

About 70% of the Earth's surface is water but only a very small amount of that is fresh water. Most of it is salt water from the sea. All living things need water. Plants need water to grow – they get water through their roots which is then carried up their stems to their leaves. Once the plant has taken the water it needs, the rest of the water is turned into vapour and comes out of the leaves.

Fresh water is water found in ponds, lakes and rivers. It's different from sea water.



Vapour is tiny specks of water in the air, a bit like mist, which are too small to see.



Did you know?

In the summer when it is hot and sunny, a cow drinks about 250 litres of water a day.

Animals and humans need water too. Water keeps you hydrated and healthy – humans should drink about two litres of water every day. Although humans could last about three weeks without food, they would die after only one week without water. Some of the water leaves the human body when people sweat and go to the toilet.

We use water for lots of things, not just drinking:

- to clean things, including the dishes, the car, our homes, our clothing and our bodies
- to grow and cook food
- even to make electricity!

Did you know?

The human body is about 60% water.

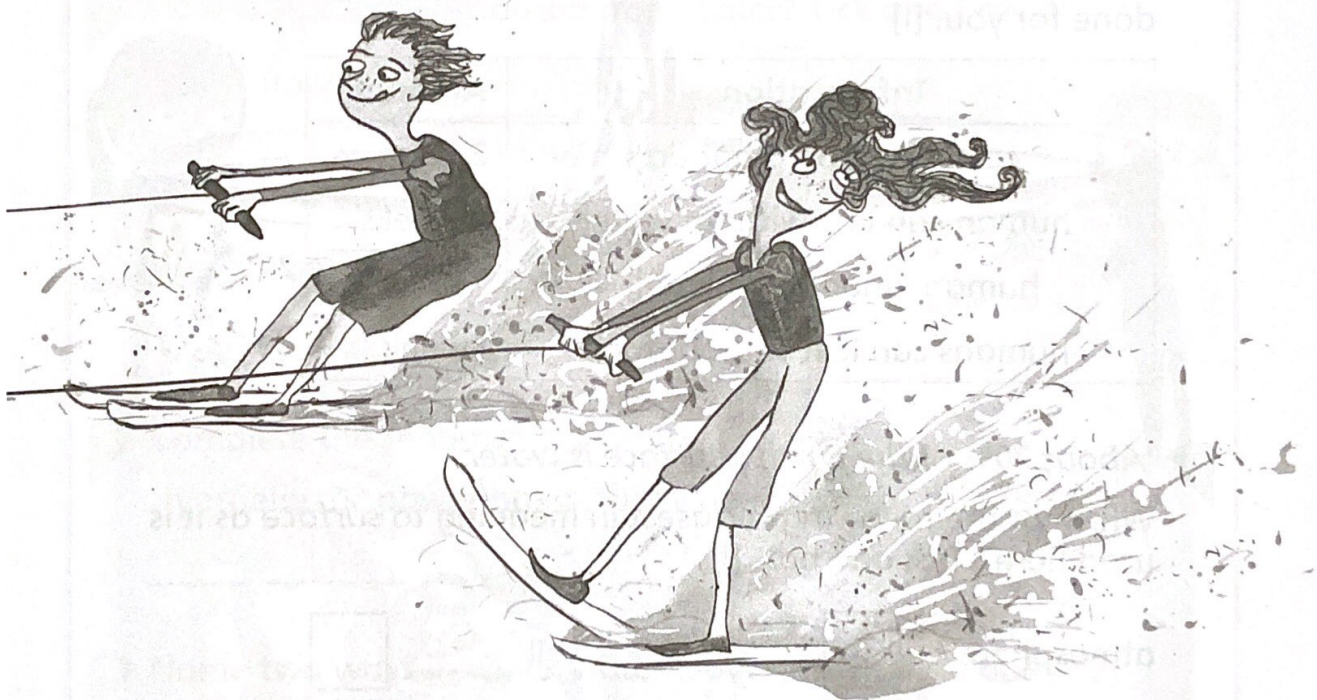
Did you know?

Water wheels have been used to make electricity for over 2,000 years.

Water Fact!

Hydroelectric power is when water is collected in dams and reservoirs and used to make electricity. The water flows through a pipe and pushes against the blades of a turbine which makes them spin. As they spin, electricity is created. We can use that power to light our homes, schools and businesses.

A *turbine* is a large, mechanical wheel with blades.

**Water Fact!**

Water can be fun, too! How would we go swimming, canoeing, fishing or water skiing without water?