

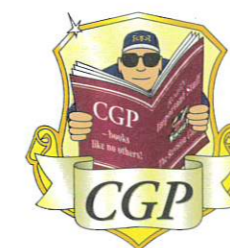
English
Key Stage 1

Set A
Reading Paper 2

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Reading Booklet

Water in Britain
Going on Safari



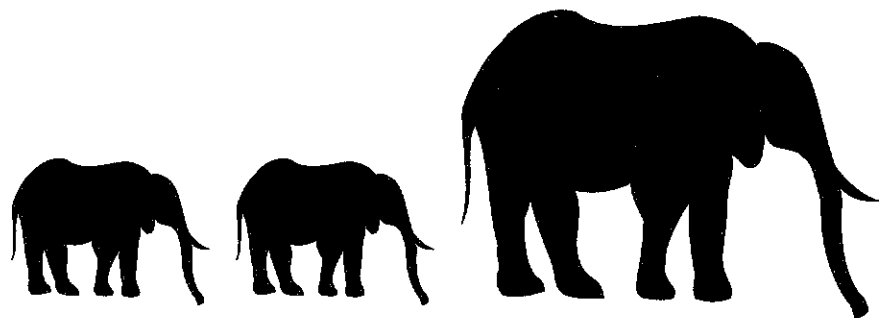
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The elephant called out towards the trees, and a line of elephants marched out from behind them. The first to appear was another large elephant. Holding on to her tail was a baby elephant. Helene counted four more calves as they walked past with their mothers.

After the elephants had passed, the guide carried on towards the watering hole. The group got close to the zebras they had seen earlier. Helene took a few more pictures of them, but she was still thinking about the elephants. She could see that, not too far away, the younger elephants were playing in the water. The parents watched carefully. As Helene and the others watched, the sun crept higher into the sky and the animals gradually began to leave the watering hole.

“I think it’s time we headed back,” said the guide. Helene didn’t want to leave. This had been the best experience of her life. The truck turned and began its journey back to the hotel. Helene held her camera tightly. She would always have her pictures to remind her of this brilliant trip.



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Water in Britain

Most people don't think about how much water they use. Each person in Britain uses about 150 litres of water a day — enough to fill around 455 drink cans!



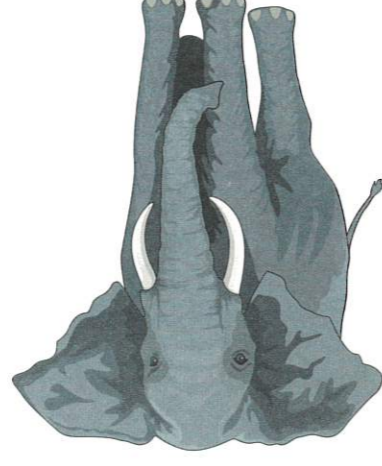
Why should people save water?

Most of the Earth's water is salt water found in the oceans and seas. This means that for every 100 litres of water on planet Earth, only 1 litre can be used for drinking and washing. So, as the amount of people in the world goes up, the amount of water for each person shrinks. The less water each person uses, the easier it is to prevent water shortages.

Just along from the stripy zebras, giraffes appeared. Helene couldn't believe how large they were in real life. Their necks stretched high into the sky and their legs carried on for miles in the other direction. Helene's mum laughed as they bent down to drink. Their staggering height and long legs made it difficult for them to reach the water. They had to spread their legs far apart to bend that far down. Helene always thought giraffes looked like they were going to fall over when they drank.

"We can try to get closer for a better look," said the guide. Helene was too excited to speak. Instead she just nodded eagerly. The truck circled the giant lake slowly, when suddenly it stopped.

Helene looked to the front of the truck and was amazed at what she saw. Ahead of them stood a huge elephant. It was looking straight at them. It flapped its grey, wrinkled ears and trumpeted loudly. A man sat behind Helene let out a small cry. As quietly as he could, the guide began moving the truck backwards. The elephant kept staring, and Helene held her breath. The group kept moving further and further backwards until the elephant turned away. Helene finally let her breath go with a loud sigh.



The truck bounced and creaked as it travelled along the bumpy track. The windows had been taken out of the back of the truck so you could see the animals better. Helene was sure she would be glad about that later, but for now she pulled her jacket closer around her.

After what seemed like forever — but what was really about twenty minutes — the truck slowed down and the group could see the watering hole up ahead. Helene gave her mum an excited grin.

As the sun rose, it showed a group of zebras drifting towards the water. They looked around nervously before they dropped their heads and had a drink. Helene grabbed the camera her uncle had bought her for her birthday and excitedly began taking pictures.

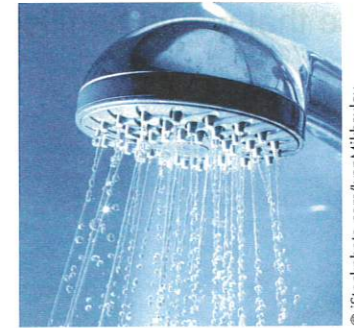


How you can help

There are a number of ways people can save water at home.

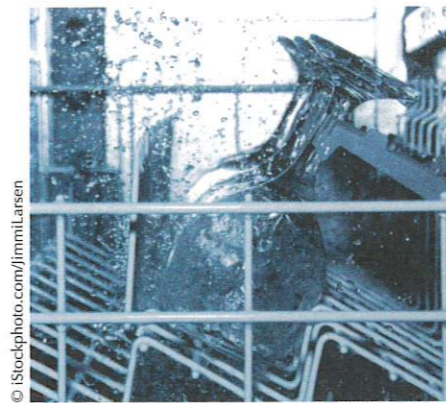
1. Take showers instead of baths

The average shower lasts eight minutes and uses less water than having a bath. Special water-saving shower heads can also be fitted to make showers use even less water.



2. Don't run taps

Whether you're brushing your teeth or washing some vegetables, leaving a tap running wastes a lot of water. Partly fill up the sink if you plan to wash lots of items, and only turn the tap on in short bursts whilst brushing your teeth.



3. Use a dishwasher

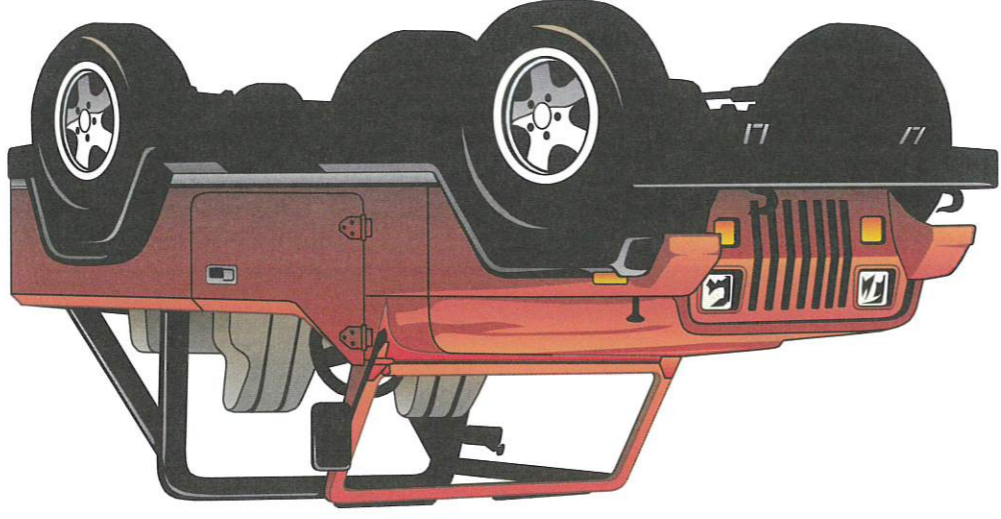
Not only do they save time, but dishwashers use less water than washing plates and mugs by hand. Only put a dishwasher on when it's completely full though — otherwise you're wasting water, energy and money.

Going on Safari!

Helene loved animals. She had large posters of them stuck all over the walls of her bedroom, and her bookcase was full of books about them. Now on this very special holiday, her dream of going on safari and seeing some of her favourite animals was about to come true.

The sky was still dark as Helene got up and dressed. Helene and her mum, along with three other guests

staying at the hotel, walked quietly through the hall and into the waiting truck. The tour guides had said that one of the best times to see animals was at dawn. They would be drinking from the main watering hole (a large pool) before they went off to find food.



4. Place a plastic bottle in your toilet

Around a third of the water used by a household is used to flush toilets. By filling a plastic bottle with water and placing it in the top of your toilet, you can reduce the amount of water being used for each flush. The bottle takes up some of the space that would be filled with water if the bottle wasn't there.



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5. Collect water in a water butt

Water butts are big plastic tubs which collect and store rainwater. This rainwater can then be used to water gardens or to fill up ponds.

6. Keep water in the fridge

Keeping a jug of water in the fridge stops you having to run the tap until it gets cold enough for a drink.