

Water



LEVEL B-8 • Written by Elfrieda H. Hiebert



**Water is needed for all
life on Earth.**

Water in Your Life

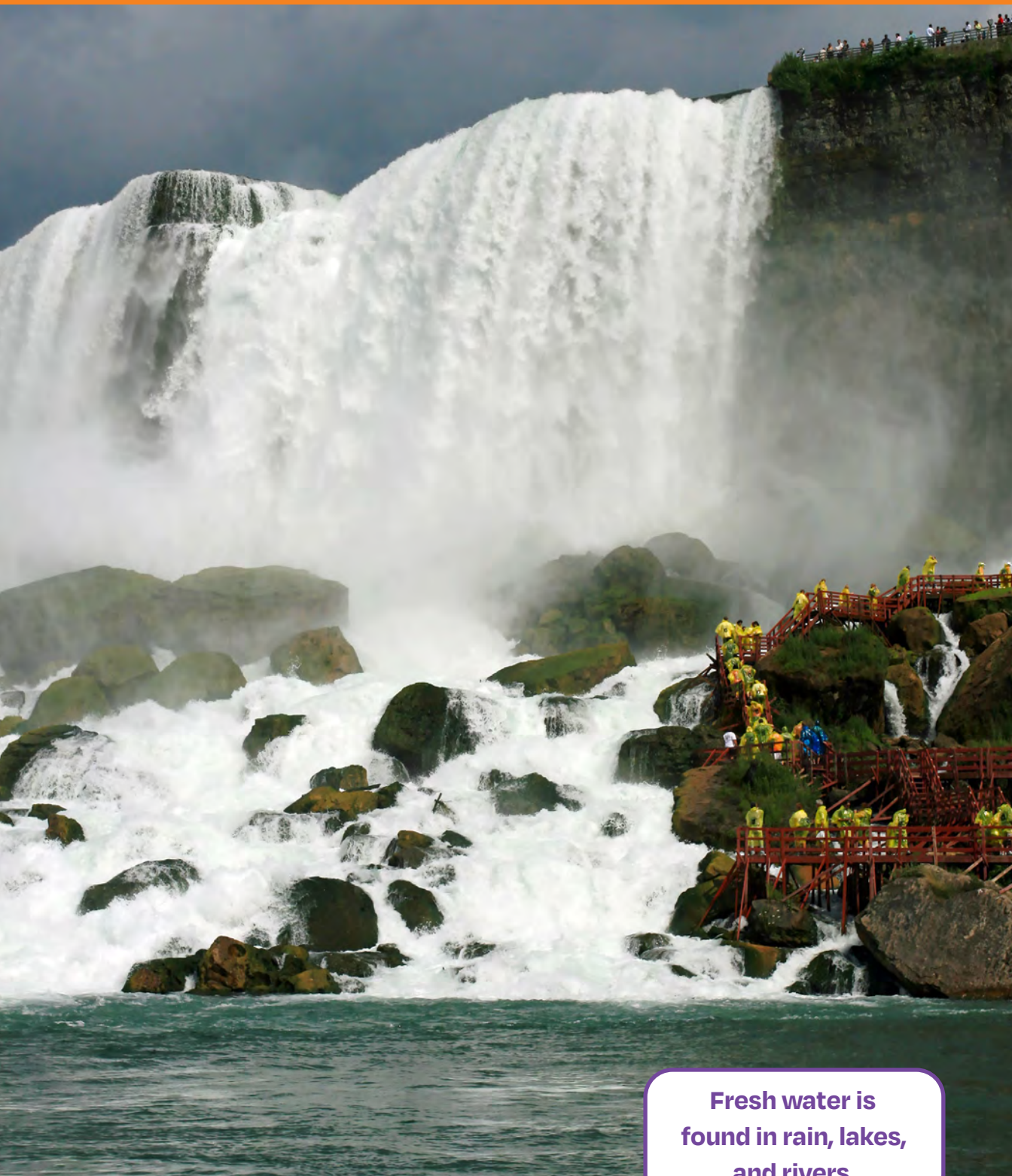
You may not think that there is any water in your classroom. Yet water is always around you. Like animals and plants, people's bodies are made up mostly of water. In fact, two thirds of your body is water.

Also like animals and plants, people need water to stay alive. People can't live for more than a few days without water. They need to drink about 1 quart of water each day. In addition, many plants and animals live in water.

People also use water to cook, grow food, and create power for light and heat. All life on Earth needs at least some water to stay alive.

Key Notes:

Why is water important to people, plants, and animals?



**Fresh water is
found in rain, lakes,
and rivers.**

Fresh Water and Salt Water

Almost three quarters of Earth is water. However, much of Earth's water is the salt water in oceans. Fresh water can be found in many lakes and rivers and under the ground.

Although a little salt can make food taste good, people cannot drink salt water. Many animals and plants must also drink or live in fresh water.

There is lots of fresh water on Earth, but it is not always where it is needed. In some places, little rain may fall for a year or two. This means that everyone must use fresh water carefully so there will be enough for all life on Earth.

Key Notes:

Where can you find fresh water?



**Rain is part of the
water cycle.**

The Water Cycle

Rain that falls from the sky feels clean and new. It may be clean, but it is not new. The water in rain is really very old. That's because water on Earth is used again and again. This use of water is called the water cycle.

The water cycle starts when heat from the Sun turns water into water vapor. Next, these tiny drops of water vapor join to form clouds. When the clouds have more water vapor than they can hold, water falls from the clouds as rain, snow, sleet or hail. Some of that water stays under the ground. However, much of the water goes back into the oceans and rivers. It becomes a part of the water cycle again.

Key Notes:

What is the water cycle?



**Water tests show if
chemicals have
mixed with the water.**

Clean Water

When you add water to a drink, you can see that it is easy to mix water with other things. Water can also mix with bad things, such as chemicals.

Some factories and farms use chemicals. Some people also use chemicals to keep the grass on their lawns green. Chemicals from factories, farms, and lawns can get into the water and hurt the plants and animals that live in it. Chemicals can also hurt the people, plants, and animals that drink or use the water.

Water should be cleaned before it is used. Water is filtered to get rid of bad chemicals. Filtered water is safe for drinking and cooking.

Key Notes:

Why is it important for water to be clean?

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