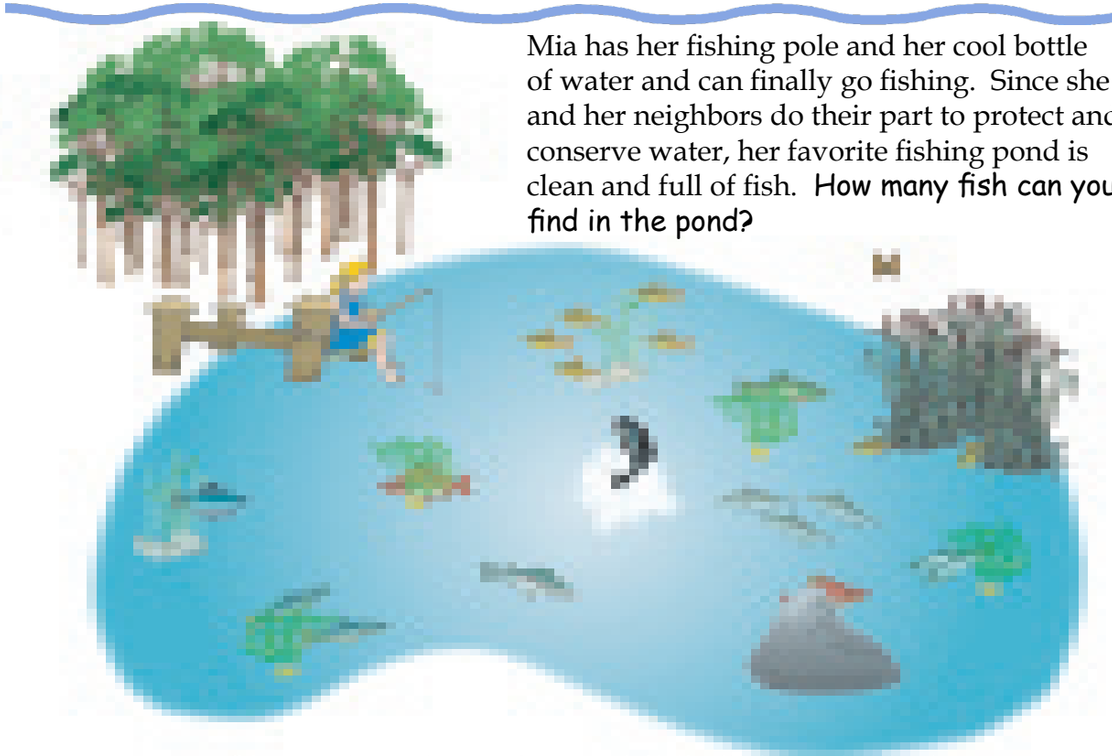
Think Before You Act!

Both protecting and conserving water are important. While you can do lots of things to protect and conserve water, the most important thing you can do for both is to *think* about what you are going to do before you do it.

Use this word jumble to see what else YOU can do to protect and conserve water!

Turn off faucets all the way–don't let them _____!	**pdir**
See if your club or class can plant _____ to shade a creek.	**eerst**
Turn off the water when brushing your _____.	**httee**
_____ pour anything down a storm drain.	**revne**
Take short _____.	**hssrewo**
Remind Dad to only run the washer when it is _____.	**lulf**
Pick up all your _____ after a day at the lake.	**hsart**
Clean up after your pet when he goes to the _____.	**htoorabm**



Mia has her fishing pole and her cool bottle of water and can finally go fishing. Since she and her neighbors do their part to protect and conserve water, her favorite fishing pond is clean and full of fish. How many fish can you find in the pond?

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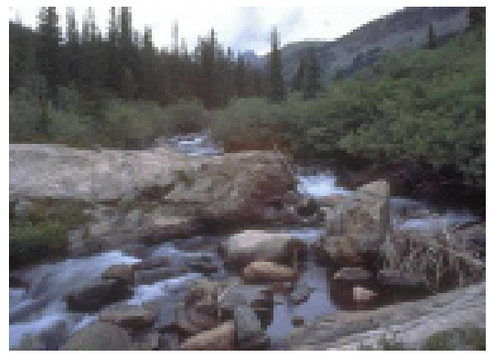
DEQ Kids

Water Does A Lot For Us...
What Can We Do For Water?



Water is everywhere–in rivers and lakes, pools and sprinklers, toilets and showers, and even under ground! With so much water, it's hard to believe we need to ***protect*** and ***conserve*** it, but we do.

Protecting water means keeping it clean.
Conserving water means not wasting it.

Why Protect Water? Can I Help?

Protecting water quality helps provide clean water for drinking, swimming, fishing, and all the other things we use it for. It also protects the fish, plants, and other creatures that live in it. When we pollute our water, it becomes too contaminated (dirty) for fish to live in and for us to use.

What pollutes the water? What can you do to help?
Match the problem below with what you can do.

Litter Trash, like plastic rings from six-packs of pop, bags, cans, and other garbage, hurts fish, plants, and animals. Litter is unpleasant for people, too.

Nutrients Nutrients are things in food that make it good for you. Plants get their nutrients from water. However, too many nutrients in the water, caused by things like fertilizer and human and animal waste (poop), can create slimy, green algae that can kill fish and make the water stink.

Heat Water in most Idaho lakes and rivers is supposed to be *c-c-cold*. Changes people have made, such as removing plants that shade creeks, have made the water a tiny bit warmer. Many fish can't live in this "warm" water (it will probably still feel cold to you.)

Chemicals Chemicals that aren't supposed to be in the water, like motor oil or pop you dumped out, pollute the water and can kill fish. These things can get into rivers and creeks when people dump them on the ground and down storm drains (the metal grates you see in the street).

I can be nice to plants growing near streams. I won't tear plants out, cut them down, or ride my bike on them. They shade the water and keep it cool.

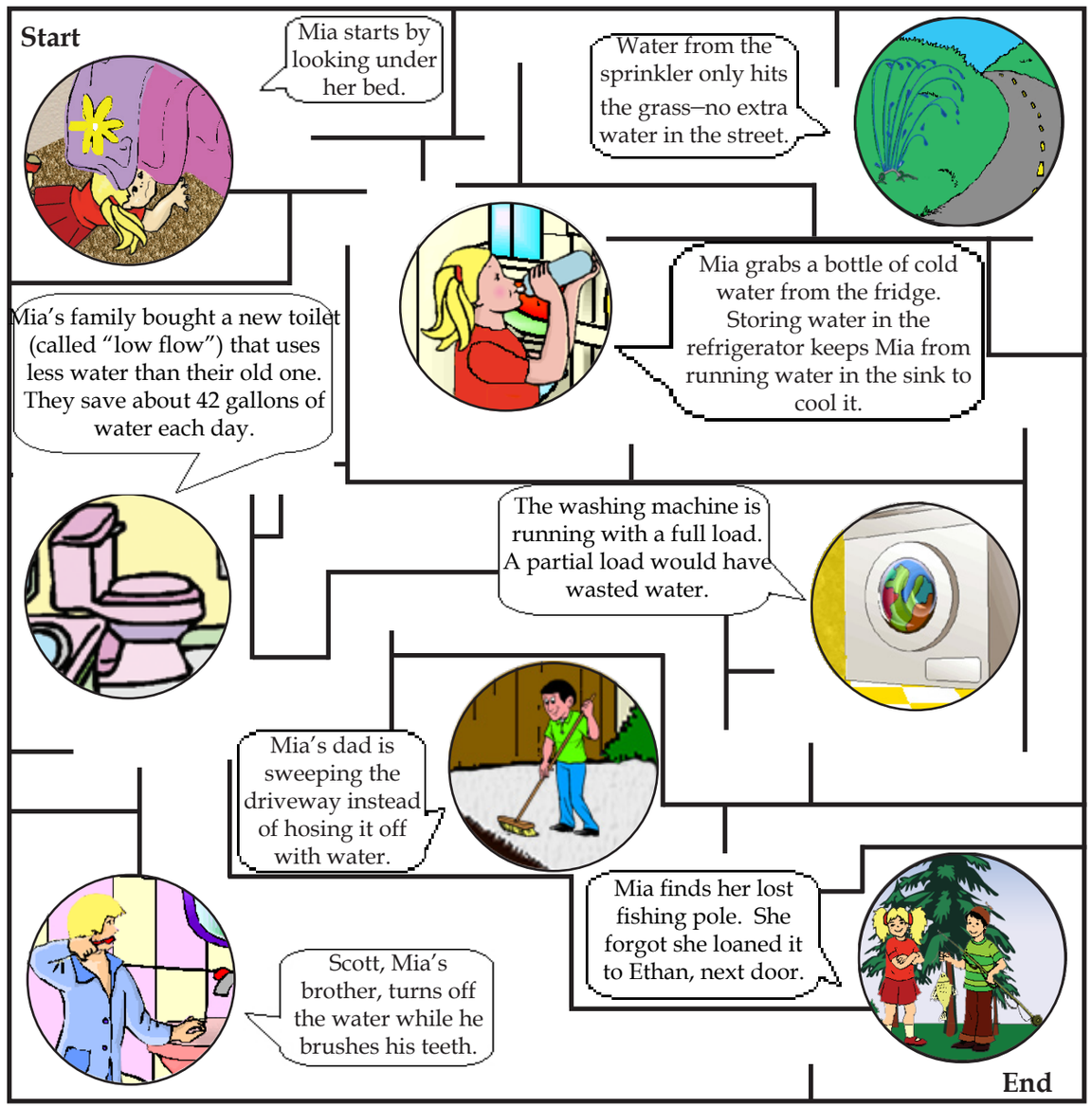
I can ask Dad and Mom to be careful not to use more fertilizer than the lawn needs. I know it can wash into the creek!

I can pour my leftover pop into the sink. I won't pour stuff into streams, onto the ground, or into storm drains.

I can use a garbage can or recycling bin. I can pick up after other people, too!

Never drink water directly from a river or lake, no matter how clean it looks.

Why Conserve Water? Can I Help?

Everyone uses water. Even though we see water everywhere, and even more is under ground (called "ground water") that we can't see, water is often in short supply. Only using as much water as we need makes the most of the water we have.

Mia lost her fishing pole. Help her find it and look for things that conserve water along the way.