

HOW MUCH WATER DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE A SALAD???

1. **Ask the students** how much water they think it takes to make a salad. Write the estimates on the board.
2. Divide the students into **groups of 3-5 people**.
3. **Pass out** one package of fruits and vegetables, a vis-à-vis marker and a salad bowl sheet to each group.
4. Explain that they will pick items from their bag in order to make a salad. After they choose the items they will fill in the chart on the bowl (using vis-à-vis markers) with each individual item's name and the amount of water needed to grow it.
5. Once they are done filling in the chart, have students **add up the total number** of gallons of water it took to make their salad.
6. **Write down** the total for each group on the board and compare the results to the students' estimates at the beginning of the lesson.
7. **Compare** the amount of water used with the numbers below (write the numbers on the board):

The average person . . .

-Uses 90 gallons of water per day for drinking, washing dishes & clothes, flushing the toilet, showering, etc.

-Drinks $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon of water a day

The average bath uses 4 gallons of water

8. **Discuss** the following:
 - a. Which salad items required the most amount of water? Why?
 - b. Which salad items required the least amount of water? Why?
 - c. What would happen to the total amount of water if you added meat or cheese to your salad?
9. Give each group a **challenge assignment**:
 - How much water would it take to make a salad for every student in the class?

- Try to make two different salads using less than 45 gallons of water.
- What other ingredients do we put in salads? How much water do you think those require?
- The average hamburger requires 698 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of water. Why do hamburgers require so much more water to produce than salads ?
- Brainstorm why it is important to conserve/save water.
- What are some ways we can conserve water?

10. Have the groups present their findings to the class.