

## Unit Conversion: Water Use

### Final Assignment Instructions

In this lesson, you have learned how to convert units of measurement. You have also thought about some of the reasons why conserving water is important. You will now write an essay that shares what you have learned and what you think about it. You will need a printout of your notes.

- Choose one of the topics below and **write** an essay.
- **Organize** your response so that it includes at least three supporting details that you have learned from the reading passage, video(s), and other materials in this lesson.
- **Use** at least three vocabulary words (or a form of the words) as part of your supporting details. For example, for the word *jump*, you could use *jumps*, *jumped*, or *jumping*.

### Essay Topics

1. You have learned how to convert cups to gallons, miles to feet, and hours to days. Think about the unit conversions shown in the lesson, and then answer the following questions:
  - Why do we need to learn how to convert units of measurement?
  - What rules do we use to do this?
  - List one example of when you might need to convert units of measurement in your daily life.
2. Do you know how much water you use every day? Look at the list of activities below:
  - Taking a shower:** 2.5 gallons per minute
  - Brushing teeth (leaving faucet running):** 1 gallon
  - Washing hands and face:** 1 gallon
  - Washing dishes (by hand):** 20 gallons/load
  - Washing dishes (by machine):** 10 gallons/load
  - Washing clothes (by machine):** 15 to 25 gallons/load
  - Flushing toilet:** Between 1.5 and 3 gallons per flush

Choose three or four activities that you do every day. Then answer the following questions:

- Based on the numbers above, how much water do you use every day? Explain how you calculated this number.
- What changes could you make in your routines to conserve at least 50 cups of water each day? (Remember: 16 cups = 1 gallon.)

- Would it be easy or hard to make these changes? Explain your opinion and write about how these changes would affect your daily routine.
3. Some old washing machines use up to 35 gallons of water per load. But new, high-efficiency washers use only about 15 gallons of water—and clean clothes just as well. Imagine that a new laundromat, a place where people can go to wash and dry their clothes, is being built in your neighborhood. This laundromat will have 20 washers. Write a letter that persuades the owner of the laundromat to use newer, high-efficiency washing machines instead of regular washers.

In your letter, include:

- An estimate of how much water he could save if each machine does 5 loads of laundry each day for a year.
- Information about why conserving water is important.
- A suggestion for a grand opening celebration, with water conservation as a theme.

## Vocabulary Words

calculate

conserve

convert

equivalent

ratio

unit of measurement