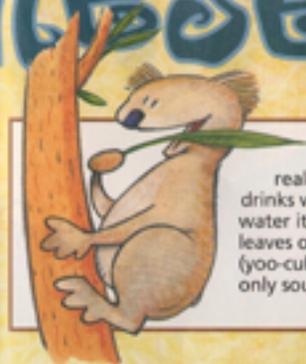
When water is present in a desert, a lush, green area called an **oasis** (o-AY-sis) develops. Often, a water hole is near the center of a group of palm trees or other plants.



Did you know the world has the same amount of water today as when water first formed on Earth long ago? The same water you drank this morning for breakfast may have passed through a dinosaur.



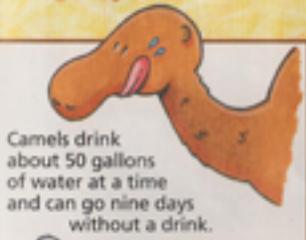
The koala—not really a bear—never drinks water. It gets all the water it needs from the leaves of the **eucalyptus** (yoo-cuh-LIP-tuss) tree, its only source of food.



A saguaro cactus in the Sonoran or Chihuahuan deserts of North America can store as much as 10 tons of water in its fleshy tissue.



Camels drink about 50 gallons of water at a time and can go nine days without a drink.



In the Sahara desert in Africa, **Bedouins** (BEH-doo-inZ)—nomadic tribesmen dig up cool stones just before sunrise and wait until dew settles on them. Then they lick the water from the stones. They also listen to the twittering of birds and watch where they fly, following them to water.

## WATER SCRAMBLE

Test your skills. Unscramble the words to complete the following sentences. Not all the words are found on these two pages:

- Your \_\_\_\_\_ (doyb) is mostly water.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ (aloka) gets all its water from eucalyptus leaves.
- A single \_\_\_\_\_ (argusao) cactus may hold several \_\_\_\_\_ (onts) of water.
- Aborigines in Australia find water by digging up water-holding \_\_\_\_\_ (srfog).
- A camel drinks 50 \_\_\_\_\_ (lagolsn) of water at one time and can go \_\_\_\_\_ (einn) days without drinking again.
- Bedouin tribesmen listen for the sound of \_\_\_\_\_ (sdrbi) and follow them to \_\_\_\_\_ (tarew).
- The \_\_\_\_\_ (ragknooa) rat never drinks water.
- A lush, green area in the desert is called an \_\_\_\_\_ (iasos) and usually has a water \_\_\_\_\_ (ieoh) near its center.
- Scientists figure that about three-fourths of our \_\_\_\_\_ (nelpat) is covered by water.
- Island people rely on rain for many of their water needs. They store rain in a tank called a \_\_\_\_\_ (nreitsc).

# you saved Water

Number of players: two to four

**You need:** playing piece (coin, small stone, button); four small pieces of paper numbered one through four; a strip of paper for each player to record the gallons of water saved. Place numbered papers in a small bag. Each player draws a number to decide who starts, then returns the number to the bag. **The point is:** to move through the house from start to finish, landing on icons that show you have saved water. Follow the arrows. Do not go backwards.

**Here goes:** Take turns drawing a numbered slip from the bag and moving that many spaces on the board. Return your number to the bag. If you land on an icon, find the same icon around the border of the game, read aloud the words next to it and write down on your strip of paper the gallons of water you saved. Each time you land on an icon and save water, you get to take another turn. If you land on a blank space, your turn is over.

**You win if:** after all players have reached the finish and added the number of gallons on their strips of paper, you have saved the most gallons of water! \*

You took a three-minute shower instead of a 10-minute shower. YOU SAVED 3 GALLONS OF WATER.



You placed a diffuser into your air. YOU SAVED 3 GALLONS OF WATER (per day).



You used a broom instead of a hose to clean the sidewalk. YOU SAVED 10 GALLONS OF WATER.



You washed until you got a full load of clothes to turn on the washing machine. YOU SAVED 10 GALLONS OF WATER.



You moved the sprinklers so that they weren't watering the house and the driveway. YOU SAVED 20 GALLONS OF WATER (per day).



You used water hoses to water the shrubs in your yard. YOU SAVED 100 GALLONS OF WATER (per day).



You turned off the water while brushing your teeth. YOU SAVED FOUR GALLONS OF WATER PER MINUTE.



You asked your parents to fix a leaking toilet. YOU SAVED 20 GALLONS OF WATER (per day).



You used a bucket and sponge, instead of a running hose, to clean the family car. YOU SAVED 100 GALLONS OF WATER.



You cleaned vegetables with a brush in a dishwasher instead of in the heat of the day. YOU SAVED 100 GALLONS OF WATER (per minute).



You watered the lawn in the early morning instead of in the heat of the day. YOU SAVED 100 GALLONS OF WATER (per day).



You cleaned your toilet tank and used the dirty water to water houseplants. YOU SAVED FIVE GALLONS OF WATER.



You surfed the Internet and found ways to conserve water. YOU SAVED 100 GALLONS OF WATER.



You put garbage in the trash can instead of in the garbage disposal. YOU SAVED FIVE GALLONS OF WATER.



You cooked vegetables in a pot with just a little water and a lid. YOU SAVED ONE GALLON OF WATER.



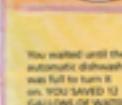
You put mulch around trees and shrubs in your yard. YOU SAVED 100 GALLONS OF WATER (per day).



You put plastic, water-filled bottles in your toilet tank to reduce the amount of water needed to flush the toilet. YOU SAVED ONE GALLON OF WATER (per flush).



You kept a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the water for a minute each time you use it. YOU SAVED FOUR GALLONS OF WATER.



You waited until the automatic dishwasher was full to turn it on. YOU SAVED 12 GALLONS OF WATER.



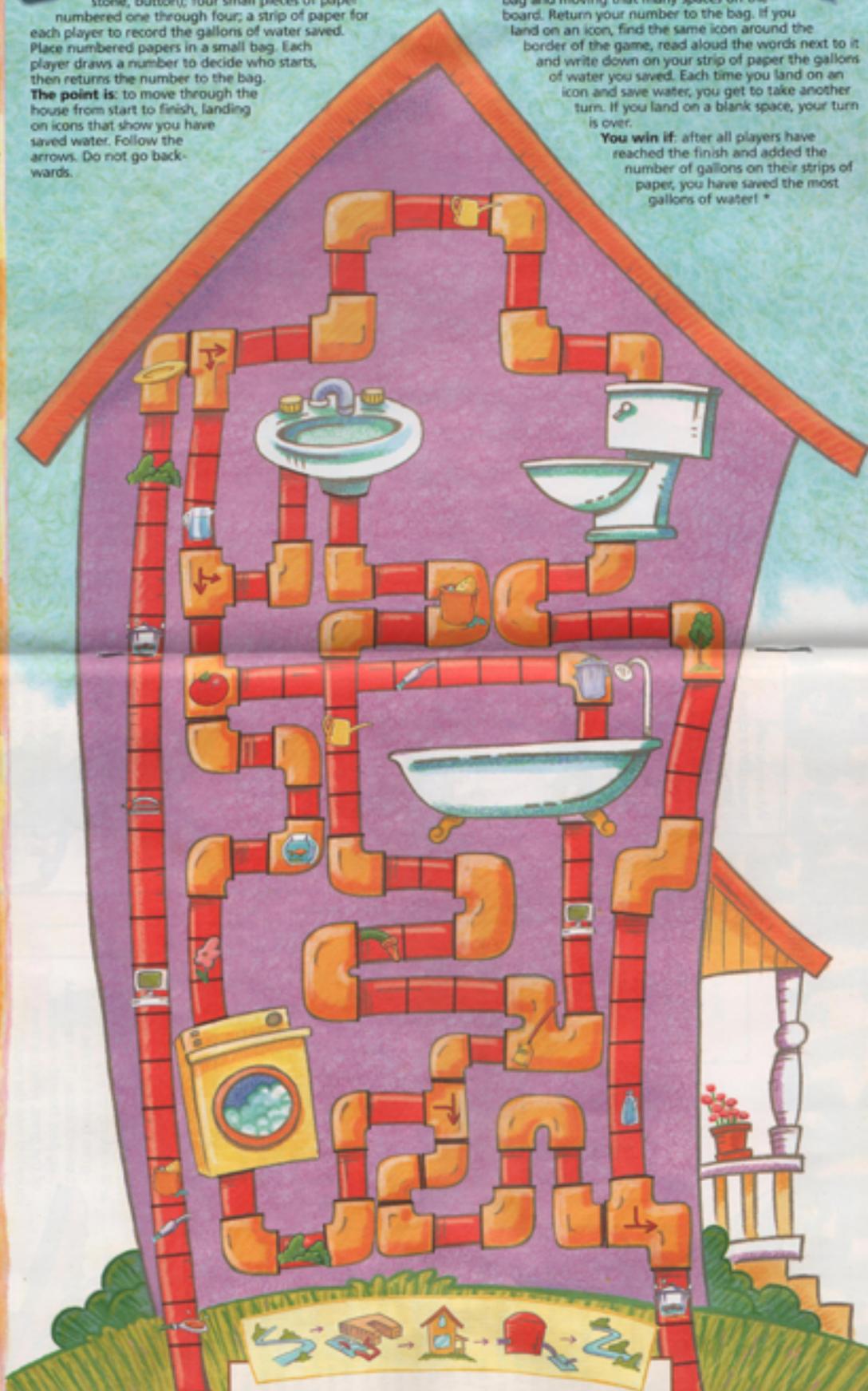
You asked your folks to install a low-flow showerhead. YOU SAVED 10 GALLONS OF WATER (per 10-minute shower).



You used a low nozzle and turned off the water while you washed your car. YOU SAVED 100 GALLONS OF WATER.



You collected rain to water houseplants. YOU SAVED ONE GALLON OF WATER.



\*The number of gallons saved are estimates and are based on the average of four gallons/minute if water is allowed to flow freely from the faucet.

Certain icons have a dollar sign next to them to show that this action costs money. To save water, you must sometimes invest money.

**START**

**FINISH**