

## Water Conservation

Student Directions Day 1

Today, you are going to get ready to write an informative essay to answer this question:

**What can you do to save water?**

### Day 1 *Get ready to write.*

- Watch the video, *Water Conservation Tips*.
- Discuss this question briefly with your class: Why is it important to save water?
- Listen to the article: *Save our Water!* carefully. You may want to take notes for your essay on the article as you read.
- What can you do to save water? Turn and talk to a partner about what you could do. You each have three minutes to explain what you would do and why.
- On a piece of lined paper, write your name and grade, the date, the name of your school and your state, and your teacher's name. You will use this paper tomorrow for writing.

## Water Conservation

Student Directions Day 2

Today, you are going to use what you have learned to write an informative essay to answer this question: **What can you do to save water?**

### Day 2 *Write!*

- Listen to *Save our Water!* again. Read along as you listen.
- When you have finished, write an informative essay explaining what you can do to save water.
- Your focusing question for this assignment is
  - **What can you do to save water?**
  - Be sure to use facts and examples from the article. Explain how doing these things will save water.

### Remember, a good informative essay:

- *Has an introduction*
- *Has a clear focus/topic*
- *Uses specific facts and examples from the text(s) to support the focus and explain your thinking*
- *Groups ideas in paragraphs*
- *Has a conclusion*
- *Uses precise language and linking words to connect ideas*
- *Has correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation*

When you have finished, be sure to check your work and fix any mistakes you find.

We look forward to reading your good writing and thinking!

## Grade 4 - Informative/Explanatory Writing Prompt

### Teacher Directions

- Use the student prompt as directions for each session. The short video can be found on YouTube: Water conservation tips-How to conserve water at home <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MDLpVHY8LE>. The video is recommended, but is optional.
- Provide each student with a copy of the prompt and the article. The article should be read aloud while students read along silently. The teacher should feel comfortable rereading, explaining or clarifying as needed.
- The article provides information needed to address the prompt and should be read aloud at least twice before writing. Encourage students to refer back to the article while writing and to take notes.
- The prompt should be given in two sessions. Allow approximately 45 minutes for each, but the prompt should not be strictly timed. Students should be given the time needed to write and proofread.
- The writing must be done without help, but students may have access to personal dictionaries, or any other resources to support spelling and mechanics that they are accustomed to using while writing. Provide lined paper from your classroom for writing.
- This will be first draft writing, but encourage students to proofread and correct any errors they find.

Name:

## Save Our Water!

Did you know that kids can make a very important difference in saving the earth's water? They can! But first off, why do we even need to save water?

Water is a natural resource that we get from the Earth. Without it, we would not be able to live! Imagine a world with no water at all. You wouldn't be able to drink it, bathe, or swim! Without clean water, plants, animals, birds and ocean life would also be unable to live. Kids can help protect this resource. You make a huge difference simply by starting at home. To get an idea of how much water we could save if we all made a small effort, think about this. What if every person across the nation flushed their toilets one time less every day? Together they could save enough water to fill a lake as large as a mile wide and long and four feet in depth!

Now you know how important it is to help save water. Try some of the ideas below. Start doing your part to change our world!

### Some Ways Kids Can Help to Save Water:

- When you wash your hands, don't leave the water running. Wet your hands and turn the water off. Use soap and lather your hands well. Then turn the water on to rinse. Turn off the water and make sure it is off completely. Then dry your hands.
- Do the same when you brush your teeth. Turn the faucet on to get your toothbrush and toothpaste wet. Turn it on again to rinse your mouth and toothbrush. Don't leave the water running while you're brushing.
- Baths use a lot of water (about 37 gallons on average). Take short showers, and use only about 20 gallons of water, instead.
- Do you have plants in your house? When vegetables or other fresh produce are washed, collect that water and use it to water the plants.
- Do you like a drink of cold water now and then? Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator. That way you don't have to run the water to get it cold.

- Put a barrel outdoors to catch rain water. Then use that water for things like watering plants or flushing toilets. You can save hundreds of gallons of water a year!
- In the summertime, it's fun to play under the lawn sprinkler. When you do, make sure it's only when the lawn is being watered.
- Remind the others in your home, and your friends, not to leave any faucet running. Only use what is truly needed!
- Is there a leaky faucet or toilet in the bathroom at school? Be sure to let someone know so that it can be repaired.

Even if you do just one thing each day to contribute to your home's water conservation, you're doing the right thing!

Adapted from *Water Conservation for Kids*

TheWaterPage.com

<http://www.thewaterpage.com/water-conservation-kids.htm>

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**File Name: I4P Conserving Water**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 4**

**On-Demand Writing, Uniform Prompt**

### **Conserving Water**

Conserving water is a great way to help the earth. Without our water, plants, humans, and animals, would not be able to live. We need to save water because we will eventually run out of it. Then we will have to use and drink saltwater. It is extremely expensive to filter salt water. This why we need save water. What can you do to save water?

**Introduces the topic by clearly explaining the importance of water and posing a focusing question**

One way you can save water is by getting a rain barrel. Rain barrels collect water so that you can water your plants with recycled water. Recycled water is better for plants because it is more natural. Recycled water also have good nutrients.

**Links ideas within categories of information using words and phrases**

Another way you can save water is by getting an airrating facet and shower head. These items use less water but make it feels the same because of more pressure. One more way you can save water is when you go in the sprinklers in the summer, make sure it is in a spot where it is watering the lawn.

**Develops the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, and examples related to the topic**

One ways my family saves water is by turning off the water when you brush your teeth. Water is the most important natural resorce of all

**Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to explain the topic**

with out water, we would die. If we ran out of water, as I said, we would die. So if you think dieing is bad, try to conserve water as best you can.

**Provides a concluding section related to the explanation presented**

This fourth-grade piece begins with an introduction that provides important context by explaining the importance of water to living things and the danger of running out. The focus of the piece is clearly established with a question: *“What can you do to save water?”*

Related information is organized into well-developed paragraphs. The second paragraph, for example, is about the benefits of collecting water in rain barrels. This idea is elaborated upon with concrete details from the source (*“you can water your plants”*) and explanation (*“recycled water is better for plants because it is more naturail”*). Linking words and phrases (*“one way”, “so”, “because”, “also”*) knit together the related ideas in this paragraph.

Throughout the piece, precise words (*“eventuly”, “extremly”, “pressure”*) and domain-specific vocabulary (*“nutrients”, “airrating”, “conserve”, “natural resorce”*) convey ideas effectively. Although worded a bit clumsily, the conclusion presents a logical and connected sequence of thought that leads the reader back to the focus of the piece (water is important; without it we would die; therefore, you should *“try to conserve water as best you can”*).

**File Name: I4P Conserving Water**

**Informational/Explanatory**

**Grade 4**

**Revised and Edited for Student Use**

### **Conserving Water**

Conserving water is a great way to help the Earth. Plants, humans, and animals would not be able to live without our water. We need to save water because we will eventually run out of it. Then we will have to use and drink salt water. It is extremely expensive to filter salt water. This is why we need save water. What can you do to save water?

One way you can save water is by getting a rain barrel. Rain barrels collect water so that you can water your plants with recycled water. Recycled water is better for plants because it is more natural. Recycled water also has good nutrients.

Another way you can save water is by getting an aerating faucet and showerhead. These items use less water but make it feel the same because they have more pressure. One more way you can save water is to make sure sprinklers are placed where they are watering the lawn in the summer.

One way my family saves water is by turning off the water when we brush our teeth. Water is the most important natural resource of all. Without water, we would die. If we ran out of water, as I said, we would die. So if you think dying is bad, try to conserve water as best you can.



**File Name: I4P Conserving Water**

**Informational/Explanatory**

**Grade 4**

**On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt**

### **Conserving Water**

Conserving water is a great way to help the earth. Without our water, plants, humans, and animals, would not be able to live. We need to save water because we will eventually run out of it. Then we will have to use and drink saltwater. It is extremely expensive to filter salt water. This why we need save water. What can you do to save water?

One way you can save water is by getting a rain barrel. Rain barrels collect water so that you can water your plants with recycled water. Recycled water is better for plants because it is more natural. Recycled water also have good nutrients.

Another way you can save water is by getting an airrating facet and shower head. These items use less water but make it feels the same because of more pressure. One more way you can save water is when you go in the sprinklers in the summer, make sure it is in a spot where it is watering the lawn.

One ways my family saves water is by turning off the water when you brush your teeth. Water is the most important natural resorce of all

with out water, we would die. If we ran out of water, as I said, we would die. So if you think dieing is bad, try to conserve water as best you can.

**File Name: I4R Best Friends**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 4**

**Range of Writing**

### **Best Friends**

*“It’s not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer. Charlotte was both.”*

Charlotte’s Web (p. 184)

The book Charlotte’s Web by E. B. White is a story about an endearing pig named Wilbur. He is desperately trying not to die. He meets a nice friend named Charlotte. She is a spider that weaves words into her web to save Wilbur from dying. She keeps weaving to make the Zuckermans believe that Wilbur is “Some Pig”, “Terrific”, “Radiant”, and “Humble”.

Charlotte the spider proves to be both a good writer and a true friend to Wilbur.

The focus of the piece is made clear both here and in the opening quotation.

When Charlotte writes she focuses day and night to make it right. For example, on Fair night down in the barn cellar all the animals were asleep except Charlotte. She was busy writing the word “Humble” in her web

**Introduces the topic clearly: includes the title and author of the book and provides a brief introduction to its main characters and central problem.**

**Groups related information in paragraphs**

because it described Wilbur perfectly. Wilbur is low to the ground and not proud of himself.

Charlotte was a good writer, no doubt about it but she was also a true friend to the little pig. Charlotte was one of the most caring friends you could have for a long time. One way she was caring was when Wilbur was tired of being terrific all day. Charlotte sang him a lullaby. Another example is that she calmed Wilbur down when he was scared. Wilbur was devastated when he found out he was going to die and Charlotte said, “You shall not die I shall save you”. She was so caring to Wilbur forever.

**Uses precise language to inform about the topic**

Charlotte was also a true friend, helping Wilbur when he was in trouble. For example in her web, “She neatly wrote the word Terrific.” She doubled the letters so that they would have the best effect. Another example of how Charlotte helped Wilbur is that “Charlotte wrote the word Radiant”. She knew it would make people think that Wilbur was radiant. One day “Neatly woven in block letters was the word “Some Pig”. Charlotte had woven it into her web. This was Charlotte’s plan to convince the Zuckermans that they did not want to kill Wilbur. Charlotte helped Wilbur alot when he was in trouble.

**Links ideas within categories of information using words and phrases**

**Develops the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic**

Charlotte was the best friend Wilbur ever had. Charlotte was both a true friend to Wilbur and a good writer. She made Wilbur the best known pig in the state!

**Provides a concluding section related to the information presented, restating the focus and reflecting on its significance.**

In this assignment, students were asked to explain the quotation repeated at the top of the essay. This student used the quotation to introduce the writing and clarify the focus of the piece. The introduction does not assume that the reader knows the assignment or has read the book; it provides some background information to help orient the reader and establish the purpose for the piece. The writer thereby shows a high level of audience awareness.

The essay is well-organized into an introduction, body, and conclusion, with related information grouped into paragraphs. Linking words and phrases (“*also*”, “*for example*”, “*another*”) connect ideas within each paragraph, and precise words (“*devastated*”, “*desperately*”) help the reader better understand the information and ideas presented.

The focus is well-maintained, and points are developed with evidence from the text. Specific examples of things Charlotte does to show she is a true friend and a good writer are provided throughout the piece. These examples are not just listed: the examples are elaborated on and clarified with explanations, quotations, and definitions. The writer overuses quotations a bit and sometimes awkwardly integrates them into the essay, but this is typical of students experimenting with a new skill.

This fourth-grade informative/explanatory piece is a good example of how students can both build and communicate a deep understanding of a text through writing.

**File Name: I4 Best Friends**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 4**

**Revised and Edited for Student Use**

### **Best Friends**

“It’s not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer. Charlotte was both.”

*Charlotte’s Web* (p. 184)

The book Charlotte’s Web, by E. B. White, is a story about an endearing pig named Wilbur. He is desperately trying not to die. He meets a nice friend named Charlotte. She is a spider that weaves words into her web to save Wilbur from dying. She keeps weaving to make the Zuckermans believe that Wilbur is “Some Pig,” “Terrific,” “Radiant,” and “Humble.” Charlotte the spider proves to be both a good writer and a true friend to Wilbur.

When Charlotte writes, she focuses day and night to make it right. For example, on fair night, down in the barn cellar, all the animals were asleep except Charlotte. She was busy writing the word “Humble” in her web because it described Wilbur perfectly. Wilbur is low to the ground and not proud of himself.

Charlotte was a good writer, no doubt about it, but she was also a true friend to the little pig. Charlotte was one of the most caring friends you could have for a long time. One way she was caring was when Wilbur was tired of being terrific all day. Charlotte sang him a lullaby. Another example is that she calmed Wilbur down when he was scared. Wilbur was devastated when he found out he was going to die and Charlotte said, “You shall not die. I shall save you.” She was so caring to Wilbur forever.

Charlotte was also a true friend, helping Wilbur when he was in trouble. For example, in her web, “she neatly wrote the word Terrific.” She doubled the letters so that they would have the best effect. Another example of how Charlotte helped Wilbur is that “Charlotte wrote the word Radiant.” She knew it would make people think that Wilbur was radiant. One day, “Neatly woven in block letters was the word ‘Some Pig.’” Charlotte had woven it into her web. This was Charlotte’s plan to convince the Zuckermans that they did not want to kill Wilbur. Charlotte helped Wilbur a lot when he was in trouble.

Charlotte was the best friend Wilbur ever had. Charlotte was both a true friend to Wilbur and a good writer. She made Wilbur the best-known pig in the state!

**File Name: I4R Best Friends**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 4**

**Range of Writing**

### **Best Friends**

*“It’s not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer. Charlotte was both.”* Charlotte’s Web (p. 184)

The book Charlotte’s Web by E. B. White is a story about an endearing pig named Wilbur. He is desperately trying not to die. He meets a nice friend named Charlotte. She is a spider that weaves words into her web to save Wilbur from dying. She keeps weaving to make the Zuckermans believe that Wilbur is “Some Pig”, “Terrific”, “Radiant”, and “Humble”. Charlotte the spider proves to be both a good writer and a true friend to Wilbur.

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Charlotte was a good writer, no doubt about it but she was also a true friend to the little pig.

Charlotte was one of the most caring friends you could have for a long time. One way she was caring was when Wilbur was tired of being terrific all day. Charlotte sang him a lullaby.

Another example is that she calmed Wilbur down when he was scared. Wilbur was devastated when he found out he was going to die and Charlotte said, "You shall not die I shall save you". She was so caring to Wilbur forever.

Charlotte was also a true friend, helping Wilbur when he was in trouble. For example in her web, "She neatly wrote the word Terrific." She doubled the letters so that they would have the best effect. Another example of how Charlotte helped Wilbur is that "Charlotte wrote the word Radiant". She knew it would make people think that Wilbur was radiant. One day "Neatly woven in block letters was the word "Some Pig". Charlotte had woven it into her web. This was Charlotte's plan to convince the Zuckermans that they did not want to kill Wilbur. Charlotte helped Wilbur alot when he was in trouble.

Charlotte was the best friend Wilbur ever had. Charlotte was both a true friend to Wilbur and a good writer. She made Wilbur the best known pig in the state!

**File Name: I4R Ecotourism**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 4**

**Range of Writing**

*It's vacation time!!! Rey and his family are working as ecotourist. Their job is looking after turtle eggs. Rey and his family are working with biologists. When Rey and a biologist were on "turtle patrol" Rey found a nest and brought the eggs that were in it back to camp.*

Ecotourism can have bad and good effects. In keeping the balance ecotourism is described as something more complicated than it actually is. Ecotourism is really when tourists go to a country to see its wildlife. Ecotourism can help people understand wildlife but it can also harm it. This is a serious problem but there are some solutions.

Ecotourism can really ruin things. If ecotourists disturb wildlife they might wreck the ecosystem. Ecotourism can destroy plants and natural habitats. For example ecotourists might trample plants and/or scare animals and/or leave garbage everywhere. Ecotourists need lodging (Hotels and resorts) and bathrooms. These harm the environment by polluting water and destroying forests which the ecotourists would otherwise be looking at. Generally ecotourism is supposed to focus on personal growth and environmental responsibility, but mostly it doesn't.

But there is some hope. If everybody puts their heads together we can think up some ways to improve ecotourism, environmentally. All we really need is a few ideas to "spark" the brain storm, so here they are.

One thing we could do is just prevent ecotourism altogether. But then people might forget how to value and treat nature respectfully. Another thing we could do is set some lower limits than there are at the moment for ecotourism. Something else we could do is decrease the number of ecotourists to a small average.

**Introduces the topic clearly with a short narrative lead and a definition to help the reader understand what ecotourism is.**

**States a clear focus**

**Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to explain the topic.**

**Groups related information in paragraphs**

**Links ideas within categories of information using words and phrases**

Another good solution is to make pathways and trams and things to keep ecotourists at a distance from wildlife. One more thing we can do to improve ecotourism is to have a class on how to treat the flora and fauna. Those are just 4 things we could do improve ecotourism.

**Develops the topic with concrete details and examples related to the topic.**

I think those are all the "sparks" we need. I hope these "sparks" light up peoples understanding of ecotourism.

**Provides a concluding statement related to the information presented.**

This focused, informative piece explores the issue of ecotourism. The writer introduces the topic with a short narrative lead that helps the reader to understand ecotourism, and follows with a definition of ecotourism and a clear focus statement (*"This is a serious problem but there are some solutions."*). Although the focus statement establishes the problem-solution structure of the piece, formatting would have been helpful. Italicizing the narrative lead and adding subheads to clearly delineate the problem and solution parts of the essay would have supported the reader in understanding both its purpose and structure.

Throughout the piece, precise language (*"respectfully"*, *"lower limits"*) and domain-specific vocabulary (*"ecosystem"*, *"habitats"*, *"flora and fauna"*) convey information clearly. Linking words and phrases (*"if"*, *"one thing"*, *"another thing"*, *"but"*) connect information within and between categories of information.

Ideas are broadly organized by, first, discussing the problem and then proposing some solutions. Within these broader categories, related information is grouped in paragraphs. The topic is well-developed with concrete details (*"Another good solution is to make pathways and trams"*) and examples (*"For example ecotourists might trample plants"*). The concluding statement in this piece is a short, but effective play on words (*"I hope these 'sparks' light up peoples understanding of ecotourism."*)

**File Name: I4R Ecotourism**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 4**

**Revised and Edited for Student Use**

*It's vacation time!!! Rey and his family are working as ecotourists. Their job is looking after turtle eggs. Rey and his family are working with biologists. When Rey and a biologist were on "turtle patrol", Rey found a nest and brought the eggs that were in it back to camp.*

Ecotourism can have bad and good effects. In Keeping the Balance, ecotourism is described as something more complicated than it actually is. Ecotourism is really when tourists go to a country to see its wildlife. Ecotourism can help people understand wildlife but it can also harm it. This is a serious problem, but there are some solutions.

Ecotourism can really ruin things. If ecotourists disturb wildlife, they might wreck the ecosystem. Ecotourism can destroy plants and natural habitats. For example, ecotourists might trample plants and/or scare animals and/or leave garbage everywhere. Ecotourist need lodging (hotels and resorts) and bathrooms. These harm the environment by polluting water and destroying forests which the ecotourists would otherwise be looking at. Generally, ecotourism is supposed to focus on personal growth and environmental responsibility, but mostly it doesn't.

But there is some hope. If everybody puts their heads together we can think up some ways to improve ecotourism environmentally. All we really need is a few ideas to "spark" the brainstorm, so here they are. One thing we could do is just prevent ecotourism altogether. But then people might forget how to value and treat nature respectfully. Another thing we could do is set some lower limits than there are at the moment for ecotourism. Something else we could do is decrease the number of ecotourists to a small average.

Another good solution is to make pathways and trams and things to keep ecotourists at a distance from wildlife. One more thing we can do to improve ecotourism is to have a class on how to treat the flora and fauna. Those are just 4 things we could do improve ecotourism.

I think those are all the "sparks" we need. I hope these "sparks" light up people's understanding of ecotourism.

**File Name: I4R Ecotourism**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 4**

**Range of Writing**

*It's vacation time!!! Rey and his family are working as ecotourist. Their job is looking after turtle eggs. Rey and his family are working with biologists. When Rey and a biologist were on "turtle patrol" Rey found a nest and brought the eggs that were in it back to camp.*

Ecotourism can have bad and good effects. In keeping the balance ecotourism is described as something more complicated than it actually is. Ecotourism is really when tourists go to a country to see its wildlife. Ecotourism can help people understand wildlife but it can also harm it. This is a serious problem but there are some solutions.

Ecotourism can really ruin things. If ecotourists disturb wildlife they might wreck the ecosystem. Ecotourism can destroy plants and natural habitats. For example ecotourists might trample plants and/or scare animals and/or leave garbage everywhere. Ecotourists need lodging (Hotels and resorts) and bathrooms. These harm the environment by polluting water and destroying forests which the ecotourists would otherwise be looking at. Generally ecotourism is supposed to focus on personal growth and environmental responsibility, but mostly it doesn't.

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I think those are all the "sparks" we need. I hope these "sparks" light up peoples understanding of ecotourism.