



MANZI'S NEWS



A Newsletter for Manzi's Buddies

December 2017

Water as a Resource

Hi Friends,

Did you know that the Earth offers us many resources that help us live? Water is one of them. I am sure you are asking yourselves, what is a resource? Well a resource is a material found in nature that is used by living things. There are two types of resources: *renewable* resources and *non-renewable* resources. Renewable resources can be replaced or grown back, such as plants, animals, soil, air and water. Non-renewable resources cannot be replaced and have taken millions of years to form, and some may take a long time to form again, such as coal, natural gas and oil.

Even though water is a renewable resource it can't be created nor destroyed. We are using the same water that was used by the dinosaurs millions of years ago. There is no guarantee that enough rainfall will be received every season. Sometimes lots of rainfall is experienced and there are floods, or sometimes drought is experienced, depending on the changing climatic conditions. South Africa is a semi-arid country which means it is dry. Also not the whole country receives an equal amount of rainfall.

Last year the Gauteng Province suffered a drought and the Vaal Dam level was very low. Luckily, lots and lots of rainfall was received and the Vaal Dam could continue to provide water. At the moment Cape Town is struggling and going through what Gauteng went through. Sadly, there has not been enough rainfall. Good rains are needed to fill up their dams, but Cape Town only receives good rains in winter. Water restrictions have been introduced by the municipalities. This is to make sure that the municipalities can provide clean water for all in need. Even though Gauteng received such good rains in the province water restrictions are still in place. Plants and animals, including humans, need water to live and a lot of water is used in summer. Rand Water has to pump a lot of water to meet the demand for water. Also when it gets very hot, evaporation is very high and our dam levels might become less again.

I am sure you are asking yourselves what are water restrictions and what must I do to make sure that I am sticking to them?

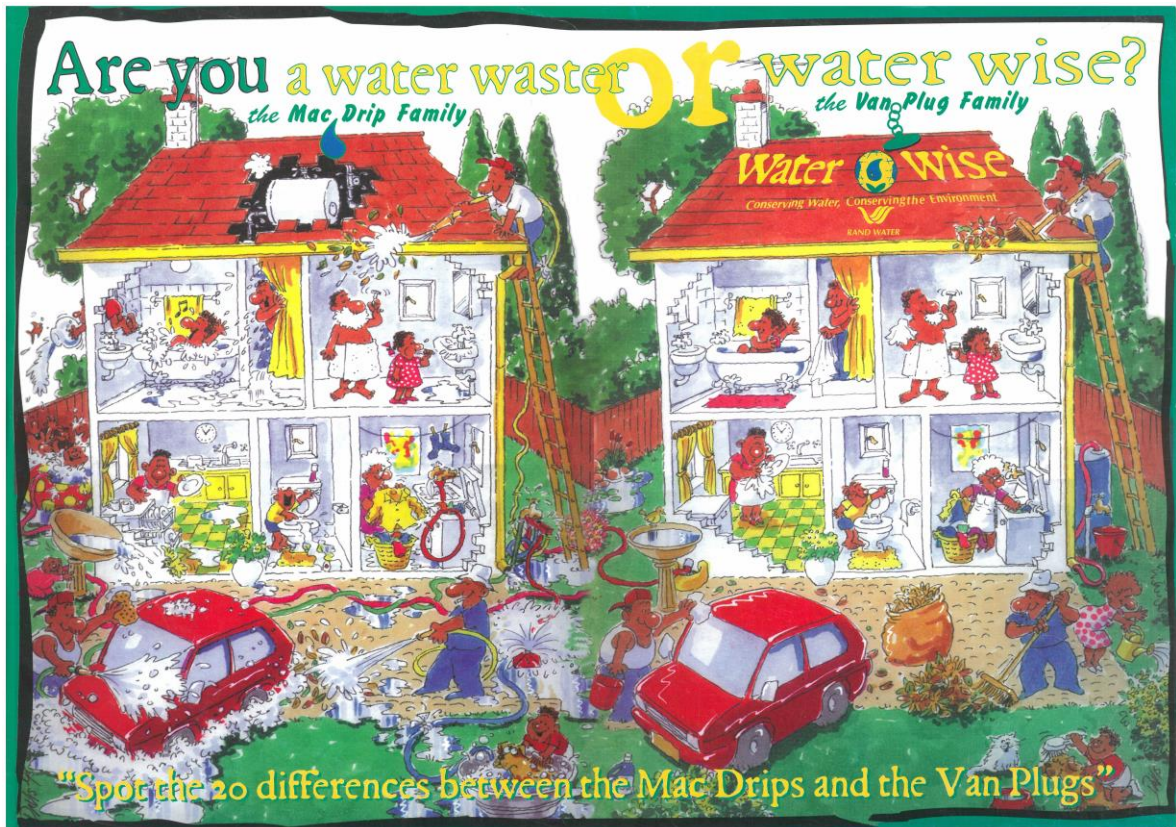
Well water restrictions are limitations on how water is used. They are introduced when water is scarce in the natural environment. This is to make sure that water is used wisely. These restrictions are divided into levels:

Water Level Restrictions	Explanation
Level 1	Is a call to everyone to use water wisely.
Level 2	No use of water between 6am until 6pm. Do not fill up swimming pools Do not wash cars and paving with a hose pipe.
Level 3	Water is available only during specific times of the day and not all day.
Level 4	No sprinklers and water features. No washing cars No watering gardens. No cleaning of paving with tap water. Use grey water. A person is only allowed 100 litres per day.
Level 5	Don't use municipal tap water for any outdoor activities. Tap water can only be used for important activities inside the house. A home must not exceed 20 kilolitres of water per month otherwise they will be fined.
Level 6	Don't use municipal tap water for any outdoor activities, i.e. watering/irrigation of gardens, filling swimming pools, washing vehicles, washing paving, fountains, water features, etc. The use of borehole water for outdoor use is strongly discouraged to preserve groundwater resources. Borehole water should rather be used for toilet flushing. Customers are strongly encouraged to install water efficient parts, fittings and technologies. All residents are required to use no more than 87.5 litres of municipal drinking water per person per day in total irrespective of whether they are at home, work or elsewhere.



- Level 4 and 5 are only put in place when dam levels are very low. The City of Cape Town is at level 5. Level 6 will be effective on 1 January 2018.
- Please find out from your local municipality which restrictions are in place in your area.
- The more water that you use the more money that your parents/guardians will pay, and the less money there is for the pleasures of life.

ACTIVITY



Can you spot the 20 difference between the Mac Drips and the Van Plug families?

- Which family will you like to belong to?
- Which water wasting activities are you guilty of?
- Which activities are you promising to do and not do?

I hope that you are thinking of ways to use this precious resource wisely; a resource that all life on Earth depends on. We are so privileged that we get easy access to water by just turning on the tap, while others have to work hard or even travel far to get water. Regardless of whether we are in the city or the rural areas we can't deny that water is a very precious resource. Without water there is no life. We must conserve it. To conserve means to take care of it so that it lasts longer and provides for us. Enjoy your holidays and have lots of fun but remember to stick to the water restrictions. Treat water as a precious resource. Be Water Wise!

Until we meet again next year.

Lots of Love
Manzi



References:

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- Grade 4 Social Sciences/Geography resources
- www.capetownetc.com/news/level-6-water-restrictions