

Water, Water, Everywhere

Literal Comprehension

- 1 What would it be like on Earth if there was no water?
- 2 How does the amount of water on Earth today compare to the amount on Earth millions of years ago?
- 3 How has the distribution of water on Earth changed over time?
- 4 What is groundwater?
- 5 What effect can climatic conditions have on oceans and seas?
- 6 What does the phrase “the water cycle” mean?
- 7 What are two problems that can be associated with groundwater?



Inferential Comprehension

- 1 What is meant by the phrase “the never-ending journey of water”?
- 2 Why is groundwater so important to people in some areas?
- 3 How and why might the same particles of water appear as snow at some stage, and in a cloud at another?
- 4 List three words that have the same meaning as the text word “devastated”.



Reflection

- 1 What problems do people face in times of floods/droughts?
- 2 Where and why do you think a groundwater supply would be very important?
- 3 Some glaciers are melting. What effect do you think this could have on our planet?



Activity Card 1

Local councils have become more vigilant in their policing of water use by residents. Write a letter to your local council and ask for an update on the water situation in your area. You could ask about issues such as current reservoir levels, water restrictions and private and commercial uses of water.

Activity Card 2

A simile is a figure of speech that makes a comparison between two things. For example, “her hand is as cold as ice” or “he took to riding like a duck to water”. Create a page of similes that is headed: **Water is as precious as...**

Activity Card 3

Write a procedural text on recycling water. Remember, you will need to list materials required, such as a bucket, funnel, tube and plant. Then list the steps taken to show how the water is to be recycled or reused.

Activity Card 4

Imagine you are a drop of water. Write a personal recount about your experience as part of a hydro-electric process. It might help if you first do a little research about how water can be used to generate electricity.

Koobor the Koala and Water

retold by John O'Connor

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Way back in the Dreamtime there lived a koala-boy. His name was Koobor. Koobor's parents were dead so he was in the care of his relatives. They lived in a dry part of the country where there was very little water. Water was so scarce that it was rationed and everyone was given a drink in the evening. Koobor's relatives treated him very badly. He was always the last to get his drink and often there was little or none left. If he complained, he was told he was ungrateful. Whenever the relatives ventured from home they hid their water buckets where Koobor could not find them.

One day when the relatives went out in search of food they forgot to hide the buckets. Koobor drank his fill. He then decided he needed to store some more water for whenever he was thirsty so he gathered up the buckets to hide them in a nearby tree. Climbing the tree, he began to chant a special song. As he sang, the tree started to grow and it kept growing until it was very tall.

Eventually Koobor's relatives returned. They were weary and thirsty. They were angry when they saw Koobor and the buckets up in the tree, and demanded he bring the water down immediately. When he refused, two men climbed the tree and brought Koobor back to the ground where they beat him badly.

As the relatives watched, Koobor's broken little body changed into a koala. He climbed back up the tree and sat in the highest branches. As he sat feasting on gum leaves, the koala made a law. He said to the people, "In the future, you may kill me if you need food but you must make sure that you cook me before you remove my skin and my bones. If you do not, I will come back down and dry up every waterhole."

To this day, Aboriginal people have upheld that law.



Koobor the Koala and Water

Literal Comprehension

- 1 How do you know Koobor was treated poorly by his relatives?
- 2 What “mistake” did the relatives make the day they went in search of food?
- 3 What opportunity did this give Koobor?
- 4 How did the relatives react when they returned from their search?
- 5 What did they witness after Koobor was beaten?
- 6 What law did the koala make?
- 7 How do you know this law is important to Aboriginal people?

Inferential Comprehension

- 1 Was Koobor “ungrateful”? Give reasons for your answer.
- 2 What is meant by the word “rationed”?
- 3 Why did Koobor make the law?

Reflection

- 1 Do you think there is a moral behind this Dreamtime story? If so, what is it?
- 2 How might the story be different if the relatives had cared about Koobor?
- 3 Why do you think Dreamtime stories are so meaningful to Aboriginal people?



Activity Card 1

Use a variety of resources to locate information about the koala. Present your information in the form of a mini project. Remember to include a physical description, its dietary habits (in particular its source of water), its habitat and information about its recognition here in Australia and overseas.

Activity Card 2

Rewrite the story of Koobor, changing his relatives' attitude toward him. Imagine they were caring and understanding, and see where this takes your plot. Water must remain the focus of the story though. Give your story a title and illustrate an important section of the text.

Activity Card 3

A koala is often mistakenly called a “bear”. Research the koala and the endangered giant panda of China. Use your information to write a comparative text about these two unique creatures. Take particular note of the need for, and sources of, water for both creatures.

Activity Card 4

Living things need water. Eventually Koobor the koala was able to get his water from gum leaves. Plan and write a myth about water on Earth. Your story might involve animals, it might be about the creation of a river or it might even be about rain. Remember to follow the structure of a narrative, with a beginning, middle and end.