

"Do you think these water saving tips our teachers gave us will work?"

"I don't know, but we have to try."

"I bet other people don't even realize how much water they're wasting."

"I bet our families could be wasting water without even knowing."

"My family is doing everything we can to conserve."

"I bet your family wastes more than mine."

"I bet they don't."

"Alright, let's see who can save the most."

"You're on."

Be Water Smart:

"I need to know if and how we are wasting water. The situation is worse than I thought. I'm going to need some help. Mikey, I've called you here for a very important mission. We are having a drought and we can't afford to waste water."

"What can I do?"

"I need you to help me find ways to save water."

"Alright! I will be the water police."

"It's time for this family to conserve - conserve - conserve."

"I think we are doing everything we can to save water. Boy! Was I wrong! This family has a lot to learn about saving water."

"Dad, you can't let the water run while you are brushing your teeth. You are wasting up to 4 gallons of water so, turn it off."

"What?"

"Turn it off!"

"Okay, it's off."

"One water wasting ticket."

"Hey! What happened?"

"Mom, you are wasting 18 gallons every minute by leaving that hose on."

"Okay Cameron, why don't we turn it on and just let me hose down the driveway."

"No! Stop!"

"Stop! Dad, you can't run the dishwasher when it isn't full. You'll waste up to 4 gallons of water."

"Sorry honey I didn't realize."

"Another water wasting ticket and turn off that faucet."

"You will save 80 gallons of water if you use a broom instead of the hose to clean the driveway."

"You are right."

"And put a turn off nozzle on the hose so it won't waste water when you are not using it."

"Is that faucet leaking?"

"Yes, yes it is."

"That wastes up to 20 gallons a day; another waste of water."

"Not good - not good."

"What is it now Cameron!"

"There is 20 gallons down the drain. Sprinklers are supposed to water the plants, not the sidewalk."

"What has gotten into you?"

"We are in the middle of a drought; we can't afford to waste water."

"You are right; let's adjust those sprinklers then."

"Thank you, mom."

"Dad you can't wash only one shirt and one pair of socks."

"Why Not?"

"Because it wastes water."

"Does this mean another ticket from the water police?"

"Yup, for wasting 15 more gallons. This is a water saving load of laundry."

"I've never seen you two so excited about laundry before."

"We're trying to find new ways to save water."

"If we don't stop wasting, there won't be any left."

"I've installed low flow shower heads; we have low flow toilets. Isn't that enough?"

"NO, we have to do more."

"Because every little drop helps."

"What else?"

"You could take shorter showers and save 5 gallons."

"And you could fix that leaky bathroom faucet!"

"Done, now we're conserving water."

"That was easy."

"Just ducky."

"Just look at the water being wasted!"

"Cameron, the pool is full of water."

"Up to 30 gallons can evaporate every day. We need to use a pool cover."

"Okay, let's do it."

"Ohh"

"Wow, your teacher sure gave you some good information."

"Tomorrow, Jamie's dad is taking us to Quail Gardens. We are getting more information there."

"Really?"

"Yeah."

"How many gallons did your family save?"

"Hundreds - two hundred and fifty five to be exact."

"I didn't realize how much water we could save."

"Me neither. I bet there is still more ways to save."

"We are about to find out."

"Hi kids, welcome to Quail Botanical Gardens. How can I help you?"

"We're trying to find new ways to save water."

"Well, Quail Botanical Gardens have lots of ideas on that and some may even surprise you."

"Plants on top of the house?"

"We have a house with plants on top but not just any plants; these are succulent plants and they use very little water."

"Let's see more."

"Common! Follow mw."

"This is an interesting tree here. This is a tree from Asia and it's called Rose Apple and it is not in fruit right now but their fruits smell just like roses. What do you notice about the garden?"

"I don't see very much grass."

"What you don't plant is just as important as what you do plant. Now grass is a very thirsty plant, so you can use plants that require less water. You can even use boulders and sculpture in your garden."

"Of course! They don't require any water."

"Are you writing this down?"

"Yes, I am."

"Or, you can use fake grass."

"It tickles like real grass."

"How you water is as important as what you water."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, come on! I will show you."

"Wait up."

"Wow, look at that."

"It smells good."

"You see this? And that's how it works. This is a low flow emitter. Low flow emitters and drip irrigations are great ways to save water."

"Water not, waste not."

"Right."

"Eliminate one irrigation cycle. Fix broken sprinkler heads. Reduce the time you water. Plants in containers are good candidates for drip

irrigation or hand water. Both methods are a good way to control water use."

"It saves water and money."

"Did you get all of that?"

"I got it! I got it."

"All those plants and flowers must take a lot of water."

"Actually, no, these plants all adapted to use very little water and you can use them to replace your thirsty plants at home."

"My mom can save gallons of water by planting these."

"And you know there are more varieties than you realize, and they are available at your local nurseries."

"Rosemary, Aeonium, Sweet Lavender, Dusty Miler. Are you writing this down?" "

"I'm writing - I'm writing."

"Wouldn't these look great in our backyard, Mikey?"

"What is this stuff?"

"Mikey! Don't touch that."

"It's okay, this is just mulch."

"Ewww!"

"Mulch is just wood chips and organic material. It's really good."

"How does mulch help save water?"

"Well, if you spread it around your trees and shrubs, it conserves the moisture in the ground and that means..."

"Less water."

"I like mulch! Mulch, mulch, mulch, mulch. Hey guys! Wait up."

"And you can see how we use mulch here to conserve water amongst all these plants. In fact we use big - big containers of mulch that we spread in here just so we can be more conservative of the water."

"Name that flower?"

"Orchid Cactus."

"Okay and this one?"

"Gaillardia

"Try this one?"

"Epidendrum Orchid."

"Can you do this one?"

"Lion's tail. Too easy."

"Next, Verbena."

"Perfect."

"I know."

"I hope what you learned here today at Quail Botanical Gardens helps you."

"It surely will."

"I can't wait to tell dad."

"And I got my notes."

"THANK YOU!"

"One water conservation reward ticket."

"Mikey, thanks."

"So what did you guys learn today?"

"We need less lawn, plants that don't take as much water, and mulch."

"Less lawn! Less mowing, I like that!"

"You can also dripping irrigation and low flow emitters."

"Why don't we just plant fake grass?"

"Plant fake grass?"

"Ah, let's just go home."

"You can also learn more about beautiful water saving landscapes at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College. It's a cool place that offers water saving classes, tours, and more."

"Leaking toilets waste up to 30 gallons a day. Did you get that?"

"To track leaks, put few drops of food coloring into your tank."

"Wait 15 minutes."

"If water in the bowl changes color, you have leak and a problem."

"Think about this, when taking a bath, fill the tub half full, you will save 20 gallons."

"Trash in the trash can. Not the toilet."

"All these changes really save water."

"And saves money."

"So then you can buy me ice-cream."

"Water is precious."

"Be water smart."

"Please! Don't waste it."