



## Why is Water an Important Resource?

Water is such an important part of your everyday life that it is easy to take it for granted. Getting a drink of water is as simple as turning on the tap. However, this is not the case everywhere. Safe drinking water may be scarce in arid regions or because of drought, floods, and other natural disasters. Of course, water is used for more than drinking, but other uses of water may not be so obvious. You may be surprised to learn that wastewater treatment requires water. Farming, raising livestock, manufacturing, mining, power generation: all of these processes require water.



If you look at a world map, you will see that much of the Earth is covered with water. It would seem as though there should be an endless supply. However, most of this water is in the oceans and is not suitable for human use. The water that you rely on for drinking and other uses comes from rivers, lakes, streams, and below the ground. Evaporation and precipitation replenish this supply in a process called the water cycle.

## What Will You Investigate?

You will discover how water as a resource is part of the Earth System.

Here are some of the things that you will investigate:

- how water is used;
- where your water supply comes from;
- how water moves through the Earth System;
- properties of water;
- water management.



You will need to practice your problem-solving skills and be good observers and recorders as you work together with other members of your class.

In the last investigation you will have an opportunity to apply all that you have learned about water resources. You will develop a plan to monitor and conserve the water supply in your community.