Water Facts - Worldwide Water Supply Water covers about 71326 million cubic miles of water on the planet 97320 million cubic miles of water in the oceans 32.50.5If the world's water supply were only 100 liters (26 gallons), our usable water supply of fresh water would be only about 0.003 liter (one-half teaspoon). In actuality, that amounts to an average of 8.4 million liters (2.2 million gallons) for each person on earth. This supply is continually collected, purified, and distributed in the natural hydrologic (water) cycle. Where Water is Found and the Percentage Oceans 97.2Ice Caps/Glaciers 2.0Groundwater* 0.62Freshwater Lakes 0.009Inland seas/salt lakes 0.008Atmosphere 0.001Rivers 0.0001TOTAL 99.8381If the Earth Were a Globe 28 Inches in Diameter:
All of the water on the planet would fill less than one cup. Only 0.03Slightly more than one drop of water would fill all the rivers and lakes. If 5 Gallons Represents all the Water on Earth (in tablespoons): Oceans 1244.16 Ice Caps/Glaciers 5.60 Groundwater* 7.93 Freshwater Lakes 0.11 Inland seas/salt lakes 0.10 Atmosphere 0.0128 Rivers 0.0012 TOTAL 1277.9130 *Some of this lies too far under the earth's surface to be extracted at an affordable cost
Sources of Fresh Water
Groundwater - water which infiltrates into the ground through porous materials deeper into the earth. It fills pores and fractures in layers of underground rock called aquifers. Some of this water lies too far under the earth's surface to be extracted at an affordable cost. Surface-water runoff - precipitation that does not infiltrate into the ground or return to the atmosphere: streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and reservoirs. Snow that is 4 inches (10cm) deep contains about the same amount of water as 1/3 inch (1 cm) of rain.
Water Use in the U.S.
83359Over 600 gallons per day per person in the U.S. is being diverted for farm irrigation and livestock use from natural aquatic sources. More than half the people in the U.S. get their water from groundwater.
Measures of Water Use
Water withdrawal - taking water from groundwater or surface-water source and transporting it to a place of use. Water consumption - water that has been withdrawn and is not available for reuse in the area from which it is withdrawn. In the U.S. about three-fourths of the fresh water withdrawn each year comes from rivers, lakes and reservoirs; one-fourth comes from groundwater aquifers. 80Home Water Use (Approximate) Gallons Activity 3 Shaving and allowing the water faucet to run 1.6-5 Flushing a toilet 5 Brushing your teeth and allowing the water faucet to run 8 Cooking 3 meals 8 Cleaning house 10 Washing dishes for 3 meals 20-30 Washing clothes 30 Washing dishes and allowing the water faucet to r 30-40 Watering lawn 30-40 Washing a car 30-40 Taking a bath 40 8 minute shower (5 gallons/minute A leak that fills up a coffee cup in 10 minutes will waste over 3,000 gallons of water in a year. That's 65 glasses of water every day for a year. A leaky toilet can waste over 22,000 gallons of water in one year; enough to take three baths every day Garden Water Use
Americans use about 1/3 more water in the summer than they do the rest of the year because they're watering their lawns. There are about 10 million acres of lawn in the U.S., which requires 270 billion gallons of water every week. That's enough to give every person in the world a shower for four days in a row. Most lawns only need an inch of water each week. Water in the Body
Eye - 95Total body weight - 75How Much Water Does it Take to Produce Your Food? Food Portion Gallons of Water Orange Juice 1 cup 49 Orange 1 medium 14 Cantaloupe 1 melon 160 Broccoli 2 cups 11 Catsup 1 ounce 3 Corn 1 ear 80 Lettuce 1 cup 3 Tomato 1 small 8 Tomato Sauce 4 ounces 13 Butter 1 pat 46 Cheese 1 ounce 56 Milk 1 cup 48 Yogurt 1 cup 88 Beef Steak 8 ounces 1,232 Chicken 8 ounces 330 Egg 1 each 50 Hamburger 4 ounces 616 Tofu 2 cups 61 Almonds 1 ounce 80 Sugar 1 Tablespoon 7 White Rice 2 cups 25 Brown Rice 2 cups 16 Wheat Bread 1 slice 7 White Bread 1 slice 11 Pasta 2 ounces 36
Water Pollution
A gallon of paint or a quart of motor oil can seep into the earth and pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water. A spilled gallon of gasoline can pollute 750,000 gallons of water. Sources
Aquatic Project WILD; Western Regional Environmental Education Council Flying Start Science-Water; Kim Taylor Folsom Dam Fact Sheets; Bureau of Reclamation Layperson's Guide to The American River; Water Education Foundation Living in the Environment, An Introduction to Environmental Science; G. Tyler Miller Jr. Water Facts; Water Education Foundation 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do To Save The Earth; The EarthWorks Group