

Water: A Critical Component of Life

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It is a well known fact that all living things need water to survive. Without it, plants would shrivel up, animals would fall ill, & we, as a human race, would no longer exist. With roughly only 3% of Earth's water being freshwater & 68.7% of that being locked up in ice caps/glaciers, the need to conserve & protect it is crucial to both the survival of the human race & every other living organism on the planet. While some may believe that by simply not living near a body of water they will not be affected by events such as oil spills, they couldn't be further from the truth. Because at the end of the day, water is everywhere.

Through the water cycle, water evaporates from large bodies of water, turning into clouds that will slowly glide through the sky until it becomes too heavy to hold anymore water droplets. Thanks to this process, water can reach any location in the world: a vast desert in the middle of Africa, the tropical Amazon rain forests, & even outside your window while you're binge-watching your favorite TV show in the middle of the night. But because of water having the ability to be almost anywhere, pollution & other negative environmental factors will indirectly affect everyone — even if they don't live near the water source. For example, a large oil spill in a nearby ocean would cause people in the area to suffer through critical health issues if they are exposed to it during daily routine activities such as showering or drinking tap water. But that doesn't end there. Animals such as ducks & fish will lose their homes & die, causing thousands of Americans who work in the seafood & marine industry to lose their jobs. This, in turn, could even lead to a massive economic crisis because of the sudden increase of unemployment. Though this example may seem dramatic, the effects of not properly protecting our water are deadly & can affect everyone. Because our planet has a limited amount of water, every drop must be cherished for both our sake & future generations.

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Luckily, everyone can take small steps to protecting our water sources. Simple actions such as not keeping the faucet running & throwing away your trash will both reduce pollution & reduce the amount of resources needed to process & deliver water to your home. While you may think a simple wrapper may not do any harm, it could contaminate the water after floating around in an ocean & dissolving its plastic contents into the liquid. Or, on the other hand, sea creatures may attempt to eat it, causing them to die & have their carcasses scatter across our ocean surfaces.

For years to come, our society will continue to evolve but we will still rely on the same substance that has kept our ancestors alive for generations: water. For many, water never crosses their mind while they are going to work or simply enjoying life, but its importance can not be undermined. It is the key ingredient in our favorite beverages. It is our savior on a hot summer day. And it is the critical compound that grants us life - both today & many years to come.

