

## Description of Water Users

In addition to the descriptions listed below, students may research a specific water user during the week prior to this activity.

### **Agriculture: Water is used to produce food and fiber for processing and consumption.**

Sugar cane grower: Uses water to irrigate crops and transport chemicals (pesticides and fertilizers) to crops.

Cattle rancher: Uses water to grow food and provide drinking water for cattle, and to clean their areas for living and feeding, transporting waste to holding ponds.

Fish farmer: Uses water to raise fish to maturity in rearing ponds, and to carry waste from the ponds.

Wheat farmer: Uses water to irrigate crops.

Dairy farmer: Uses water to grow food and provide drinking water for cows, and to sanitize milking equipment and stalls.

### **Mining: Water is used in the extraction process of raw materials (coal, iron, gold, copper, sand, and gravel).**

Miner: Uses water to carry and wash rock material during the mineral removal processes.

Sand and gravel company: Uses water to wash fine soil and rock material out of sand and gravel formations. Sand and gravel are used in cement and road construction.

### **Logging: Water is used to grow and harvest trees.**

Forest manager: Uses water to support tree growth and control fires.

Logging company: Uses water to float rafts of logs (on rivers and lakes) to collection points.

### **Transporting/Shipping: Water (rivers, seas, oceans) is used to transport raw materials and finished products to points of distribution (ports).**

Slurry pipeline owner: Uses water to transport pulverized coal through pipelines to distant coal-fired power plants.

Ship's crew: Uses water to haul raw materials (e.g., logs, oil, gas, wheat) and finished products (e.g., automobiles, appliances, processed food) to points of transfer.

### **Business/Industry: Water is used in the processing and manufacturing of goods (cars, food, medical supplies, etc.).**

Steel producer: Uses large volumes of water to process iron ore into steel.

Textile manufacturer: Uses water to wash and process raw materials (e.g., wool, cotton, mohair). Dye is mixed with water to color fabric.

Soft drink company: Uses water to produce soft drinks and to sanitize equipment.

Paper mill: Uses water to transport pulp fibers for paper making and to carry away waste.

Chemical manufacturer: Uses water in the production of pesticides and fertilizers.



**Wildlife: Water provides habitat for countless plant and animal species.**

Mammals: Beavers, muskrats, and otters live in and near waterways.

Fish: Trout, salmon, and carp live in water and eat organisms that live in water.

Insects: Aquatic insects are a food source for many other organisms.

Vegetation: Trees and other plants use water in photosynthesis and to transport nutrients.

**Recreation: People recreate in and around water for exercise and enjoyment.**

Cruise ship: People travel to many parts of the world in cruise ships .

Fishing: People catch fish in rivers, lakes, and oceans.

Water theme park: Uses water to transport people on exciting and fun rides.

Scuba diver: People enjoy exploring underwater environments.

Winter sports: Snow and ice provide fun for skaters, skiers, and sledders.

**Power Generation: Water is used to generate electricity.**

Hydropower plant: Water flowing in rivers is stored behind dams in reservoirs. As water is released by the dam, it turns turbines that generate electricity.

Nuclear power plant: Uses water in cooling towers to maintain safe operating temperatures.

Coal-fired power plant: Burning coal produces steam heat that turns turbines, creating electricity.

**Community: Water is used by community members for domestic, maintenance, and recreational purposes.**

Domestic users: Water is used in a multitude of ways in and around the home.

Fire department: Uses water to extinguish fires.

Street cleaner: Uses water to wash oil, litter, and other materials from streets.

Restaurant owner: Uses water to cook meals, clean the kitchen, wash tables and floor, and water lawns.

Park: Uses water in fountains and reflecting ponds and for landscaping needs.

